

Zion Mennonite Church Newsletter

Phone: 419-445-3796 ~ E-mail: church.zionmc@gmail.com ~ www.zionmennonitechurch.com
300 Short Buehrer Road Archbold, OH 43502 ~ Church office hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Pastor Sue Short 419-346-7827
Pastor Dan Miller 574-238-1883

Project Hope: 419-445-0728
Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034

December 11, 2022

Elder Lonnie Short 419-583-9567
Elder Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769
Elder Mike Zimmerman 419-966-7363
Elder Suz Wirick 419-966-2266
Elder Barb Yoder 567-694-3112

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, December 11 ~ Advent III

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
11:30 pm ~ Young Families Gathering (FH/Kitchen)
7:00 pm ~ Choir Concert

Monday, December 12

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting
11:00 pm ~ Congregational Caregivers (310)
5:00 pm ~ SLT (MYF Room)

Wednesday, December 14

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ Life Planning

Thursday, December 15

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
7:00 pm ~ Choir
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, December 18 ~ Advent IV

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School
9:30 am ~ Worship
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Happy Birthday:

December 14 - Karin Legato
December 16 - Jodi Nofziger, Mary Ellen Nofziger
December 17 - Ruth Grieser

Happy Anniversary

December 14 ~ Kirk & Sally Beck (48)

Dwelling in the Word

Weekly Schedule

Mon, December 12: Revelation 1-2
Tues, December 13: Revelation 3-4
Wed, December 14: Revelation 5-6
Thurs, December 15: Revelation 7-8
Fri, December 16: Revelation 9-10
Sat, December 17: Revelation 11-12

Office News

~ Dan is available on his cell phone. He will be in the office Monday, Thursday and Friday.



Order of Service

Prelude ~ Noteworthy
Noteworthy
Zion Choir
Welcome & Announcements ~ Kathy Beck
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Kathy Beck
Advent Candle Lighting ~ Sonya Wheeler, Sophie Wyse
Hymn ~ Julia Richer, Eric & Marcia Lehman, Judy Short
"O Come, O Come, Immanuel" (HWB 172)
Offering/Offertory ~ Eric & Marcia Lehman
Reception of New Members ~ Eric & Marcia Lehman
Scripture ~ Isaiah 35:1-10
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"Hark! The Glad Sound" (HWB 184)
Scripture ~ Matthew 11:2-11
Sermon ~ Dan Miller ~ *What do you see and hear?*
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"Love Came Down At Christmas" (HWB 208)
Communion
Prayer for Church & World ~ Sue Short
Benediction
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born" (HWB 189)

By God's Grace, Zion Mennonite Church will be a House of Peace where all people are invited to share Christ's love with each other and the world.

“Restoration is Near” - Advent 2022

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80:3)

We tend to think of Advent as a season of waiting, which it is. However, the word itself means “coming,” making Advent an active season, rather than a passive one in this waiting. The primary action is through God emptying Himself and being born in human likeness. The humans also have their share of action in the stories surrounding Jesus’ birth: hearing and responding to angel visits, going to Bethlehem to see what has taken place, and in a pilgrimage from the east to pay him honor. We are active in our time too: longing, seeking, and reconciling. Restoration is a process of renewal. It brings back to newness what has been broken, damaged, or worn, similar to an old piece of furniture that is brought back to life again in the hands of a skilled woodworker. Restoration can happen in our bodies as we heal from an injury. Restoration can happen in relationships between people, and between people and their God. In this season of Advent, we cry out for restoration, together with all of creation. Our world longs for restoration and God acts to bring it about.

Advent 3: Sunday, December 11th - “Tell what you hear and see.”

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

Advent 4: Sunday, December 18th - “Do not be afraid.”

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Longest Night Service

Everybody’s supposed to be happy in the holiday season as the sky gets more overcast and the nights swallow up the days. And sometimes it just doesn’t work. Sad events happen around the holidays. Family expectations create frustration and disappointment. Dear people are missing. **A service on the evening of December 21**, just days before we celebrate Jesus’ birth, offers one place to recognize with others and bring before God in worship whatever struggles might accompany this time. Watch for information.

Congregational & Pastoral Priorities Form

Attached to last week’s email was a document named Congregational and Pastoral Priorities. The Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) invites each youth and adult who regularly participates at Zion to fill out this electronic form. (MYF will fill it out Wednesday evening.) Some suggestions:

- Consider the position to be filled at Zion. Remember this position is part of a team so what do you consider priorities for this position?
- Pray for yourself and for the search process which begins after the first of the year.
- Select a box by clicking on it. Many people find it helpful to first click on their six high priorities, then their six low priorities. Then mark the remaining twelve as medium. Make sure there are six high, and six low!
- Save your document so you don’t lose your choices and send your completed form to Bethany at the church office at church.zionmc@gmail.com. If there are problems with a form that’s been turned in, including your name will help us know who to contact!
- Please complete this before getting too far into the holidays, or at least by December 18.
- For those who prefer a paper copy, check the table across from the mailboxes.

Because every potential candidate also fills out this form, it becomes another tool the Pastor Search Committee can use to check for similarity between congregation and candidate. Bethany will compile results and the SLT will finalize the document.

Thank You

Thank you, Zion family, for all of your encouraging words, cards, thoughts and prayers during my knee surgery and recovery. ~ Kathy Beck

Thank you to the CHAOS group for hanging the beautiful decorations the fellowship hall. Thank you also to the MYF for your help in setting up the Christmas tree, decorating, cleaning etc... Your help getting the church ready for Christmas is much appreciated!

Update from the Spiritual Leadership Team

The pastors and elders would like to thank those who participated in and prayed for the four Bridge Sundays held this fall. We had a great turnout! On these four Sundays, we listened well, worked hard together, learned more about one another, and had fun! We also recognize and thank GoraBelle Yoder and the Fellowship team for all of their work coordinating the great food we enjoyed at each of the Bridge Sundays.

The elders have been praying and discerning names of potential search team members. Several persons have been asked and have accepted the role. At this point, the team is nearly complete. When the search team has been fully formed, we will announce the names of those who will be serving. We appreciate the valuable feedback you offered at the Bridge Sundays, and on the Congregational and Pastoral Priorities form that you are filling out now. This information will give the search team the tools they need to begin a successful pastoral search after the holidays. We invite your continued prayers for this process.

-The Spiritual Leadership Team: Lonnie Short (chair), Greg Nofziger, Suz Wirick, Barb Yoder, Mike Zimmerman, elders; Dan Miller, Sue Short, pastors

New Announcements

Congregational Caregivers will meet at 11 am on Monday December 12 in room 310.

Mennonite Women meet Wednesday December 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. Women whose last names start with m-z please bring a dish to share.

From the Sojourners Sunday School Class: You are invited to attend our Sunday School class which begins at 8:30 AM in room 310. This week (December 11) we will be discussing an article in the November 25 *Anabaptist World*, "Differing visions, election setback test Christian nationalism's appeal" on page 40. We will be considering: *How do we explain our Anabaptist views to our Christian Nationalism friends?*

Lamp Lighter's are again allowed to provide cookies and Christmas cards for inmates at CCNO and the Juvenile Center. We are a small group in LL's and are asking church members to help us provide over 102 dozen cookies so each person can receive 2 cookies. Because of allergies we need to be sure the cookies contain NO NUTS, PEANUT BUTTER, FRUIT, that includes RAISINS. Suggestions for the 2 to 3 inch cookies are chocolate or butterscotch bit, M and M, oat-meal (again no raisins), firm sugar, molasses or your favorite that will fit nicely in a small wax coated bag. **Cookies are to be brought to Zion Mennonite church kitchen on December 21 between 9 and 12 pm.** If you have questions or need to make arrangements for cookies please call 419-357-6953. Thank you, Lamp Lighter's

Don't Forget

Volunteers needed: Flickering for Fairlawn is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11. Weather permitting the plan to line all of the streets throughout the Fairlawn community for our seniors to enjoy this special event. I am in need of some help setting up and lighting luminaries. Would your youth group or a Sunday School class be willing to give 1 ½ hours of their time to help? **We need people from 2-3:30 to fill luminary bags and place them out along the road. We need help from 3:30-4:30 to light the candles.** Any help is appreciated (even if only 2 or 3 people can help). Together we can make this happen and bring some holiday joy to over 300 seniors. Please let me know you can help. Thank you ~ Mari Yoder (419.330.9139)

The Stewardship Team is taking grant requests for the Zion endowment fund. Forms can be turned into the office or to Dan Ruth's box. Deadline for the applications is January 1, 2023. ~ Stewardship Team: Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Crystal Rodriguez, Larry Short, and Phil (Lynette) Bontrager

Zion Student Aid Information Session Sun. Dec. 11 – Please plan to join us for an information session on Zion's student aid program in the MYF room Sunday, Dec. 11 during Sunday School. We'll cover the program's history, eligible institutions, policy, etc. and have plenty of time for questions and answers. This session is for anyone interested in Mennonite higher education but especially our junior high and high school students and parents. ~ College Financial Aid Committee

Opportunities to Give for the Christmas Season

The Kitchen for the Poor is celebrating their Christmas the week of December 19. We at Zion will be collecting gifts for the young children of families who attend the Kitchen. The range is birth through age 12. Please place your **un-wrapped gifts under the tree close to the elevator area by Sunday, December 18.** The gifts will be delivered to the Kitchen for the Poor early that week. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the Kitchen for the Poor.