

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 18, 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 18 ~ *Advent IV*

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

Monday, December 19

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 pm ~ Longest Night Service (sanctuary only)

Thursday, December 22

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)
7:00 pm ~ Movie night (fellowship hall)

Saturday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service (sanctuary & zoom)

Sunday, December 25 ~ *Merry Christmas*

9:30 am ~ Worship (simple service; sanctuary only)

No Sunday school today.

Office News

~ Dan is available on his cell phone whether in Archbold or Goshen. He will be in the office Monday, Thursday and Friday this week.



Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Marcia Lehman

Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Marcia Lehman

Hymn ~ Worship Band

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (screen)

Advent Candle Lighting ~ Viv & Gus Legato

Hymn ~ Anita Roth, Eric & Marcia Lehman, Judy Short

“O Come, O Come, Immanuel” (HWB 172)

Special Music ~ Children's Choir ~ “Silent Night”

Children's Time ~ Eric Lehman

Scripture ~ Luke 1:47-55

Offering/Offertory ~ Marcia/Worship Band

Scripture ~ Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon ~ Dan Miller

Sermon Response ~ Anointing with oil

Hymn ~ Worship Band

“No Longer Slaves to Fear” (screen)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Mike Zimmerman

Benediction

Sending Hymn ~ Children's Choir & Congregation

“Go Tell It On The Mountain” (screen)

Worship Band ~ Abby Pennington, Sheri Plank,

Meleah Plank, Bill Beck, Kathy Beck

Happy Birthday:

December 23 - Quinn Wyse, Sarah Hastings

Happy Anniversary

December 22 ~ Troy & Jan Roth (32)

December 24 ~ James & Charlene Beck (67)

Dwelling in the Word

Weekly Schedule

Mon, December 19: Revelation 13-14

Tues, December 20: Revelation 15-16

Wed, December 21: Revelation 17-18

Thurs, December 22: Revelation 19-20

Fri, December 23: Revelation 21-22

Sat, December 24: Happy Christmas Eve!

**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.**

Upcoming

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. 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 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: Wednesday, December 21st (Sanctuary @ 7:00pm) - Looking for a space to let down and breathe in the midst of the holiday rush? Come Wednesday evening for a service of light and letting go. Bring whatever hopes and dreams or questions and disappointments. Breathe. Listen to scripture. Light a candle (or two). We will gather in the sanctuary at 7pm on December 21 for this Longest Night service. In this season we make space for Jesus, the light of the world.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th (Sanctuary and Zoom @ 7:00pm) - Bring your family and friends and join us for a worship service of scripture, favorite Christmas hymns, a Children's Time, concluding with our annual "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. The CHAOS (6th-8th grade youth) will be participating in the service, and have prepared goodie bags for everyone to take home. We'll also enjoy some special music by an MYF ensemble. Come be a part of this special evening!

Sunday, December 25th (Sanctuary only @ 9:30am) - A simple and short service of scripture and music. We will not be utilizing Zoom for this service.

Movie Night

Announcing a Movie Night playing [Second Hand Lions](#). A special invitation to youth and families. Bring snacks to share, blankets, slippers and whatever else needed for comfort. In the fellowship hall this Thursday at 7pm. Parents can check out the [plot at Wikipedia](#), and reviews at [Rotten Tomatoes](#) and [IMDB](#). Questions? Check with Dan Miller.

Thank you for filling out and returning the Congregational & Pastoral Priorities Form by today.

Attached to December 4th’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. 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?

- **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 to the CHAOS group for hanging the beautiful decorations in 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!

Special thanks to Nichole Aeschliman, Kellie Creighton (and family), Mark Nafziger, and Jodi Nofziger for the beautiful decorations in the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Spiritual Leadership Team Meeting

November 14, 2022

Devotion: Barb used chapter 3 from the book "Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Group," which described three kinds of prayer: 1.) Psalms 131 prayer of quiet trust – trust God is there, 2.) Luke 1:38 prayer for indifference – ask God to work in our hearts, 3.) James 1:5 prayer for wisdom.

Old Business: Time was spent finalizing plans for the final Bridge Sunday. We reviewed and edited the Congregational Information Form, Part II "Interpretation" section. We also spent quality time editing the Collaborative Ministry Team Pastor Ministry Description to achieve more clarity on some of the pieces that made up this document. We finalized both to share at the last Bridge Sunday with the congregation. We discussed the list of the possible search team members we had discerned. We identified six people to approach, and then assigned an elder to contact them for their response. One elder will also serve on the search team.

Agenda Items for December Meeting: Due to the work involved in preparing for the final Bridge Sunday, and our discussion on selecting the search committee, we tabled several items for the December meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Suz Wirick

New Announcements

The Disciples Sunday School class will make their annual trip to Little Eden for Snow Camp on January 13 – 16, 2023. We would like to invite you to join us for fun, fellowship, food, and snow. Come and enjoy the Northern Michigan scenery, games, and snacks! See Randy Stuckey for registration forms and further information.

"Warm greetings to our church family. Phil and I have been in Seattle since mid-October, experiencing a very different holiday hustle and bustle here! As we won't be back before Xmas, we wanted to extend the holiday peace to each of you from here. May it pour over you to warm your spirits, and may sprinkles of joy dance with you, even if you're having hard days. Thank you each for being part of our family in various ways. Peace to you all. 😊 Lori and Phil Bontrager"

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, January 5th from 12-5 pm. The Red Cross invited Ella Richer to host again at Zion, thanks in part to the willing donors and the kindness of all who helped set up and bring food. Ella's goal is to collect a minimum of 25 units, so please spread the word outside of church as well. We would love to help her hit this goal. Please email or talk to Ella or Julia Richer (julia.rich.1001@gmail.com) to sign up to donate, or to contribute snacks to the drive. [Snack sign-up here](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ZIONMENN) **Register here:** <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ZIONMENN>

Don't Forget

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

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

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 **unwrapped 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.