

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

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

December 4, 2022

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, December 4 ~ *Advent II*

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School
9:30 am ~ Worship
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
12:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved

Monday, December 5

Fellowship Hall and Kitchen reserved for the day

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 7

6:00 pm ~ ZOW
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, December 8

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

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 Adult Gathering (FH/Kitchen)
7:00 pm ~ Choir Concert

Happy Birthday:

December 4 - Tony Sauder

December 6 - Dale Short

December 7 - Glora Belle Yoder

Dwelling in the Word

Weekly Schedule

Mon, December 5: 1 John 1-2
Tues, December 6: 1 John 3-4
Wed, December 7: 1 John 5
Thurs, December 8: 2 John
Fri, December 9: 3 John
Sat, December 10: Jude

Office News

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



Order of Service

Prelude ~ Julia Richer & Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Ruth
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Karen Ruth
Advent Candle Lighting ~ Lydia Hastings, Miriam Richer
Hymn ~ Eric Lehman & Kelvin Friesen
"O Come, O Come, Immanuel" (HWB 172)
Scripture ~ Isaiah 11:1-10
Children's Time ~ Eric & Brenna Creighton, Karen Ruth
Hymn ~ Eric Lehman
"To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born" (HWB 189)
Offering/Offertory ~ Julia Richer/Bonnie Stuckey
Scripture ~ John 1:1-5; 14
Sermon ~ Matthew & Toni Krabill
Hymn ~ Eric Lehman
"Praise, I Will Praise You Lord" (HWB 76)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Dan Miller
Benediction
Sending Hymn ~ Eric Lehman
"Spirit Of The Living God" (HWB 349)

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 2: Sunday, December 4th - “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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 this week’s email is 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

New Announcements

Volunteers needed: Flickering for Fairlawn is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11. Weather permitting the plan is 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 Kitchen for the Poor is celebrating their Christmas 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.

Don't Forget

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

Mennonite World Conference is hiring in North America for a Development Executive. See <https://mwc-cmm.org/mwcdevexec> for the job posting.

Opportunities to Give for the Christmas Season

Christmas Cheer: Items will be hauled away Monday (December 5th). Thank you all for your generous spirit in support of Christmas Cheer providing so much to many in need during this time.

Adriel: Angel Tree Project It's almost that time of year again! As we look forward to the approaching holiday season, you can be the One to bring the Christmas spirit to our foster families. Each \$25 donation will sponsor a Christmas gift for an Adriel foster youth or Bridges young adult. Please help us reach our \$5000 goal to assure that each Adriel foster child and Bridges young adult receive a Christmas gift from their wishlist in time for the holiday. Visit <https://Adriel.networkforgood.com/projects/172319-adriel-christmas-angel-tree-2022> to make an online donation or mail a check with the memo "Angel Tree" to PO Box 188 West Liberty, OH 43357. *As always, thank you for your continued support of our organization and generosity toward the children and families we serve!*

Sunshine: The Christmas Wish List for Sunshine Community residents has been posted on the bulletin boards at both entrances. New and unwrapped gifts from the list should be placed in the containers provided at each door. **The gifts we've collected are to be delivered to Sunshine by December 6.** Sorry about the late notice but the list was only recently received. See David Kanagy if you have questions.

MCC: This Christmas choose gifts that give comfort and joy to those who need it most. A gift of hope changes lives in so many ways. Give the gift of a backpack full of school supplies (\$14.00) or invest in women by providing a sewing machine (\$150.00) for start-up businesses. Perhaps you can provide blankets, clothing, and other infant items. A gift of \$20.00 will give mothers and babies around the world hope, as well as practical help. This Christmas season, MCC invites you to participate and choose a gift from one of the MCC Christmas giving projects. Choose from projects online at <https://mcc.org/christmas#!> or request a printed booklet by calling 888-563-4676.

Request a free, downloadable resource that helps families to talk with children about generosity and MCC Christmas giving. The resource includes printable pages with activities, a story, a craft to make and gift ideas at mcc.org/free-resource-learning-about-generosity-mcc