

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

January 15, 2023

Elder Lonnie Short 419-583-9567

Elder Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769

Elder Suz Wirick 419-966-2266

Elder Barb Yoder 567-694-3112

Elder Mike Zimmerman 419-966-7363

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, January 15

8:30 am ~ Sojourners

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary and zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School (prek-8th not meeting)

Monday, January 16 ~ **Office Closed**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 17

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, January 18

9:00 am ~ Pastor Peer

6:00 pm ~ ZOW

6:30 pm ~ CHAOS at Lockport

7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, January 19

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

6:30 pm ~ Ohio Conference Cluster (Toledo Mennonite)

7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, January 22

8:30 am ~ Sojourners

9:00 am ~ Choir

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary and zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Office News

~ Dan is available on his cell whether in Archbold or Goshen. He tries to have Tuesday as his Sabbath.

~ The office will be closed Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Pastoral Search Team Update

The Elders are pleased to announce that the search team is complete and will be meeting soon to begin their work. We invite you to hold the search team members up in prayer in the months to come: Nichole Aeschliman, Micah Frankenfield, Sara Nafziger, Phil Nofziger, Chris Richer, Jordan Rodriguez, and Suz Wirick (elder rep). Additionally, please pray for our Regional Pastor, Tony Doehrmann, as he offers support and guidance from Ohio Conference.

Happy Birthday:

January 15 - James Beck

January 17 - Evon Rufenacht

January 16 - Troy Roth

January 20 - Elizabeth Baer

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Anita Roth

Welcome & Announcements ~ Helen Weldy

Interlude ~ Anita Roth

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Helen Weldy

“The Lord In His Temple” (HWB 38)

Hymns ~ Eric Lehman

“O Worship The King” (HWB 66)

“He Came Down” (STJ 31)

Offering/Offertory ~ Helen/Anita

Hymn ~ Eric Lehman

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” (STJ 14)

Scripture ~ John 1:29-42

Sermon ~ Dan Miller

Communion

Hymn ~ Eric Lehman

“What Is This Place” (HWB 1)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Dan Miller

Sending Hymn ~ Eric Lehman

“God Be With You” (HWB 430)

Benediction ~ Dan Miller



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 Worship Series

Signs of life: Clues for a future church

Jan 15-Feb 19, 2023

It's easy to blame church problems on COVID. But many trends were impacting Christian churches a long time before the pandemic. Historian and theologian Phyllis Tickle describes it as "Every five hundred years, the Church cleans out its attic and has a giant rummage sale." Methods and programs that once nurtured faith in congregations no longer connected with many people, forms of worship seemed hollow, structures that once supported vital activities now suffocated people's souls. There were similar trends with Sunday night, prayer night, Sunday School, vacation bible school. Christian education taught guidelines but did not form believers who look like Jesus. Then COVID came and sped up the decline. Where is the Jesus movement heading? In this series we look at signs of life for clues and a church of the future.

January 15 - Passionate Spirituality (John 1:29-42) We constantly receive messages from family, friends, and advertisers about what makes a meaningful, significant, and successful life. Even church communities apply peer pressure about what makes a true "Christian" life. Why cultivate an inner life and choose activities meaningful to us when settling for someone else's answers is expected and rewarded? Can participating in regular worship help us find our way? Can worship help us face the fear of failure and the disapproval of others on a journey toward integrity? **We will observe communion together this week.**

January 22 - Jesus Christ: Our Hope (Anabaptist World Sunday) (Isaiah 40:28-31, Psalm 62:1-6, Luke 18:35-43, 1 Peter 1:3-6) Churches in Europe learn how to live in post-Christian cultures where the church no longer holds high social status. Churches in third-world countries learn about being alternative communities of support without abundant financial resources. As North American churches are losing status and financial capacity in their communities, what might brothers and sisters around the world teach us about being faithful? **We encourage you to wear bright and colorful clothing to church this week as a celebration of worship.**

January 29 - Community: Contemporary congregations have energy for worship and fellowship. A primary function of Sunday morning is relationship. Yet 1/3 to 1/2 of Americans report feeling lonely, and this has real-world impact on health, emotional well-being, productivity, longevity.

Thank You

Thank you to our caring church family for your prayers and concern during Walt's recent heart procedures. A special thanks to Sue for coming and being with us at the hospital. We are so grateful to be a part of Zion church.

~ Sincerely Walt & Darlene Polasek

Thank you to all who participated in the comforter bash which was a huge success with about 170 people attending with 50 quilts sent to MCC. Nadine Miller gave a short, interesting talk about the benefits of giving comforters.

~ Mennonite Women

Thank you to the Zion community for help with the blood drive! The various ways big and small that you provided help and gave of yourselves physically will make an impact. We collected 19 units and are hoping to host a drive again sometime, perhaps at a time that works better for more people.

~ Ella and Julia Richer

Ohio Conference Review Process

Zion delegates to Ohio Conference will attend a cluster meeting on January 19. At that meeting delegates will learn about the Ohio Conference affiliation options that delegates will vote on in March. After the cluster meeting, the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) is planning two sessions during the Sunday School hour to share updates and invite counsel for delegates:

- January 29 – SLT and delegates will share updates from the delegate meeting. There will be time for questions of clarification with the hope we can all have good clarity about the options being put forward. SLT will invite the congregation to pray about the options for three weeks.
- February 19 – To equip delegates for decisions at the March 3-4 Annual Conference Assembly, SLT believes it is useful to hear from the congregation. This meeting will provide opportunities to share affirmations and concerns about the presented options.

Delegates will listen to congregational wisdom, pray and seek the Spirit's leading as they participate on behalf of Zion in discussions and decision-making at the conference level.

New Announcements

Refugee Support Team Update! Central and Zion's joint effort to support refugees has become a reality! The Glushko family (Igor, Karina, and Bogdan) arrived on Friday, January 13! They flew from Bucharest to Paris to Detroit. They are living with Jen and David Nichols (from Central), in a basement apartment. There will be a lot of adjustment for them. Once they have Social Security numbers, they can start working. They already have jobs lined up. Bogdan will start school at Archbold in the 4th grade when he is ready. Immediate needs include stocking the pantry/fridge with prepared food to reheat, and groceries. They have no food allergies. Jen has gotten winter/spring clothing for Karina and Bogdan, but has had more difficulty with Men's XL/2XL clothing for Igor. Those who have already signed up to assist in various ways can expect to be contacted. Thank you to all for your support and prayers! ~ Mission in Service Team (Stan Short, Abby Pennington, Duane Wyse, Ilse Goertz and Elaine Short), or Lori Bontrager, Karmin Brooks, Jana Wheeler, Larry Wyse, and Elizabeth Miller.

The Archbold Community Garden is collecting clean gallon jugs (translucent to let the light pass through) for a winter seed sowing class in February (more info to come on that). 🌱 For now, set your milk/distilled water/etc. jugs aside, and we would be happy to take them off your hands! Contact Abby at (419) 572-1345 for more information on the winter seed sowing course or to donate your clean gallon jugs!

Mennonite Arts Weekend: Join us at Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 3-5, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend, including a jam session with Girl Named Tom. A nursery will be available. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/2023maw/>. Come enjoy the fun, connect with friends, and hear Girl Named Tom.

Human Trafficking Awareness Event on Sunday evening, January 22nd from 6:00 - 7:30pm at West Clinton Mennonite Church. Kelly King, a Human Trafficking Advocate and Educator from The Center for Child and Family Advocacy, along with a N.W. Ohio human trafficking survivor will be speaking. The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are invited to bring a pantry item to donate for the Center for Child and Family Advocacy's local survivor pantry. (Suggested items include: toilet paper, feminine hygiene, deodorant, toiletries, laundry and cleaning supplies, pre-packaged snacks, granola bars, juice boxes, water bottles, gift cards to local stores such as Walmart, Dollar General, Goodwill, Meijer, Big Lots, or Dollar Tree etc.) *Parents please note that content may be too sensitive in nature for young children. Contact Lori King or Pastor Linda Riegsecker at 419-445-1195 for more information.

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Today we launch this column in the Zion newsletter for reflections from pastors and others. The Last Page . . . but never the last word. Because, well, when are pastors short on words?

Now that the search committee is up and running, we want to be consistent in prayer. Sometimes the Spirit continues to work among us even as the search is going. So we pray for 3 specific areas:

- the search committee. Being a member on a pastor search committee is always a growing experience. There are exciting times and disappointing times. There are struggles. We pray for a good search result and we pray for the growth God wants to work in each search committee member.
- the person who will become one of Zions pastors. We pray that God will prepare this person (and his/her family?) spiritually, emotionally and relationally for this change.
- the rest of us to remain open as God prepares Zion for the next chapter. As tempting as it can be to slip into neutral until the pastoral search is completed, God likely still has dreams for Zion during the search. Spiritual maturity means consistently seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in the here and now.

May we each seek and yield to God's transforming grace.
Dan Miller