

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 22, 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 22

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary and zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, January 23

9:30 am ~ Staff

Tuesday, January 24

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study
5:00 pm ~ SLT (MYF room)
7:00 pm ~ Formation (fellowship hall)

Wednesday, January 25

5:30 pm ~ Family Meal
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ MYF Life Planning

Thursday, January 26

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

Sunday, January 29

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary and zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School: Congregational meeting

Office News

~ Dan is working from Goshen this week. He is available on his cell whether in Archbold or Goshen.

Happy Birthday:

January 22 - Robert Grieser
January 24 - Joyce Shehorn
January 27 - David Kanagy
January 27 - Lynn Roth

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Barb Yoder
Choir
"Not One Sparrow Is Forgotten"
"You Do Not Walk Alone"
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Barb Yoder
Hymns ~ Julia Richer
"My Life Is In You"
"Water Fall On Me"
"God Of Wonders"
Offering/Offertory ~ Barb/Karen
Scripture ~ Luke 18:35-43
Sermon ~ Sue Short
Hymn of Response ~ Julia Richer
"O Lord Have Mercy" (STJ 47)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Barb Yoder
Children's Story ~ Sue and friends
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"We Are Marching In The Light Of God" (SNC 293)
Benediction ~ Sue Short



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 22 - Jesus Christ: Our Hope (Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday) (Luke 18:35-43) 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 An estimated 1/3 to 1/2 of Americans report feeling lonely, and this has real-world impact on health, emotional well-being, productivity, longevity. Most contemporary congregations exhibit energy for worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings. What clues do we find for supporting and extending fellowship?

February 5 - Mission (Matthew 5:13-20) Menno Simons said the lifeblood of the church is its witness, its missionary outreach. Yet just the thought of programs drains people's energy. Do we see cues for ways churches can engage in mission without a program? What difference is there between doing mission on our own power versus surfing the wave of God's initiative?

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 attended a cluster meeting on January 19. Delegates learned more about possible affiliation options offering pros and cons about each. Options will be finalized after the last delegate meeting on January 30. 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 about the process. SLT will invite the congregation to join them in prayer for the process and for delegates as they prepare for ACA.
- 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.

SLT Minutes ~ January 9, 2023

Opening: Lonnie: Chapter 4 of “Pursuing God’s Will Together”

What in chapter 4 do you feel we might experiment with in our meetings?

- Teamwork; even teamwork falls short of what Christians are called to be
- Mark 3: Whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, my mother
- Spiritual team gathers around a person (Jesus) not a goal
- Main purpose of a spiritual leadership group should be spiritual growth; asking what is God’s will about issues, not how does the group accomplish my specific goals
- Shared values of the SLT
- Identifying areas in which we can grow spiritually and studying how this might happen (book)

Review and approve the Congregational Information Form (CIF), Pastoral Ministry Description, and the Congregational and Pastoral Priorities form

- discussed any proofreading/formatting issues on this document
- talked about some of the statistical results of the Congregational and Pastoral Priorities and how they might be helpful for the search committee

Update on status of the search committee.

- first meeting set for January 10, 5:30. Tony Doehrmann will be present to help them get organized and plan next steps

Determine who will be our delegates for the Ohio Conference Cluster meeting on Jan. 19th and Annual Conference Assembly in March.

- Greg Nofziger, Ilse Goertz, and pastors
- will discern a replacement since Mike cannot go.

Two meetings will be held with the congregation after the January 19 delegate cluster meeting.

- First meeting is Sunday, January 29th, during the Sunday School hour.
- Second meeting is Sunday, February 19th, again during the Sunday School hour.

Review and sign the SLT covenant with the congregation..

- We read through the covenant and discussed it.
- Sue suggested a recommendation under #10. Her recommendation was discussed; she will write it up and send it to us for approval before having Bethany add it to the covenant.
- We will sign after that has been completed.

Who can chair the next SLT meeting in Feb? and attend council if they meet in Feb. (Lonnie will be out of town from Jan 30th to Feb 20th)

- Mike will do both

Congregational concerns were discussed.

Next meeting date - February 6 @ 5:00

New Announcements

Cookies are needed for the community meal Zion is providing on **Tuesday, January 31st**. 10 dozen cookies are needed. Please label your cookies if there is any peanut butter or nuts in them. Drop them off at the Zion kitchen by noon on Tuesday the 31st. If you have questions contact Lori Bontrager, 419-966-0275.

Family Meal is Wednesday at 5:30 pm. We will be serving Chili soup and cornbread. Come and fellowship with your church family.

On the Level Announcement: The January edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: get more details on how to register for the MDS Annual Celebration in Pennsylvania next month; read the latest on the MDS response to flooding in Eastern Kentucky; and learn how MDS Canada volunteers are helping hurricane victims in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3XjseqR>

New Announcements continued..

MCC and MCUSA are partnering in a new webinar series, *Beyond incarceration: A hard look at dismantling the prison system and building healthy communities*. Join us to learn about the ways the faith community is actively understanding and working against these complex systems of confinement. The webinars will take place on Feb. 7, Feb. 21, March 7, and March 21 at 7:30 p.m. EST. They will be followed by learning tour opportunities in different parts of the U.S. Registration link: mcc.org/beyond-incarceration-webinars

Don't Forget

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

Hopefully the heading for this column creates an expectation for conversation. Pastors enjoy hearing from others in the congregation. So if something gets you thinking, feel free to reach out.

I want to update people about my schedule these days because I believe communication nourishes trust. I enjoy working with Zion and I'm still figuring out this routine of being in Archbold and Goshen. Several friends with experience in commuting remind me that commuting takes work. The emerging schedule is different than I anticipated when I started, but is working right now.

I am available regardless of my location. Tuesday is my Sabbath and I monitor contacts less regularly. Most weeks I am in Archbold from Thursday to Monday. The last week of the month I work from Goshen.

Call, email, or text. If I'm not available right away I will get back with you.

Dan Miller