

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 29, 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 29

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

Monday, January 30

9:00 am ~ Staff (zoom)

Tuesday, January 31

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, February 1

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, February 2

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

Sunday, February 5

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary and zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (Young Adult class kicks off)

Happy Birthday:

January 31 - Mabelann Crossgrove
February 1 - Gerald Short
February 2 - Bob Aschliman., Lonnie Short
February 3 - Sherry Wagler
February 4 - Larkin Wise-Chappuis, Ed Yoder, Deb Zimmerman

Happy Anniversary

February 4 - Lonnie & Carol Short (56)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Mike Zimmerman
Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Mike Zimmerman
Hymns ~ Mark Nafziger
 "What Is This Place" (HWB 1)
 "How Good A Thing It Is" (HWB 310)
Offering/Offertory ~ Mike/Karen
Hymn ~ Mark Nafziger
 "There Is More Love Somewhere" (STJ 109)
Children's Story ~ Joe Delphia
Scripture ~ Ephesians 4:1-6
Sermon ~ Dan Miller
Hymn of Response ~ Mark Nafziger
 "Taste And See" (STJ 86)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Sue Short
Sending Hymn ~ Mark Nafziger
 "Bless'd Be The Tie That Binds" (HWB 421)
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 29 - Community (Ephesians 4:1-6) An estimated $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 community?

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?

February 12 - Leadership Leaders are important for a group to thrive. Yet we hear of highly influential and successful leaders crossing sexual and financial boundaries. Something about that doesn't seem right. What characteristics of leaders are life-giving and what characteristics cause problems?

February 19 - Structure Post-world war II gave rise to churches organized like institutions with administrative structures and significant overhead costs. Such maximalist structures drain vital energy away from congregational endeavors. What clues can we find for workable structures?

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.

New Announcements



Do you have a new individual or family photo you would like to be added to our "Church Family" bulletin board in the fellowship hall? Please email a digital copy of your picture to Rachel Short at rmshort67@gmail.com. If you would prefer to provide a print, you can put it in Rachel's (Brad) mailbox at church. **We would LOVE to add many more pictures to what we already have up!**

New Announcements continued..

Save the date for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on April 21-22! A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event at Kidron Community Park to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. We invite you to make comforter tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") for use at the Comforter Bash. Comforter backs and tops should be dropped off by March 10 at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road). For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Dates: Friday, April 21 (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.); Saturday, April 22 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Location: Kidron Community Park Recreational Building - 4434 Kidron Road, Kidron OH 44636

Don't Forget

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.

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>

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

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!

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

I recently met with two representatives from MennoMedia. They were in Ohio for a board retreat and asked if they could visit. I figured it would give us that chance to share with each other about what is happening across the church. The title of a book they left me really caught my imagination. It is *Finding our Way Forward: When the Children We Love Become Adults*. First of all, it is close to a phrase that I've appreciated a lot, "Experimenting our way forward." Experimenting is a way of dealing with the reality that we don't often know what is going to work. So we try something, assess the outcome, modify the experiment and keep moving forward. (Or if it fails we might try something completely different.)

Second, explaining the book to me, Amy Gingerich said it grapples with what you do when children you love make adult decisions that don't match your hopes for them or your ethics in life. I've experienced that. I think it comes with loving, I think. I wonder if others have experienced that. It seems like an opportunity for spiritual growth, doesn't it? Facing the challenge of a different stage in life? I've just begun, and down the road I might share some nuggets of wisdom I discover in the book. In the meantime, if you have some insights to share, I'd be glad to hear them.

Dan Miller