

Zion Mennonite Church Newsletter

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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 Chair 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

February 19, 2023

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, February 19

8:30 am ~ Sojourners

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Congregational Meeting

Monday, February 20

9:30 am ~ Staff (zoom)

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

Tuesday, February 21

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, February 22

5:30 pm ~ Family Meal

6:30 pm ~ Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 pm ~ Area Wide MYF

Thursday, February 23

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Saturday, February 25

12:00 am ~ MYF room reserved

Sunday, February 26

8:30 am ~ Sojourners

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Randy Stuckey

Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Randy Stuckey

Hymns ~ Anita Roth

“I Owe The Lord A Morning Song” (HWB 651)

“When All Thy Mercies, O My God” (HWB 72)

Offering/Offertory ~ Randy/Karen

Scripture ~ Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon ~ Dan Miller

Hymn of Response ~ Anita Roth

“God Of Grace And God Of Glory” (HWB 366)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Mike Zimmerman

Sending Hymn ~ Anita Roth

“Go, My Children” (HWB 433)

Benediction ~ Dan Miller

Happy Anniversary

February 24 - Walt & Darlene Polasek (55)

Happy Birthday:

February 19 - Judith Short

February 22 - Deb Nofziger

February 23 - Charlene Beck, John Betts

February 25 - Kate Roth

Office News

~ It is time to once again renew your Anabaptist World subscription! If you are a current customer, let me know if you would like to renew. Anyone is welcome to join the subscription as well. Let the office know!



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.

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?

February 22 - Ash Wednesday (Church Family Meal, followed by a short observance with ashes as we begin the season of Lent.)

February Refugee Support Team Update

The **Glushko** family is doing well. Bogdan (10) started school at Archbold a week ago. They have received their Social Security cards. Igor started working at Nofziger Door on Wednesday, February 15.

We are sponsoring a second Ukrainian family so that the two families can help and support each other as they adjust to living in a new land. The **Skopych** family, Andrii, Iryna, Maksim (11), and Veronika (4), arrived on February 14. The home they will live in is in Wauseon. We are hoping to enroll Maksim in Archbold school if transportation can be arranged. Use of the house in Wauseon is being donated for the next several months.

Andrii is a truck driver. He has an international license but will need to be licensed in Ohio. We are trying to find work for him.

A special giving opportunity will be available on February 19 to help support the refugee work. Details will follow.

Members of the RST group are Lori Bontrager, Karmin Brooks, Elizabeth Miller, Stan Short, Jana Wheeler, and Larry Wyse from Zion and Bill Holdsworth, Dave Elkins, Kelsey King, Laura Nafziger, Jenny Nichols, Ami Richer, and Steve Sauder from Central Mennonite.

New Announcements

The office has been looking for ways to dispose of batteries (not rechargeable ones) – AAA, AA, C, D, 9v – and have found a place that recycles batteries. We hope to keep batteries out of the trash. If you have a few used batteries lying around the house we welcome you to help fill the 66-pound box. There are specific instructions on how the batteries need to be packaged for them to be safely disposed of. Bring your batteries in during office hours or reach out to Bethany for more information.

On the Level Announcement: The February edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: read about the MDS Annual Celebration in Lancaster, PA and check out the videos from the gathering; and a volunteer writes about the transformative experience during her time at Monte Lake, BC. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3EboHDz>

MCC is seeking a Project Coordinator for the Dismukes Project in Kimball, West Virginia: MCC continues to work to uncover the forgotten history and honor the legacy of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American physician and surgeon in Appalachia in the 1930s. This full-time role is great for someone looking to put their innovation, creativity, and resourcefulness to use by collaborating with the local community and SWAP staff to build the program from the ground up. **Apply online by February 28** at mcc.org/dismukes-project-coordinator. For more information, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

Baptism Class beginning next Sunday, February 26th! Anyone high school age or older who is interested in exploring baptism, and learning more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, is encouraged to contact Sue Short by the end of this week.

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Since this column was intended to be used by either of the pastors, I wanted to write this week about something that I cannot stop thinking about.

In the book of Revelation, we find some of the most beautiful images of worship in all of scripture. In one of them, John attempts to describe the majesty of what he's experienced in his vision. He encounters the door of heaven standing open, and when he is invited to look inside, he sees four rather strange-looking creatures surrounding the throne.

Day and night without ceasing they sing,
Holy, holy, holy
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come. (Rev 4:8, NRSV)

John paints a stirring picture of unending worship of the One who sits on the throne. The One who "is worthy to receive glory and honor and power, and who created all things..." (Rev 4:11, NRSV)

If you are on social media, or follow the news, you may have noticed videos or stories about what is being called a revival at Asbury University, a small United Methodist college in Wilmore, Kentucky. Chapel services are offered on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays each week, and students are expected to attend a certain number of these each semester. The chapel service on Wednesday, February 8th, by all appearances, seemed like a normal day. However, students who were present described a powerful movement of the Spirit that took place at the end of the service. As a result, this February 8th chapel has never officially ended! Some students, faculty, and staff have even chosen to remain in the chapel 24 hours a day, praying, singing, and giving praise to God. According to an NBC news story, students and staff from 22 other colleges have traveled to Asbury to participate. The university has also received word that some international students are making their way to Kentucky, eager to be a part of what God is doing. One article I read, written by a professor at nearby Asbury Seminary, described students running across campus to get to chapel because they couldn't wait to get back. Click here to read this professor's stirring reflection: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2023/february-web-only/asbury-revival-1970-2023-methodist-christian-holy-spirit.html>

I have been moved to tears by all of these accounts, and am reminded of this Revelation text and the worship that never ends. Historically, great revival movements in the church have begun with the youth and young adults. I pray we would long to be in God's presence like these students! I pray we would lay down our own schedules and agendas when the Spirit moves, and let the winds blow. Where have you felt God moving in your life? What might the Spirit be saying to us as the gathered body at Zion? I invite you to be in prayer about that this week. As always, I also welcome your thoughts.

Sue

Don't Forget

Eastern Mennonite Chamber Singers in Concert and Hosts Needed: Come enjoy an evening of music as this group of talented vocalists stops at Zion on their spring break tour. The concert will be held on Thursday, March 9th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. **We are also looking for persons to provide overnight housing** for groups of either two or three students. Please contact Bethany in the church office if you are willing to host.

Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counseling. In a country already vulnerable from years of conflict, this was a devastating blow. You can share God's love and compassion with our global neighbors by providing a gift online at mcc.org/earthquake, by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Syria and Türkiye earthquake" to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

Put your faith in action by volunteering with SWAP this summer! MCC's SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) home repair program provides short-term service and learning opportunities for churches, school and university groups, families, other groups and individuals. Now is the time to make your summer plans and sign up! More information and registration at swap.mcc.org or (606) 634-4418.

Announcement from Fellowship: Ready to make connections with others around the dinner table? Fellowship is planning a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" meal this spring. Be thinking about your willingness to host and the number of guests you can accommodate. We encourage all to participate. Sign up sheets for both hosts and guests will be coming.

Zion is responsible for two more community meals this year. Would your small group or Sunday School class take on one. Contact someone from Mission in Service for details and available dates! Thanks!