

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

February 5, 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, February 5

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

Monday, February 6

9:00 am ~ Staff (zoom)

Tuesday, February 7

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, February 8

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, February 9

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

Sunday, February 12

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

Office News

~ Dan will be attending Lombard's
Advanced Clergy Clinic this week,
Mon-Wed.

Happy Birthday:

February 5 - Mary Ann Yoder
February 5 - Duane Wyse
February 10 - Barb Yoder

Happy Anniversary

February 11 -
Kenneth & Evon Rufenacht (62)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Brad & Rachel Short
Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Brad & Rachel Short
Hymns ~ Eric Lehman
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (HWB 71)
"This Little Light Of Mine"
Offering/Offertory ~ Brad & Rachel/Karen
Scripture ~ Matthew 5:13-20
Children's Story ~ Karen Rodriguez
Sermon ~ Sue Short
Song of Response ~ Eric Lehman
"You Are The Salt For The Earth" (HWB 226)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick
Sending Hymn ~ Eric Lehman
"We Will Walk With God" (STJ 78)
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.

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?

Library News

Multiple books from the Believers Church Bible Commentary series have been added to complete the series. *We note that Genesis and Matthew are part of our collection but have not been returned for some time.

Two colorful books for children addressing the issue of diversity are; "Mixed: A Colorful Story" discusses color, tolerance and embracing differences, and "Solve", which inspires children to see their own unique beauty.

February Refugee Support Team Update

We had hoped to be able to sponsor a second Ukrainian family so that the two families could help and support each other with all the adjustments of living in a new land. A home became available and we have been working on connecting with a second family. The **Skopych** family will arrive on February 14. They are Andrii, Iryna, Maksim (11), and Veronika (4). The home is in Wauseon, but we are looking at possibly enrolling Maksim in Archbold school if transportation can be arranged. Use of the house 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.

The **Glushko** family is adjusting well. Bogdan (10) started school at Archbold this past week. They are waiting for their Social Security cards which will allow them to start working.

Remind App Text Messages: If you signed up to help and provide your phone number you should have received a text message to get started.

Readying the House: **What:** Help needed with readying the house for 2nd Ukrainian family **Who:** Cleaning crew needed and lunch crew needed **When:** Friday, February 10th @ 10-2(?) **Where:** Wauseon (address will be given after RSVPing)

Details:

- Looking for people available to help with general cleaning, general handyperson work, and readying the house for the 2nd Ukrainian family
- Looking for a lunch crew to supply lunch for the cleaning crew
- Bring new cleaning supplies to use and then we can leave with the family
- Text or email Kelsey at 419.335.4985 or kelsey7king@gmail.com

If you are available to help, please RSVP so we know how many to expect/anticipate. Thanks for your willingness to help! Many hands make light work!

We are planning a special separate offering 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

Mennonite Women will meet February 8, 2023 and gather in the fellowship hall from 8 am – 3 pm. Sue Short will bring the meditation, a meal will be provided by those whose last names go from A – M.

Congregational Caregivers will meet February 13 at 11:00 am in room 310.

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!

Thank you to everyone who donated their clean gallon jugs! We have reached our collection goal thanks to your help. Join The Archbold Community Garden on Saturday, February 25 from 10am-12pm where we will be learning how to use these gallon jugs to winter sow seeds for spring. To register, or for more information, visit www.archboldcommunitygarden.org.

MCC Great Lakes is seeking a Program Director: This role is responsible for the direction and oversight of MCC Great Lakes programs and church engagement. This position is expected to connect with constituent churches, groups, and partner organizations to work together and advance the mission of MCC. The full-time position will preferably be located at one of the main Great Lakes offices, but the location is flexible within the region where MCC is an authorized employer. Bilingual fluency in Spanish and English is preferred. Apply online by March 3 at mcc.org/gl-program-director. For more information, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

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 April 6 at mcc.org/dismukes-project-coordinator. For more information, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

Don't Forget

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!**

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

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

A piece of Gallup research not mentioned in the sermon last Sunday reports:

- Forty-six percent of weekly churchgoers considered their mental health excellent in 2020, compared to 42% in 2019.
- People who attend between monthly and nearly weekly and reported excellent mental health, meanwhile, dropped from 47% to 35% over the same time period. And for those who never or seldom attend, the reported feelings of excellent mental health slid from 42% to 29%.
- The results of the survey are reminiscent of other studies showing benefits of regular religious observance. In a 2016 study published by JAMA Psychiatry, researchers found that, between 1996 and 2010, “women who attended any religious service once a week or more were five times less likely to commit suicide.”

<https://aleteia.org/2020/12/13/more-regular-churchgoers-report-excellent-mental-health/>, accessed 1/28/23

There is speculation that it's the regular connection with people that makes the difference. Needless to say, church attendance doesn't guarantee excellent mental health. I read one person's reflections that Sunday morning at church was their loneliest time of the week. Still, this is good information when reflecting on what happens at church each week. It seems to fit with the energy church people have for fellowship time.

Dan Miller