

# 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

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

## April 2, 2023

### Zion Activities this week

#### Sunday, April 2 ~ *Palm Sunday*

8:30 am ~ Sojourners

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School (Young Adults Meeting)

11:45 am ~ Exploring Baptism

#### Monday, April 3

9:30 am ~ Staff

5:00 pm ~ SLT (MYF room/Zoom)

#### Tuesday, April 4

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study

#### Wednesday, April 5

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS

7:00 pm ~ MYF

#### Thursday, April 6

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

6:00 pm ~ Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

#### Friday, April 7

10:30 am ~ Fairlawn Communion Chapel (pastors)

7:00 pm ~ Good Friday

#### Sunday, April 9 ~ *Easter Sunday*

8:30 am ~ Breakfast

9:00 am ~ Hymn Sing

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

No Sunday School Today!!

### Happy Anniversary

April 6 - Duane & Cecelia (49)

### Happy Birthday:

April 2 - Darlene Polasek

April 4 - Don Oesch

April 5 - Phil (Lori) Bontrager

April 6 - Andy Sauder

### Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Ilse Goertz & Doug Meyer

Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Ilse Goertz & Doug Meyer

Hymns ~ Julia Richer

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” (HWB 237)

“Ride On, Ride On In Majesty” (HWB 239)

Offering/Offertory ~ Ilse & Doug/Bonnie

Children's Time ~ Karen Ruth

Song ~ “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (HWB 238)

Confession Prayer ~ Ilse Goertz & Doug Meyer

Scripture ~ Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon ~ Dan Miller

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

Testimony ~ Chris Richer

Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger

Solo ~ “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me” ~ Julia Richer

Benediction ~ Dan Miller



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*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.*

# Holy Worship 2023

*Created in the Image of God - Shaped by Jesus*

Lent is a fitting season of the church year to focus our attention on some foundational questions - What does it mean to be images of the God who created us? What does it mean to be called by Jesus, and shaped by Jesus as we follow? What is the Spirit's role within us and among us?

**Lent 6 - Palm Sunday, April 2** - "*Called to Worship*" (Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11)

**Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:00pm.** Join us in the fellowship hall for worship interspersed with a simple soup supper, communion, foot/hand washing, and a closing prayer in the 'Garden of Gethsemane.' If you will be joining us on Zoom, we'll use the usual Sunday worship Zoom link. We invite you to eat your dinner at home along with us.

**Friday, April 7th - Good Friday Service @ 7:00pm.** Join us in the sanctuary for a short observance as we hear stories from the perspectives of those involved in the arrest, trial, death, and burial of Jesus. If you'll be joining us on Zoom, we'll use the usual Sunday worship Zoom link.

**Sunday, April 9th - Easter Celebration.** "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Allelujah!" On Resurrection morning, we invite you to bring a finger food to share for a light breakfast in the fellowship hall, starting at 8:30am. Hymn Sing at 9:00am. Worship at 9:30am in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

## Gospel Of John Read Thru

Sun (April 2) - Chapter 14	Thurs (April 6) - Chapter 18
Mon (April 3) - Chapter 15	Fri (April 7) - Chapter 19
Tues (April 4) - Chapter 16	Sat (April 8) - Chapter 20
Wed (April 5) - Chapter 17	Sun (April 9) - Chapter 21

\*\*Even if you haven't started yet,  
you can jump in at any time!\*\*

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

A sign up sheets are on the table across from the mail-boxes. There are 2 separate sign up sheets...one for if you are willing to host and one for being a guest! Dinner will take place on April 23.

## Thank you

Thanks so much to the CHAOS group and Duane and Cecilia for your help cleaning up after family meal. It was very much appreciated. ~ Fellowship Committee

## New Announcements

**Change of Address:** Ruth Grieser has a new address of 341 Sawmill Court, Archbold. Her phone remains the same. Please update your directories to reflect the change.

**Anabaptist World** subscription payments are now being accepted! Please make your payment of \$39!

**Ohio MCC Bike Ride:** You're invited to join a group of riders as they gather on July 15-16 near Columbus, Ohio, to bike 100 miles over two days (approximately 50 miles each day) to help support MCC's peace projects around the world. Base camp and overnight camping will be at the Prairie Grass Trailhead on the Ohio to Erie Trail in London, Ohio. We will head north towards Columbus one day, while heading south towards Cedarville the other. For more information about registering as a rider or making a donation, visit [mcc.org/ohio-bike-ride](http://mcc.org/ohio-bike-ride).

## Don't Forget

**On the Level Announcement:** The March edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Executive Director Kevin King shares his experiences of working on an MDS project in Dulac, Louisiana; a home dedication in Kentucky provides visible reminders that God cares; and MDS Canada returns to Cape Breton to repair damage from Hurricane Fiona.

**Work done during the last two Bridge Sundays** in October and November shaped what went into the Congregational Information Form, and helped to set up the congregation for a successful pastoral search. Copies of the Summaries of the Congregational Information Form are available in the office. In addition, there are now summaries of the last two Bridge Sundays for anyone who would like to see them.

# Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) minutes

March 13, 2023

**Suz led the opening, focusing Chapter 3 of *Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*:** Groups can process with grace as they work on discernment, and this discernment should take place in and through the Trinity. She talked about the idea of practicing discernment in situations in our personal lives as well, so we would be more experienced with it in groups. She thinks it would be helpful to suggest this book to the search team. Suz led in prayer as we moved on to the rest of the meeting.

**Reflection from the delegates on Ohio Conference Annual Assembly (ACA):** The consultant hired by the Conference seemed to direct conversation in a way that allowed for good dialogue, and processing around the tables was good. Discussed some of the statistics of the various traffic light surveys at ACA, and noted a possible failure of MCUSA to communicate effectively with leadership of Ohio Conference, especially in relation to the 2nd option. Discussed the rescinding of the membership guidelines at the MCUSA special delegate session in Kansas City in May 2022 and the role it played in activating Ohio Conference's review of affiliation.

**Next steps for Zion based on ACA outcome:** Discussed what other congregations in Ohio may do related to the recent ACA vote. Discussed how to present information from ACA with the congregation. The Zion traffic light survey from February 19 showed strong support for staying with MCUSA. The outcome of the vote at ACA is that the Ohio Conference will continue to be affiliated with MCUSA. Since there seems to be weariness about processing the affiliation issue, and since Zion's feedback indicated support for Ohio Conference remaining in MCUSA, we don't feel a sense of urgency for another congregational meeting at this point.

**Discussion done by congregation on Bridge Sundays 3 and 4 (last fall):** Copies of these summaries will be available in the office. Input from those two Sundays shaped what was written in the Congregational Information Form (CIF). The congregation will be reminded that the completed CIF is also available to be read.

**Update from pastoral search team:** Suz reported that the committee continues to be hard at work, and that there will be an update for the congregation soon. SLT recommends reminding the congregation that the search team is open to hearing suggestions of potential candidates that they may know.

**MCUSA convention in July 3-8; Delegate session July 7-8:** In addition to Sue, the SLT will invite one additional delegate.

**Review for Dan:** Micah, Dan, and Lonnie have been in conversation about processing whether to extend Dan's time beyond one year. Lonnie will send the three questions out to the SLT for discussion at a later time.

**Pastoral concerns were discussed.**

## **THE LAST PAGE...**

### **...but never the last word**

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.

As we approach Easter I've noticed a desire to connect sermons with Zion's vision to be a House of Peace. Have others felt that desire to connect more with Zion's vision?

Not that we've forgotten it, but maybe we can intentionally bring it to mind. Imagine it. Dream about it.

Vision can be a little tricky, because there is this tendency to "should" on ourselves, adding even more obligations to already busy and complicated schedules. "Shoulding" on ourselves works against the Easter idea of celebrating resurrection life as something we receive!

Instead I imagine noticing a tender shoot emerging out of the ground and being curious about it. Watching it grow. Wondering if it will survive any spring flooding or summer dryness. Bearing witness to its drive to live.

Hopefully we can be curious about being a House of Peace as we spend Sundays after Easter to the end of May celebrating Christ's resurrection. No doubt we will sometimes slip back into thinking it's all about what we do rather than about what God is doing. I guess that's part of learning to live in God's resurrection vision. I look forward to finding our way together.

Dan