

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

April 23, 2023

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

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, April 23

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
11:45 am ~ Exploring Baptism class
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Tuesday, April 25

10:00 am ~ Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, April 26

9:00 am ~ Pastor Peer
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS

Thursday, April 27

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

Sunday, April 30

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
11:30 am ~ Life Planning/Exploring
Baptism class
7:00 pm ~ Choir Concert

Office News

~ Sue will have limited availability in the coming week (April 24-28). This is the last week of AMBS' spring semester and she has papers due in her two classes.

Happy Birthday:

April 23 - Travis Pennington
April 27 - Jim King

Happy Anniversary

April 27 - Brad & Rachel Short (32)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Kathy Beck
Interlude ~ Choir
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Kathy Beck
Hymns ~ Cheryl Britsch
"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" (HWB 278)
"Christ Who Left His Home In Glory" (HWB 283)
Offering/Offertory ~ Kathy/Bonnie
Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"If You But Trust In God" (HWB 576)
Scripture ~ Luke 24:13-35
Sermon ~ Dan Miller
Response Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"Open Our Eyes Lord" (SNC 80)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Dan Miller
Benediction ~ Dan Miller
Sending Song ~ Cheryl Britsch
"God Be With You" (HWB 430)

Upcoming Sunday Events

- ~ April 23rd: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (various locations)
- ~ April 30: Zion Choir concert @ 7:00pm
- ~ May 7th: CHAOS Sunday (6th-8th grade youth) & MYF Taco Bar fundraiser (for lunch)
- ~ May 14th: Graduation Sunday (celebrating our high school seniors)



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.

Living the Resurrection Worship Series

For our worship series from Easter to Pentecost, we'll explore this idea of living as Resurrection people.

Through resurrection, God has begun something in human history. Easter worship celebrates what God accomplished in Jesus. The invitation is to pay attention to how the resurrection is working in the world and in us. Two over-arching questions will guide Zion's regular worship services through the end of May:

- ~ Toward what am I being drawn?
- ~ What am I resisting?

Do not move too quickly to judge yourself. Do not jump into action. Rather, observe what energizes or drains you. The scriptures and sermons each week will offer a different lens through which to consider these questions. We hope that every week you will take SOME time to reflect and become aware of resurrection.

Thank you

Thank you for your prayers and cards after having a total hip replacement. The healing continues. ~ Roger Crossgrove

New Announcements

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! The *Junior Choral Society* (JCS) will be giving their last concert of the season on **Sunday, April 30 @ 7:00 pm** at Central Mennonite Church, Archbold. Come hear this energetic group of 4th-8th grade children sing a variety of music they have worked hard to present this season! Refreshments & fellowship to follow the concert. Thank you for supporting the musical arts for the young people in our community!

On the Level Announcement: The April edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: learn why some volunteers feel driven to be a part of the RV (recreational vehicle) program; search and rescue volunteers in Arkansas help bring closure to a grieving family; and volunteers in Florida deliver hope just in time for Easter. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3USbIhq>

Don't Forget

MYF is having a fundraiser to provide funds for MYF activities this year. One of our upcoming events we are excited about is Mennonite Youth Convention in Kansas City. **We will be providing lunch for the congregation on May 7th** after Sunday school. A free will donation will be accepted. The lunch will consist of a Taco Bar. Save the date in your calendars now. Please take note of our signs around the church made by our very own creative MYF.

Bangladesh clean water project: Bill and Carole Schumacher are members at Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City, Ohio and are initiating a small project to help address the problem of arsenic poisoning in Bangladesh.

In the 1980's many service agencies in Bangladesh, including Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), encouraged the use of shallow wells instead of surface water for cooking, cleaning and irrigation. At that time arsenic testing was not regularly done. But by 1993 arsenic was being found in many shallow wells. Arsenic is absorbed by crops such as rice, so people are consuming arsenic in their water and their food. The World Health Organization (WHO) calls this "the largest human poisoning in world history."

Bill and Carole seek to raise \$80,000 to support a 3-year project in southern Bangladesh. Because this is a sister congregation in Ohio Conference we (Mission and Service Team and pastors) want to let you know about this opportunity to help financially. This would be a great opportunity for a Small Group, Sunday School Class, or individuals. A brochure is attached to the weekly email and you can visit Schumachers' website at www.arsenicbangladesh.com to find out more.

Refugee Support Team Update

In an effort to move them toward independence, the Glushko family moved to their own apartment in Archbold. Igor passed his driving test and driver's license. Karina started working about two nights each week at the Doughbox Bakery. They continue to do well and adjust to a new culture. For the Skopych family, Andrii started working for Boyer Construction. They live in a home in Wauseon. Maksim is doing well in school at Wauseon. Thanks again for each person who has given of their time in many ways! Thank you also for the financial support as we sponsor these two families!

Members of the Resettlement Support Team 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.

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

I like the idea of celebrating the resurrection for longer than just on Ester Sunday. When life is busy, the details of living can take over our thoughts. There is value in rejoicing in all that God has done for us. And, it can unintentionally add pressure to say life is good. (Life has to be good after the resurrection, doesn't it?) For years I have appreciated the M. Scott Peck began his book, *The Road Less Traveled*, with the statement, "Life is difficult."

The other week a Goshen friend asked me how I was doing. As I was thinking how to answer the question honestly, I heard myself say, "I'm doing well!" At a basic level that was the truth – I am alive, I have friends, I have a job, I am driving between Archbold and Goshen without incident, and I am healthy. I am genuinely grateful for all those things! But this is a friend with whom I go beyond the basic level.

Always saying life is good can build a wall that keeps challenges hidden.

The significance of resurrection is that it brings new life. Resurrection has meaning because death is real. Without death there is no resurrection.

I hope this Easter celebration cultivates greater comfort with needing and receiving God's grace in life.

Dan

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes April 3, 2023

Opening: Mike led the opening discussion on Chapter 5 of *Pursuing God's Will Together*. One of the concepts he reviewed was the idea of "holy endeavor." Once a leadership group is committed to becoming a transforming community, the first step is to identify guiding values and principles for themselves that will guide their work. There was discussion of what those values might be at Zion. We would be looking for values that are already inherent in the congregation and reinforcing those, not telling the congregation what our values are.

Review 1st year of Dan's time at Zion: As a group, we discussed three areas related to Dan's work

* Did we accomplish what was envisioned when we began?

- He has done an excellent job on helping us prepare the path towards looking for a new pastor
- He has been working well with the pastoral team model (it was helpful to come in before to understand the team process)
- He has been bringing thoughtful, helpful messages

* Do we want to shift emphasis in some way?

- There are some challenges in thinking about emphasis now that we are heading into the 3 month increments plan with Dan's interim work
- One goal we would like work towards is continuing to incorporate the vision statement in congregational life

* What would we like to see in the next period of time?

- We should make sure the congregation is aware of the plan for Dan as we move into the 2nd year of his time with us
- Recognized the need to think about a backup plan for how to proceed if we would not have a pastor by the time Dan leaves

Delegate for MCUSA convention in July: Barb is willing to consider serving along with Sue.

Search Committee update: The group continues to meet and receive information about potential candidates. We discussed SLT's relationship to the search team.

Covenant - The revised SLT covenant was signed.

Maundy Thursday service and Easter Sunday: We discussed the set up of foot washing and hand washing stations for Maundy Thursday, and how we might consider observing communion on Easter Sunday.

Reflected on the SLT retreat last fall: We reviewed what had been discussed at the October retreat, and agreed there would be value in doing something similar next year

Pastoral congregational concerns were discussed.

Next meeting date - May 8th. Dan and Sue are planning an appreciation meal