

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

August 20, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, August 20

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, August 21

5:00 pm ~ SLT

Wednesday, August 23

9:00 am ~ Quilting (room 303)

6:00 pm ~ Worship Team

Thursday, August 24

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Friday, August 25 ~ *Office is now open*

Sunday, August 27

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Office News

~ Dan will be working from Pennsylvania.

Happy Anniversary

August 21 - Mark & Ruth Matthews (41)

August 25 - Lynn & Bonnie Short (61)

Happy Birthday:

August 20 ~ Karen Short

August 22 ~ Kirk Beck

August 23 ~ Sara Nafziger, Vivienne Legato

August 24 ~ Guinevere Brooks

August 26 ~ Jackie Lehman

Nursery Workers

August 20: Rachel Aeschliman & Ella Richer

August 27: Mike Zimmerman & Keegan Wyse

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Ruth

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Karen Ruth

Song from the Campfire ~ Cheryl Britsch

“I Owe The Lord A Morning Song” (handout)

Campfire Stories ~ Karen Ruth

Song from the Campfire ~ Cheryl Britsch

Offering/Offertory ~ Bonnie/Karen

Stories by the Campfire ~ Dan Miller & Steve Hastings

Prayer for Church & World

Benediction ~ Dan Miller

Song from the Campfire ~ Cheryl Britsch

“Day Is Dying In The West” (handout)



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

Sunday, August 13th - Sunday, September 3rd : *"Welcome to the Campfire!"* Our usual August 'Front Porch' with a new twist! You are invited to dress casually and comfortably. Come hear stories from one another about faith, seeing God in creation, camping, and life.

New Announcements

The flowers on the organ are from Helen Weldy's family in honor of her 90th birthday on the 19th.

The Gifts Discernment Ministry Team brings the Affirmation Slate to the congregation for candidates to serve on Zion's Ministry Teams. Copies are in your mailbox for the high school youth and adults in your household. Additional copies are placed on the table across from the mailboxes. A copy is also attached to this week's email.

Please complete the Affirmation Slate and place in the marked box on the table across from the mailboxes by Sunday, September 3. Alternatively, you may mark your responses electronically by clicking on this link <https://forms.gle/21LBj59RX1PCaKUS8> or the link in the PDF file of the Affirmation Slate attached to this week's email.

Gifts Discernment Ministry Team
Phil (Lori) Bontrager, chair

On the Level announcement: The August edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: We have the latest information from Maui on the devastating wildfires; learn about the power of family love; and learn about new ways to get involved with MDS by exploring *Beyond the Project*. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3E1RVV3>

Some extra coins were dropped by the office, so \$28.57 was added to the noisy offering, for a total of 1154.94, plus one glow in the dark star, two dozen red or green small cellophane circles, numerous coins from Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: As the 2023-24 school year gets underway, pray for new Bethel College faculty in Bible and religion, chemistry, health and human performance, music, psychology, and social work.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our undergraduate students who are moving onto campus this week. May they embrace Bluffton's Enduring Values of Discovery, Community, Respect, and Service as they find their talent, their passion, and ultimately, their way.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for faculty and students at Hesston College as they engage in the first day of classes tomorrow. Pray for confidence, calm nerves, and a desire to learn and grow together inside and outside of the classroom.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Please pray for the ten new Hillcrest Academy faculty and staff, and two new Operating Board members, that they will feel confident and a sense of togetherness and support.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Christy Harrison and Peter Sensenig, and their three children, as they complete their North American Ministry this week and go back to Chad on Friday. Pray for safe travels and a joyful reunion with friends, as they return to teaching at Shalom Evangelical Theological Seminary (Peter), working in maternal and child health (Christy) and school (the children). The family serves jointly with Eastern Mennonite Missions and Mennonite Mission Network.

School Kits

From August until September 10th, Mennonite Women will collect supplies for school kits. Items can be left on the table near the church office.

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks (8x10x10.5/70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality, must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens*
- **Mennonite women will supply the metal pencil sharpeners for the school kits**

More details can be found at mcc.org. Monetary donations are also welcome.

*This is a correction to what was previously printed

Don't Forget

2023-24 Life Planning will kick off in September this year, rather than August. Meet at 7:00 on September 27. Youth and mentors should communicate with Julia Richer if they're unable to attend. Mentors are encouraged to connect with their youth before this time, as well.

Thank you for your prayers for my procedure, which was a cochlear implant. I'm grateful for all of your prayers -Arlene Short

Teachers & Helpers needed: There is a sign up sheet on the table across from the mailboxes with opportunities to teach and help with children and youth this fall during Sunday School or on Wednesday evenings.

Picture Wall: As we look forward to John David Thacker coming to Zion, now is a great time to get new or updated photos on the church family picture bulletin board located in the fellowship hall. Anyone is welcome to submit a picture and room will be made for all pictures. John David can use this as a tool for getting to know our church family and it can also help others as well! Please put your 4x6 (or smaller) pictures in Rachel (Brad) Short's mailbox. If you have questions, Rachel can be contacted at 419-572-9922 or rmsshort67@gmail.com. Thank you!

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Perhaps you've seen the article this week quoting Russell Moore, the former Southern Baptist Convention official, where he describes hearing numerous stories of pastors referring to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, only to be confronted after their sermon about where the pastor got those "liberal talking points." Things like, "turn the other cheek."

I've heard about similar interactions before. A person who was no stranger to church saying, "I don't know what the Bible says about _____, but I can't believe God would judge anyone for that."

Whether from a progressive or a conservative, I am disappointed when people in the church are unaware of Jesus' teachings or Paul's teachings, and don't even care. That's different from my own approach, which is to engage scripture as a central document for knowing Jesus and growing as a disciple. Knowing and wrestling with scripture seems essential to the Christian life.

I get worked up over this, and I feel it in my stomach, and I wonder about the visceral nature of my response. Part of it is probably defensiveness; I have devoted a lot of my life's time and energy to wrestling with scripture and its relevance to daily living.

Defensiveness aside, I can also identify with the reactions described above. I have sometimes disagreed with Jesus' teachings. And, it still makes sense to me that in order to follow Jesus I need to learn about Him. Moments of disagreement with scripture, or how we have understood scripture, are opportunities for deeper understanding and possibly another step in conversion. I hope to model such openness, and to encourage it in others.

What responses do you experience about this question of people in the church not being familiar with scripture? I'd be glad to talk about this with you.

~ Dan

Spiritual Leadership Team Minutes

July 17, 2023

Barb led the opening devotions focusing on Chapter 7 of "Pursuing God's Will Together." The topic was "Practices for listening to each other." The first 3 sections focusing on practicing submitting to discernment, stability, and love were discussed. We closed this time by sharing prayer concerns and praying for each other.

Dan, Mike, and Barb shared the work they've done clarifying a plan for those who have a new mission they would like to undertake at Zion. There was discussion of the rough draft and how it might work practically. We will all look over the ideas and add discussion of it to the agenda for next month.

The vote affirming bringing John David Thacker to Zion was discussed. Suz relayed some of the comments the search committee received. It was noted that PCRC, Elders' chair, and Stewardship will be working out details with John David about his compensation.

General thoughts and ideas for having a fall retreat were discussed. The fall retreat may be pushed back until the winter to give John David time to settle in. One thing we could work on during the retreat is coming up with a "Rule of Life," as recommended in "Pursuing God's Will Together."

The group spent some time discussing what has been happening in area Mennonite churches. While it is not our place to evaluate the actions of these churches, we do need to consider what impact these decisions might have on Zion. Overall the group discussed the need to encourage the congregation to have open communication with leadership and with each other about any concerns related to these developments. Dan and Sue talked about their interest in chatting with the congregation on Sunday.

Organization of the SLT for next year was discussed. Mike is willing to be SLT chair for the 2023-24 year.

The general ledger showing expenditures during the last year was available to review. Needs for next year's budget, as well as possible needs in the congregation were discussed by the group, but no specific decisions were made.

With sadness, we noted the upcoming retirement of Dick Barrett as Conference Minister.

Plans for communion procedure on August 6 were discussed.

Our next meeting will be August 21, and Mike will chair the meeting since Lonnie will just be getting back from vacation on the 20th. Greg is next on the devotions list.