

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 27, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, August 27

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, August 28

9:30 am ~ Staff meeting

Wednesday, August 30

9:00 am ~ Quilting (room 303)

Thursday, August 31

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

5:30 pm ~ Preschool Open House

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, September 3

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Office News

~ Summer office hours are officially over and the office is open Monday—Friday from 8:15-12.

~ "Rejoice" magazine has been stuffed in mailboxes. If you did not get one and would like one, please contact the office.

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Marcia Lehman

Bolivia Update ~ Kathy Nofziger

Interlude

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Marcia Lehman

Songs from the Campfire ~ Eric Lehman

Children's Campfire Stories ~ Marcia Lehman

Offering/Offertory ~ Marcia/Bonnie

Songs from the Campfire ~ Eric Lehman

Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick

Campfire Stories ~ Sue Short & Michelle Wyse

Benediction ~ Sue Short

Sending Songs from the Campfire ~ Eric Lehman

Nursery Workers

August 27: Mike Zimmerman & Keegan Wyse

September 3: Carol Short & Sonja Wheeler

Happy Birthday:

August 27 ~ Elaine Swartzbaugh

August 28 ~ Patsy Nofziger, Karen Ringenberg

September 1 ~ Steve Nafziger

Happy Anniversary

August 28 - Richard & Eileen Nyce (46)

August 30 - Jan Cobb Nofziger & Merrill Spiess (7)



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

Youth Activities Helpers Needed: If you are willing to help out with teaching Sunday school or ZOW, please contact Sarah Frankenfield (419-615-3937, sarahfrankenfield@gmail.com) or sign up on the table across from the mailboxes.

Child's World Preschool is excited to kick off another school year on September 11th! There are 48 students enrolled for the 2023-24 school year between 3 classes. We will also be welcoming a new co-teacher, Mrs. Joilyn Waidelich. Mrs. Waidelich comes to us from the NWOESC, where she taught preschool in the public school for a number of years. Mrs. Gretchen King & Mrs. Megan Weaver are excited to have her join the team! Open house for preschool families will be held on Thursday, Aug. 31st from 5:30-7:30. Thank you for your continued support of the preschool, and we welcome your prayers for another successful year! (Please contact the office if you would be willing to sponsor a scholarship student.)

MCC's Seek Discipleship Program in Cambodia: Seek is a 6-month intentional discipleship program for 18–20-year-olds, with an Anabaptist flavor. Participants will live with a small group of other young adults, exploring what it means to grow as a follower of Jesus. They will study Scripture, volunteer locally, and experience life in the community. The cohort will consist of 6-10 international participants and will run from January 15 - June 24, 2024, in the rich and beautiful setting of Cambodia. More information and an online application are available at mcc.org/seek. Accepting applicants until October 1 or the cohort is filled.

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

Thank you

Thank you for sharing in the 'surprise' card shower in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary. ~Gareth & Judy Short

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College students and faculty as they start the new semester.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton University students, faculty, and staff as the fall 2023 semester begins. May we learn from each other, embrace new opportunities, and experience a world of opportunity.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for the EMS community as we seek to join hands of generosity during the public phase of "We Gather," a campaign to fund our elementary school's Gathering Space, the "family room" of our K-5 school program.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Pray for Bethel College's Student Life staff as they prepare to host and coordinate Family Weekend Sept. 8-10.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Bekah York in her work with the Columbia Mennonite Church and Justapaz, the church's peacebuilding organization. May God grant Bekah wisdom, energy and contagious hope for her ministries.

Don't Forget

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.

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

Setting October 15th as my last day at Zion has moved my ending from a nebulous idea, to a date on the calendar that is now seven weeks away! I hope you won't get tired of hearing me say that Zion Mennonite Church has been a great place to get my feet wet again in congregational ministry. I was pretty stale when I started back in May of 2022, having been out of the congregational setting for over 13 years! You went with me through those startup days of refreshing old skills. It's been more fun than I imagined!

From the beginning, it felt like an experiment, to see whether I could still do it. I had a hunch it would be important to be flexible and experiment. From this vantage point, it would be easy to say that I knew those four Bridge Sundays would be a success. That would be a lie of course, because this was my first time doing this congregational work on Sunday mornings. I didn't know if people would show up! But even with hesitations, many of you were willing to give it a try. Even talking about Zion history went well, and newer people appreciated hearing the stories about the early days. And the food was terrific!

I've told people Zion is a great place to preach - at least it has been that for me. Each congregation has its own personality and character traits. One of Zion's positive traits is being a great place to preach. Always appreciative, I have sometimes felt as though the congregation brought more out of me than I knew I had. Thank you.

A central challenge about being at Zion has been being gone from home so much. It took awhile to find a workable rhythm and even then it has not been easy. When I was able to recognize that it would just be difficult, then I could quit fretting because it wasn't getting easier.

My biggest disappointment is getting sick with covid last fall and then taking such a long time to get back any endurance. It was right in the middle of having four deaths in the congregation. I had hoped to invest energy in getting better acquainted with families at Zion, but instead we found a more distant pattern of relating. It's taken some work for me to think of myself as one of those people who is more at risk from covid.

Still, it's been a great time, and I'm glad for the chance to walk together. And, we still have seven more weeks. I am the kind of person who tends to work right up to the very end, so don't hesitate to contact me if something comes up.

~ Dan