

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 Mike Zimmerman 419-966-7363
Elder Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769
Elder Suz Wirick 419-966-2266
Elder Barb Yoder 567-694-3112

September 10, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, September 10

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School ~ **MYF starts today!!**
4:00 pm ~ Movie Time (*Inside Out*)

Monday, September 11

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting
11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers
6:00 pm ~ SLT
7:00 pm ~ Formation

Wednesday, September 13

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

Thursday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 17

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Nursery Workers

September 10: Brad & Rachel Short
September 17: Barnaby Wyse & Jordan Rodriguez

Happy Birthday:

September 12 - Sally Beck,
September 12 - Mabel Ann Klinger
September 13 - Richard Nyce
September 14 - Kenneth Rufenacht
September 14 - Julia Richer
September 15 - LouAnn Kanagy
September 15 - Holly Liechty
September 15 - Jan Cobb Nofziger
September 16 - Ladonna Andres
September 16 - Elias Frankenfield

Happy Anniversary

September 13 - Gerald & Karen Short (54)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements
~ Karen Rodriguez & Kelvin Friesen
Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer
~ Karen Rodriguez & Kelvin Friesen
Song ~ Eric Lehman
“Praise The Lord Sing Hallelujah” (HWB 50)
Communion
Song ~ Eric Lehman
“Come, Ye Disconsolate” (MH 333)
Scripture ~ Ephesians 5:6-14
Sermon ~ Dan Miller
Song of Response ~ Eric Lehman
“Come Bring Your Burdens”
Offertory ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Children's Story ~ Karen Rodriguez
Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick
Benediction ~ Dan Miller
Sending Song ~ Eric Lehman
“Sent Forth By God's Blessing” (HWB 478)



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

"Treasure in Clay Jars: A Series on Grief:" A full human life, even for Christians, includes both love and loss. Opening ourselves to the risk of love also means opening ourselves to the pain of loss. Some of us overestimate how "strong" we are until we are faced with hardship and loss, and we are forced to see our own mortality. Others of us consider ourselves too "fragile," and we are afraid to take risks because we might get hurt. Both are defenses to protect us from grief. Grief is hard and Jesus dwells within us. He is our "treasure" that we hold in the clay jar of our humanity. We don't have to be stronger than we are, or live stuck in fear of moving forward. Drawing on this image from 2 Corinthians 4:5-7, we'll explore the complicated human experience of grief during the month of September.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our first-year students as they focus on the question "Who am I?" in their first-year seminar class, *Becoming a Scholar*. May they reflect on the varied paths their futures hold at Bluffton and beyond.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Let us pray for the parents and families of our students as they support and encourage their children throughout the school year. May they find strength, joy, and peace in their relationships with each other and with God.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please keep Hesston College's Title IX Implementation Team in your prayers as they work to enhance and improve student safety across campus. Pray that their work continues to better equip our employees to offer robust support to students.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the members of the Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America (MTAL), as they compile their devotional book for 2024–2025. Pray that God's spirit will guide the team of volunteer editors and designers as they work with submissions from more than 300 women.

New Announcements

We will be having our first Church Family Meal on Wednesday, September 20th at 5:30. So put it on your calendar and come and fellowship around the table. It isn't necessary to sign up and you are welcome to bring a friend. We will be having enchilada casserole served on our new plates that were purchased with memorial monies and also gifts of money specified for plates.

Update from Gifts Discernment Ministry Team: We received a total of 79 responses (68 paper, 11 electronic) to the recent proposed slate of candidates to serve on Zion's various Ministry Teams, beginning in the new church year on September 1. The overall affirmation rate was 99%, with all candidates affirmed by 96%, or greater. An updated list of Zion's Ministry Team members will be made available soon. Thank you to all who have agreed to serve and to those who responded to the Affirmation slate. – *Gifts Discernment Ministry Team*

The Builders Sunday School Class will not be meeting the month of September. We encourage you all to join the optional class that will meet in room 310. The Builders Class will meet again beginning in October.

Three-week optional Sunday School class beginning September 10. Plans are underway for an optional Sunday School class to connect with sermons and other materials related to the *Treasure in Clay Jars* worship series on grief. All are welcome. We will meet room 310.

Come see the animated movie, *Inside Out*, at Zion on September 10 at 4:00pm. *Inside Out* connects in many ways with our September worship series, offering insights on different feelings like joy, sadness and anger. Rated PG, this movie connects with kids and offers insights useful for adults.

Congregational Caregivers will meet Monday, September 11th at 11 am in room 310.

Mennonite Women will meet Wednesday, September 13, from 9 am – 3 pm. Sister Ellen Lamberjack will lead us in the meditation at 11:30 am. The noon meal will be provided. This will mark the final date for packaging of school kit material. A sincere thanks to all who contributed funds or supplies to support MCC's drive to provide children from around the globe access to educational supplies.

New Announcements con't..

Sister Ellen and Sister Andrea of Project Hope will be joining us during worship on **Sunday, September 17th** to offer an update about their upcoming ministry transition. We invite you to read their letter below. This letter was also attached to the newsletter email on Friday, July 20th, and put in the mailboxes of those who receive their newsletters in print.

Dear Friends,

Since October 17, 2006, Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio, in collaboration with Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio, have provided immigration legal services through Project Hope – Proyecto Esperanza to hundreds of our immigrant and nonimmigrant brothers and sisters. With this letter I am announcing that Sister Andrea Inkrott and I plan to retire by September 29, 2023. Both of us feel very blessed for the years we have been able to live and serve among you.

We are happy to announce that immigration legal services will continue at the current Project Hope – Proyecto Esperanza office at Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio, through the services of Logistic Assistance to Migrant People, Inc. (LAMP). LAMP is recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) to offer immigration legal services in Archbold, Ohio and Toledo, Ohio through the services of a husband wife team from Pakistan.

Fouzia Tahir is the Executive Director of LAMP. She plans to divide her time between the current Project Hope – Proyecto Esperanza office (which will become LAMP) in Archbold, Ohio, and the LAMP office in Toledo, Ohio.

Tahir Masood, DOJ Accredited Representative (partial*) from LAMP will offer immigration legal services at Project Hope – Proyecto Esperanza (soon to become LAMP).

{Explanation: *Partial means that one may represent clients before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), but not in immigration court proceedings.}

We hope that you will be able to stop by and welcome Fouzia and Tahir as they officially begin their work as LAMP on September 30, 2023 at the current Project Hope – Proyecto Esperanza office.

Peace and all Good.



Sister M. Ellen Lamberjack, Director, and Staff
Project Hope – Proyecto Esperanza

MCC Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour on November 1-3 in Goshen and Elkhart: Join MCC Great Lakes for three days focusing on the complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system as seen in northern Indiana. Participants will learn about the systemic forces at play that have led to mass incarceration and the criminalization of marginalized groups. The group will hear diverse perspectives from community organizations and people experiencing arrest, incarceration and re-entry. More information and registration at mcc.org/indiana-pipeline-to-prison.

Upcoming Event: Concerned about the growing number of mass shootings in recent years, and inspired by the MCC curriculum, "Fear Not: Creating a Plan to Respond to Active Violence," several people from area Mennonite congregations began meeting with an interest in planning an event for all ages. As they planned, the group sought guidance from Shalom, local sheriff's departments, NAMI, the ADAMhs Board, MCC peace educators, and Mike Martin of 'Raw Tools' (who blacksmiths weapons used in violent crimes into garden tools). The event, "**Disarming Violence: Starting a Conversation about Gun Safety in our Community,**" will be held on **Sunday afternoon, September 24th, from 4:00-6:15pm**, outside in the parking lot of Central Mennonite Church. (If inclement weather, in the fellowship hall.) You are invited to come grab your dinner at Benny's Loncheria food truck, enjoy a snack of kettle corn and slushies, participate in children's activities, browse information booths, enter a drawing to win a gun safe, listen to speakers, and watch a blacksmithing demonstration. *(Planning Committee: Nancy Roynon Beck, Heather Myers, Brittany Spotts, Allen Rutter, Sue Short, and Joel Shenk. We are grateful recipients of one of this year's Ohio Conference Ministry Grants, which has funded this event.)*

Update From Dan

On Wednesday evening, Dan Miller sent this update to the congregation:

Friends at Zion Mennonite Church,

“I want to let you know that Ohio Conference has invited me to be interim conference minister after Dick Barrett retires from the conference minister role later this fall. After some serious conversations with Nadine, and processing of my own, I have said yes to the invitation. This does not affect the remaining time here at Zion, which concludes October 15. I will begin with Ohio Conference on December 1. Conference ministry is not the direction I was thinking. After really enjoying the time at Zion I have been expecting a permanent return to transitional ministry in congregations. Yet I am surprisingly drawn to this unexpected turn. Beginning tomorrow (Thursday) morning Ohio Conference will communicate this news to delegates and then more broadly to conference congregations. Grace, Dan”

Ohio Conference also sent out an announcement Thursday morning.

Thank you

“There is a special bond when friends become family. My church family is very special to me. I greatly appreciate all the special love gifts I received from you in recognition to my special birthday. Thank you!” With much love, Helen Weldy

"A BIG thank you to Nikki Aeschliman and Kellie Creighton and their families, Mark and Joyce Nafziger, Karen Ruth, Cheryl Britsch, Eric and Marcia Lehman, Bill Beck, Julia Richer and Ella Richer, and Keith and Jackie Lehman for all of their work on the 'Welcome to the Campfire' worship series. We had so much fun! We invite you to take a moment to personally thank them for their great job creating the campsite, leading worship and music, donating camping and hiking gear, leading children's activities, and planning the series. Many thanks also to those willing to share perspectives on camping, life, and faith - Barb Yoder, Steve Hastings, Michelle Wyse, and Jordan Rodriguez." -Sue Short and Dan Miller

"A very special thank you to the high school youth for doing some yard work at my house. It was a joy to watch you working hard and having fun while doing it. I really appreciate it." -Ron Grieser

Don't Forget

Update from the Zion Pastoral Search Team: We are looking forward to John David Thacker beginning in his new role at Zion as a Full-Time member of the Collaborative Ministry Team (CMT) on **October 1st**. John David's housing has been resolved and he has moved into the Archbold community this past week. Dan Miller's time with Zion will conclude on **October 15th**. The role of Zion's Pastoral Search Team has concluded, and any questions or items of concern should be directed to members of the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT), or the Pastors & Congregation Relationships Committee (PCRC).

Zion Choir will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 28 from 7:00 to 8:30. If you're interested in singing or have questions contact Bonnie Stuckey (419-551-6847 or bonitastuckey@gmail.com) or Duane Beck, the director. All singers are welcome!

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

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Several months ago I shared the idea that a good farewell opens the door for a good hello. I would call that one of my central ideas about grief. My memory is that hearing it was one of those moments when the truth hit me with almost a physical force. I don't know if it really did, but over the years I have come to believe that by releasing rather than holding on to those who have left us, we create space in our hearts and minds for new people to enter our life. That is one way grief is important – opening us to new relationships in the present. For me, that's one thing that has to be included. If I was a betting person, which apparently I am in this instance, I would bet you also have some wisdom and conviction gained through experiences of grief. So I want to ask you, “What 2-3 things need to be included in an honest series on grief?” What goes on your list? ~ Dan