

# 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 17, 2023

### Zion Activities this Week

#### Sunday, September 17

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

#### Monday, September 18

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, September 20

9:00 am ~ Quilting (rm 303)  
9:00 am ~ Pastor Peer (West Clinton)  
5:30 pm ~ Family Meal  
6:30 pm ~ Worship Team  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS  
7:00 pm ~ MYF

#### Thursday, September 21

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

#### Sunday, September 24

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

### Order of Service

Prelude ~ 1AD  
Welcome & Announcements ~ Elaine Short  
Update on Project Hope ~ Sr. Ellen & Sr. Andrea  
Interlude ~ 1AD  
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Elaine Short  
Affirming Our Faith ~ 1AD  
“When Peace Like A River” (HWB 336)  
Offering/Offertory ~ Elaine/1AD  
Scripture ~ John 11:17-36  
Sermon ~ Sue Short  
Song of Response ~ 1AD  
“Nothing Is Lost On The Breath Of God”  
Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger  
Benediction ~ Sue Short  
Sending Song ~ 1AD  
“Lead Me To The Rock”

### Nursery Workers

September 17: Barnaby Wyse & Jordan Rodriguez  
September 24: Chad Aeschliman Family

### Office News

~ Sue will be out of the office every Thursday during this academic year. She will be putting in a full day on Thursdays as a volunteer for CHP Home Care and Hospice to fulfill a requirement for one of her semi-ary classes.

### Happy Birthday

September 17 - Joe Legato, Brenda Aeschliman  
September 20 - Lynette Bontrager, Pete Rodriguez  
September 21 - Charlene Short, Karmin Brooks  
September 23 - Mark Matthews, Roger Nafziger

### Happy Anniversary

September 17 - Bill & Kathy Beck (45)



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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.*

## 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:

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for the Goshen College community as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and recognize the heritage, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Let us ask for prayer for our upcoming fundraiser online auction, Fan the Flame, which is September 20-25, 2023. We are raising funds to equip our kitchen and sewing lab for our family and consumer science classroom.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for international students at Hesston College as they prepare for the annual Cultures Fair, held on September 21. Pray that they will create memories and have fun as they showcase their culture through food, dance, art, and other creative activities. Pray that those in attendance learn more about our amazing students from around the world.

Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for Kate Widmer, who is serving with Mennonite Mission Network, and La Prairie (The Prairie) Mennonite congregation in France, as they build relationships with immigrants in their neighborhood. Kate's sewing classes have become popular. Pray that Kate will be able to share God's love as she helps women make clothes for their families.

## New Announcements

**On Sunday October 1** we will be having a meal together after Sunday school to welcome John David to Zion. Meat will be provided (Beef Barbeque) and we are asking you to bring salads and desserts

Treasure in Clay Jars Sunday School class meeting in room 310. All are welcome. How do we grieve? How long should we grieve? This week will highlight a resource some people have found meaningful. Feel free to bring a book, poem, picture, song, scripture or other item that helped you during grief.

**SAVE the DATE: Shalom Counseling's Annual Fall Fundraiser & 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is Sunday, October 8th, 2023,** at Ruihley Park in Archbold, OH. We will be serving your choice of a BBQ chicken or a pulled pork meal by donation from 11am-1:30pm. Come and help us Celebrate 25 years of providing compassionate Christ centered care and Mental Health services.

**Fundraiser:** Duane Beck is hosting a concert by 1AD in conjunction with a fundraiser for Never Let Go Ministries of Edgerton **at Zion Mennonite Church (due to possible weather)** on Sunday, September 17. Activities begin at 4pm, food is served at 5pm, and the concert begins at 6pm. Everyone is invited to attend. All proceeds from this event will benefit Never Let Go Ministries. See the bulletin board for more details.

Everence Financial® is hosting a **FREE, In-person, educational Medicare workshop** on September 25th at 6:30 p.m. in Wauseon, OH. **As you approach retirement, you may have some questions about moving to Medicare and Social Security.** During Medicare Mondays, Everence discusses the important details you need to know about retirement income and transitioning to Medicare, including:

- Enrollment details and deadlines
- Budgeting for health care and income in retirement
- What are your options if you continue to work
- Social Security - when do I start?
- Prescription drug coverage
- Plans that supplement Medicare

[Special Grounds Coffee – 854 S. Shoop Ave, Wauseon, OH](#)

For additional Medicare workshop information, visit [everence.com/medicare-mondays](https://everence.com/medicare-mondays).

## 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

## Spiritual Leadership Team minutes - August 21st

We began with a delicious meal organized by Suz, as a way of celebrating Lonnie's work on the SLT and saying good-bye as his term ends. Each person took a moment to share what s/he appreciated about Lonnie.

Devotional: Greg led us in a discussion from chapter 7 of the book Pursuing God's Will Together, focusing on the practices of truth telling and confession. Greg presented us with some real life scenarios and asked us to think about when we might find ourselves backing away from telling the truth. We considered the ways it is beneficial to be honest with each other so that we can trust the sincerity of group members as we discern God's will together. Sue led us in communion as a closing to the devotional time.

Maintenance of the church website was brought up by Barb. Does it make sense for the group who has been working with the website to become an official part of the church structure? If so, under what part of the current church structure that might fall? It was decided that this is a Council matter, and to ask to be added to their next meeting's agenda.

Gifts Discernment recommends reducing the size of the group to four elders. The Gifts Discernment team has asked a variety of people, but has not received affirmative replies. One course of action would be to go with four this term, but start talking to some people about considering it for the next term. A new elder will definitely be needed next year because Mike's term ends and he cannot repeat. We brainstormed some ideas for addressing the situation. It was also noted that the Church Council has the ability to bring someone into a position midterm, if needed.

Plans are being made for the transition from Dan's time at Zion, to that of John David. John David will be starting on October 1. Installation, officiated by Tony Doehrmann, may be on October 1 or 8, depending on Tony's schedule. We'd like to have a celebration, including a congregational meal, on John David's first Sunday. We'll be saying good-bye to Dan on October 15th during the SS hour. Communion will be on October 1 for World Communion Sunday.

The Pastor-Spouse retreat is Nov 10-12, with a September 1 registration deadline. Sue and Stan plan to attend. It was suggested that John David could be offered the weekend off too, or that he could choose another weekend for a personal retreat, if he wished.

Dan provided the SLT with materials from the Colossian Forum that frame conflict as an opportunity for spiritual growth. This could be a possibility for some short term small groups to work at strengthening what was learned about listening and directly addressing one another.

We discussed next steps for the Processing Ministry Ideas plan. Plans need to be made about a name for this plan, whether there should be an offer of start-up funds, and the best way to present the plan to the congregation. It was decided that this should be reviewed with the Church Council and Mission and Service Committee before sharing it with the congregation.

Greg and Barb are willing to serve as Zion's delegates to the Ohio Conference for this year.

Pastoral concerns were discussed.

The next meeting will be Monday, September 11.

## Don't Forget

**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.

**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](http://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.*)

**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 [rshort67@gmail.com](mailto:rshort67@gmail.com). Thank you!

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

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

As I approach the end of our time together, I have changing thoughts and feelings. This week, I find myself hoping that these 18 months matter in some way. There is a part of me that wants the time to have made a difference.

I hope our time has been fun. It has been for me. Sometimes it's just fun to have fun! By fun, I don't mean pretending life is always great and we are always competent. But fun frees us from taking ourselves too seriously. And as Christians, it's good to remember that even though we participate in it, salvation is **God's** gift. We have this treasure in clay jars.

I hope we've done something that matters and has been refreshing. Something that matters might not make a big splash or be fun every day. It might be mundane and boring. We don't always know at the beginning whether a project will matter. Thinking in terms of "experiments" helps me to try something and adapt along the way, or stop if it's going in the wrong direction. I'm a firm believer that in working with our gifts, we are able to do more with less effort and be energized in the process. And we remain clay jars reflecting the light of Christ.

I am confident in God and in Zion's capacity to meet the challenges faced by all churches in the complex present. I love Zion's House of Peace vision. I expect as the Spirit moves individuals to lean in, those efforts will impact the community and bring new life. At the same time, groups have to resist reverting to old habits. I hope you keep working at transparency and good process. And, I hope you keep discovering freedom as clay jars holding and sharing a great treasure.

~ Dan