

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 24, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, September 24

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, September 25

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting (zoom)

Tuesday, September 26

6:30 pm ~ Host Ohio Conference Cluster

Wednesday, September 27

9:00 am ~ Quilting (rm 303)

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS

7:00 pm ~ Life Planning Kickoff

Thursday, September 28

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Saturday, September 30

8:30 am ~ Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved

Sunday, October 1

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Duane Sauder

Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Duane Sauder

Songs Of Praise ~ Anita Roth

“Here In This Place” (HWB 6)

“My Life Flows On” (HWB 580)

Offering/Offertory ~ Duane/Bonnie

Scripture ~ Ecclesiastes 1:9-11; 2:24-26; 3:1-8

Sermon ~ Dan Miller

Song of Response ~ Anita Roth

“Be Thou My Vision” (HWB 545)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Mike Zimmerman

Benediction ~ Dan Miller

Sending Song ~ Anita Roth

“Move In Our Midst” (HWB 418)

Office News

~ Dan will be working from Goshen this week.

~ Sue will be out of the office every Thursday during this academic year volunteering at CHP Home Care and Hospice to fulfill a seminary class requirement.

Nursery Workers

September 24: Chad Aeschliman Family

October 1: Joyce Nafziger & Naomi Richer

Happy Birthday

September 24 - Karen Rodriguez

September 25 - Walter Polasek

September 27 - Cara Ulrich

Happy Anniversary

September 26 - Max & Brenda Aeschliman (47)



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.

Coming soon to a Sunday morning near you....

- **Sunday, October 1st:** World Communion Sunday; Choir sings; Celebration Lunch in honor of John David Thacker's first Sunday at Zion. (Main course provided. Bring salads or desserts)
- **Sunday, October 8th:** John David's installation; John David preaches.
- **Sunday, October 15th:** Dan's last Sunday; Dan preaches; Farewell program during SS hour with refreshments.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for the health and safety of our Hillcrest Academy fall student-athletes, as they practice, travel, and compete.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton's adult students who are balancing family responsibilities, career obligations, and their studies. We pray that advanced education will make a difference in their lives and in the well-being of their communities.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for first-year Goshen College students as they volunteer in the community during Community Engagement Day on the 25th.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Let us pray for the administrators, staff, board members, and volunteers of Eastern Mennonite as they lead and serve our school community with integrity, compassion, and humility. May they be guided by God's wisdom and grace and be empowered to make wise decisions that benefit all community members.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for a couple who has spent decades ministering in the Middle East, where they are part of a media team that works at "transforming lives with unstoppable hope." Pray for them and the 16 full-time animators; multiple trainers, who help people share the good news with their neighbors; and a social media team of three Arabic women, who address issues like human trafficking and child brides.

Thank you

Thanks to all the CHAOS kids who helped serve at the family meal. We all enjoyed seeing you help with serving the meal and cleaning up after. ~ Fellowship committee

Today

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.*)

New Announcements

SAVE the DATE: Shalom Counseling's Annual Fall Fundraiser & 25th Anniversary Celebration is Sunday, October 8th, 2023, at Rauhley Park in Archbold We will be serving your choice of a BBQ chicken or a pulled pork meal by donation from 11am-1:30pm. Help us help others in need of mental health services.

Sign up for making coffee on Sunday mornings! This is a good way to get to know people. Sign up sheet is on the coffee bar. If you have never made coffee and would like to learn, contact Glora Belle Yoder (419.551.8205)

Missional Disciple Groups: Zion began forming Missional Discipleship Groups (MDGs) several years ago as a simple way to support busy individuals in our growth as disciples and as people of God's mission. MDGs meet regularly for scripture discussion, prayer and accountability. If you are not presently in a group and would like to participate or have questions, contact Bonnie Stuckey (419-551-6847 or bonitastuckey@gmail.com), Discipleship Group coordinator.

On the Level announcement: The September edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS is hiring several positions; the important role of cooks at an MDS projects; and moving words of gratitude at the closing of the project in Cape Breton. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/45YzaOx>

Don't Forget

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

Treasure in Clay Jars Sunday School class meeting in room 310. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a book, poem, picture, song, scripture or other item that helped you during grief. We will reflect on growing wise through grief.

[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.

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. Thank you!

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Next Sunday, October 1, is a day toward which we have been heading since we began walking together 17 months ago: the arrival of a new Collaborative Ministry Team member to join Sue. I feel a sense of accomplishment, that working together we have come to this day. (I already feel resistance to the sadness that lurks around the edges. Happiness and sadness are always intertwined.)

Next Sunday will be a lot like other Sundays. We will have a worship service. Even though it's the first Sunday of the month, we will have communion because it is World Communion Sunday. God will be God. Zion will be a gathering of humans seeking to follow Jesus. We will be dependent on the Holy Spirit.

And yet it will be different as we will welcome John David to Zion. (The formal installation will be October 8.) We will celebrate God's faithfulness and the beginning of another chapter in Zion's spiritual journey.

I haven't stayed around for this part before, so this is a new experience for me. It forces me to hold the ending and the beginning together, with all their joys and sadnesses and unknowns. I hope you will join me in bringing all of our feelings to worship next Sunday, as we welcome John David to Zion.

~ Dan