

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 3, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, September 3

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ No Sunday School

Monday, September 4 ~*Labor Day*

Office is closed

Wednesday, September 6

9:00 am ~ Quilting (room 303)
10:00 am ~ AAMA at St. Johns
7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, September 7

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

Saturday, September 9

8:00 am ~ Fellowship Hall & 310 reserved
by Project Hope

Sunday, September 10

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

Office News

~ The office will be closed Monday, September 4th, for Labor Day.

~ Sue will be out of the office on Thursday, September 7th for a training, and out of town Friday, September 8th - Sunday, September 10th for a scheduled retreat program with her mentee.

Happy Birthday:

September 3 - Howard Snyder
September 4 - Carolyn Snyder, Leah Roth
September 5 - Dan Ruth
September 9 - Lydia Dahl, Wendell Nofziger

Happy Anniversary

September 4 - Bob & Luanne Aschliman (52)
September 6 - Joe & Karin Legato (15)
September 7 - Fred & Elizabeth Baer (27)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Keith & Jackie Lehman
Interlude
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Keith & Jackie Lehman
Songs from the Campfire ~ Julia Richer
Children's Campfire Stories ~ Keith & Jackie Lehman
Offering/Offertory ~ Jackie/Karen
Songs from the Campfire ~ Julia Richer
Prayer for Church & World ~ Sue Short
Campfire Stories ~ Dan Miller & Jordan Rodriguez
Benediction ~ Dan Miller
Sending Songs from the Campfire ~ Julia Richer

Nursery Workers

September 3: Carol Short & Sonja Wheeler
September 10: Brad & Rachel Short



**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.

New Announcements

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!

Come see the animated movie, *Inside Out*, at Zion on September 10 at 4:00pm. This movie is rated PG. *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.

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. Watch for additional information in the coming week.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: As we welcome 6th graders to Hillcrest Academy for the first time this year, pray they all experience a joyful learning environment where all are known and loved. Pray for wisdom and clarity as the Hillcrest Academy administration makes decisions, continuing to uphold the school's mission.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College athletes, especially tennis, soccer, volleyball, and cross-country teams who begin their seasons this fall

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Let us pray for the teachers guiding and educating our children this school year. May they be filled with wisdom, patience, and kindness as they help our students grow in knowledge and character. May they be merciful and mighty as we prayed at our faculty and staff conference.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for Hesston College's student-athletes as they begin their fall season. Pray that our volleyball, cross country, golf, and men's and women's soccer teams stay safe, generate a deep sense of team camaraderie, and grow their leadership abilities both on and off the court.

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.

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

Don't Forget

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.

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.

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

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

Our minds and bodies are wired for consistency. We like to make meaning out of patterns and connections. When we repeat tasks often, those tasks require less conscious attention and can be done “without even thinking.” For example, driving home from work becomes automatic. This allows us to free up thinking for other things and we become more efficient.

When we need to go somewhere else for an errand on the way home, we have to consciously decide to go there. At least I hope I'm not the only one who gets home sometimes only to realize that I forgot to stop at the store! Consistency rules! This way that our brains function is usually helpful. And, it makes change difficult.

Change interrupts the usual way we've done things and then the new activity requires more effort. Our memory pathways “resist” the new. Feelings become part of the process, too. “The way we did it before was better,” our feelings say. “This is hard! Why can't things just stay the way they were?” This is natural. Maybe you can think of times like that. Many changes are small, like driving to the grocery store.

And some are huge, like the death of a loved one. There are so many habits and deeply ingrained ways of relating to the person we love, and now those ways of relating are interrupted. Emotions get involved and we feel their absence in small and big things: going for a walk, sitting down to eat, asking for an opinion, sharing about the day, learning to do chores they did, wanting to settle that argument.

This loss of consistency impacts us with other changes: ending a job, going off to school, graduating, driving a different vehicle. Anything that interrupts those normal ways.

Beginning September 10, we will spend three weeks on this adaptation to change that we call grief. I've wanted to do this since last fall. Not because something is wrong - people at Zion have shown great ability to adapt to many changes large and small. But because sometimes in the ongoing movement of life, it's helpful to pause and breathe and take stock. We build community by connecting over such experiences of change. We recognize where “that” feeling has been coming from. We realize we are not alone. We increase our ability to care for one another. We grow in wisdom and faith.

I am grateful we can do this together. ~ Dan