

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

Pastor John David Thacker 419-572-0340

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

October 1, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, October 1

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School (shortened) with a celebration lunch for John David following

Monday, October 2

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting (zoom)

11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers

Wednesday, October 4

9:00 am ~ Quilting (rm 303)

6:00 pm ~ ZOW

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS

7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, October 5

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, October 8

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Barb Yoder

Introduction of John David ~ Suz Wirick

Interlude ~ Choir

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Barb Yoder

Songs Of Praise ~ Julia Richer

“Praise I Will Praise” (HWB 76)

“Hamba Nathi” (SJ 2)

Offering/Offertory ~ Barb/Keegan Wyse

Scripture ~ Philippians 2:1-13

Sermon ~ Dan Miller

Communion

Song of Response ~ Julia Richer

“Santo Santo Santo” (HWB 400)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Sue Short

Sending Song ~ Julia Richer

“Sent Forth By God's Blessing” (HWB 478)

Benediction ~ Dan Miller

Office News

~ 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.

~ Contact information for John David Thacker :
(419-572-0340; 903 Murbach Street, Archbold)

Nursery Workers

October 1: Joyce Nafziger & Naomi Richer

October 8: Karen & Steve Ringenberg

Happy Birthday

October 1 - Bonnie (Lynn) Short

October 3 - Corey Roth, Lydia Hastings

October 5 - Carol Beck, Eric Lehman

October 6 - Kelvin Friesen, Bonnie Stuckey



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

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:

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for students at Hesston College as they prepare for midterm exams. Pray that they may have confidence in the face of test anxieties and that the knowledge they have gained stays fresh in their minds.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: This week, students who went on cross-cultural experiences over the spring and summer months will share during Forum. Pray for the health and safety of all Bluffton students during their cross-cultural experiences and that the experience helps them develop an ethic of justice, service, and peacemaking.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College alumni and families as they return to campus and reconnect during Homecoming Weekend.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: : We pray for the formation of new friendships and relationships among the students and staff. May they find comfort, support, and encouragement in one another, and may they be able to build lasting connections that will enrich their lives.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Joseph and Rachel Givens, who work with volunteers at the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France, to offer food and shelter to migrants, as they seek refuge en route to the United Kingdom. Pray for deep spiritual grounding for the Givens family and the volunteers, as they accompany people suffering from deep trauma. Pray also for more volunteers.

Thank you

On behalf of the emerging Mennonite fellowship and Never Let Go Ministries (NLGM), we would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to our friends at Zion Mennonite Church for graciously sharing your space with us for our fundraiser meal and concert. We were able to give NLGM over \$2400 and they were overwhelmed with the support. Thank you, Zion, for your part in making this possible. We so appreciate your generous hospitality.

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

New Announcements

The Archbold Community Garden has the opportunity to serve a community member from 10-11 am tomorrow (Saturday, September 30). Volunteers will be providing assistance cleaning up landscape. Contact Abby Pennington for more information or to get involved (419)572-1345.

When God calls someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Ohio Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for winter 2024 is December 6, 2023, with the final registration deadline on January 10, 2024. For more information visit www.ambc.edu/journey, or contact your pastor, or the Ohio conference office at ohmc@zoominternet.net or 330-857-5421.

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

September 11, 2023

Sue opened the meeting with a reflection on Chapter 8 of *Pursuing God's Will Together* by Ruth Haley Barton. This chapter addresses the value of having a covenant within a leadership group. One of the observations made was that when we make covenants with each other, we are also making them with God. At the end, we prayed together the prayer of commitment from that chapter of the book.

Mike had distributed a copy of the schedule for leading the Prayer for the Church and World. Since there are four elders now, the schedule has seven Sundays that are not yet assigned to anyone. One idea for those Sundays would be to ask members of the congregation to lead the prayer. Other possibilities would be to have people on the Worship team take turns, or ask worship leaders to pray on the Sunday they lead. It was decided that Sue would ask the Worship team if they would be willing to help look for people for those seven Sundays.

John David's first day at Zion is October 1. He will be officially installed on October 8, and will preach.

Activities for October 15, Dan's last day at Zion, were mentioned. We'd like to do a short program during the Sunday school hour, but no specific details were discussed at this meeting.

We were updated on John David moving to the community. He has moved into his apartment, has visited some area churches on Sundays, and is getting to know the community and surrounding area.

We discussed several questions regarding John David's start-up. The current memo of understanding describes full-time as 5.5 days/week. It was decided that 48 hours per week might be a better way of expressing the work week expectations. The understanding is there could be weeks where events might make it necessary to work longer than 48 hours, and that the pastor then makes adjustments to keep the balance by working less than 48 hours the next week.

The celebration to commemorate the completion of the Lombard process will be put off until after John David is here. Plans for this could be discussed at an upcoming church council meeting.

The topic of reducing the SLT to four elders instead of five was again brought up. Gift Discernment supports the idea of going to four elders, noting that the constitution calls for one elder for every 100 members. If we do feel five is a better number, it would be good to change the constitution to reflect that. Several people pointed out that the constitution is outdated and not viewed as a helpful reference. Since both Phil Bontrager and Dan are leaving, they will hand off ongoing work to the new SLT chair, GDT chair and pastor. Going forward it might be a good idea for the SLT to work more closely with Gifts Discernment.

In anticipation of our meeting, Dan had shared a document with ideas to continue building capacity to care for one another across differences. If there were to be conversations in the future about sexuality, what would we want the outcomes to be?

- Some suggestions put forth by the group:
- that we could have a conversation where everyone felt comfortable expressing their opinions;
- that if necessary we could agree to disagree;
- that we would be able to have everyone feel like they had been heard;
- that through this discussion, we would grow in ability to share Christ's love with each other and the world.
- What format might we use for processing this topic? Dan suggests we consider the Colossian Way (seeing conflict as an opportunity for spiritual growth) as a way to do this. More information can be found at <https://colossianforum.org/>

It is a goal to have a spiritual theme for our SLT meetings and work during the year. We can think about this more next month when John David is here. Input we might consider for next year is by Pete Scazzero. There is an ebook, as well as online resources that we might consider: <https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/your-church/>

Pastoral concerns were discussed.

Next SLT meeting date: October 12 at 5:00

More New Announcements

MCC Plain Community Liaison: MCC seeks someone to serve as the primary liaison to large segments of Anabaptists in the U.S. that self-identify as Plain Anabaptists. In collaboration with MCC colleagues, this position develops, analyzes, implements and evaluates engagement with Plain communities. This position sets broad goals for building relationships with key representatives in Plain communities and demonstrates MCC's commitment to engaging the full range of Anabaptist churches and beyond. For more information contact Marilyn Peters at MarilynPeters@mcc.org or apply online by October 23 at mcc.org/plain-community-liaison.

MCC is hiring a Peace Education Coordinator! The Peace Education Coordinator leads MCC's church education efforts nationwide in the U.S. related to peace and nonviolence. This includes peace theology, conflict transformation, and response to violence (including gun violence prevention, anti-militarism, and mass incarceration). Education efforts involve engaging MCC's constituency on these peace-related topics by working with MCC regional staff and with denominational and other partners. Apply at mcc.org/peace-education-coordinator by October 16.

Next Sunday is the Shalom Counseling's Annual Fall Fundraiser & 25th Anniversary Celebration, which is on Sunday, October 8th at Ruihley Park in Archbold. We will be serving your choice of a BBQ chicken or a pulled pork meal by donation from 11am-1:30pm. Event proceeds help cover the cost for the clients who can't pay their full fees for counseling. This year is extra special, as we will be celebrating Shalom's 25th anniversary.

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.

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>

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Back in late 2020, COVID-19 continued upending life. My nurse friends at Goshen Hospital were overwhelmed with high census counts. The people with whom I worked at the conference office were doing a great job of adapting, which we had to do continually. We held Zoom meetings and sponsored webinars with social service agencies. I communicated in short videos, and recorded sermons that congregations could use.

I came across a song on YouTube that expressed what I didn't even know I wanted to say. It was called "The Blessing UK," sung by 65+ churches across the UK. Using a version of the benediction I use each Sunday, they sang a blessing that was passionate and hopeful – it watered my soul. In addition to the accents, the diversity of those involved caught me immediately – a representation of the world! The video ended with this message, "Our buildings may be closed but the church is very much alive!"

I soon learned that others were inspired to create versions for their countries. I listened to singers from around the world where I had connections, and prayed for those places and people I knew.

In preparing the last several weeks for World Communion Sunday, which we celebrate this Sunday, I came across another version called [The World Blessing 2023](#). It combines portions of 500 videos. Beautiful! I invite you to watch people from across the body of Christ pray The Blessing. Watch as many times as you want! The song still moves me.

When we gather for worship this week, let's gather recognizing Christ-followers from around the world. We are part of an imperfect vessel, and yet we are part of a living organism called by Christ. Borrowing from Zion Mennonite Church's vision statement, we can grow as "a House of Peace where all people are invited to share Christ's love with each other and the world." May it be so.

~ Dan

(If the link about doesn't work, paste this line in your browser- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d48-qbcovVY>)