

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 8, 2023

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, October 8

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, October 9

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting (zoom)

Tuesday, October 10

4:00 pm ~ Kitchen & Fellowship Hall Reserved

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

Wednesday, October 11

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS

7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, October 12

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

5:00 pm ~ SLT

7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, October 15

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (Fellowship Hall & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Farewell Program for Dan

Nursery Workers

October 8: Karen & Steve Ringenberg

October 15: Sarah Frankenfield & Reiss Creighton

Office News

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

Happy Birthday

October 8 - Mary Oesch, Daniel Hastings

October 9 - Mark Frey

October 11 - Julia Nafziger

October 13 - Jada Frankenfield

October 14 - Reiss Creighton

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ John Baer

Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ John Baer

Songs Of Praise ~ Cheryl Britsch

“Come Let Us All Unite To Sing” (HWB 12)

“Wonderful Grace Of Jesus” (HWB 150)

Scripture ~ Jonah 2

Offering/Offertory ~ John/Bonnie

Scripture ~ Jonah 4:6-10

Sermon ~ John David Thacker

Song of Response ~ Cheryl Britsch

“There's A Wideness In God's Mercy” (HWB 145)

Installation of John David Thacker

Prayer for Church & World ~ Dan Miller

Sending Song ~ Cheryl Britsch

“Rain Down” (STJ 49)

Benediction ~ John David Thacker



**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 8th:** John David's installation; John David preaches.
 - **Sunday, October 15th:** Dan's last Sunday; Farewell program during SS hour with refreshments.
- Worship next Sunday, October 15, will be in the Fellowship Hall for Dan's last Sunday. There will be snacks (of course) and drinks ready beforehand. You are welcome to find a seat at any table, with people you want to get to know better. There will be singing, table interaction, children's time, receiving members by transfer. There will be a short break between worship and the farewell program for Dan.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for Hesston College students as they enjoy a mid-year respite with their fall break. Pray for safe travels for those who will be traveling home or with friends, and pray that this can be a time of rest and rejuvenation for students and faculty as they prepare to take on the end of the semester.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: This week first-year students at Bluffton are in the Great Smoky Mountains for the Great Adventure. Please pray for them as they come together to contemplate the big questions in life such as "Who am I?" and "What values do I live by?"

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: The Hillcrest Academy Homecoming & Alumni Family weekend is October 13-14; pray for the class reunions and other events taking place on campus, that they may be a blessing to those involved.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College students and faculty as they recharge and rest during a much-needed fall mid-term break Oct. 13-17.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for fun and fellowship for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends during Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Mennonite Mission Network: Tomorrow is Indigenous People's Day. Pray for Mennonite congregations as they acknowledge that many Mennonites of European descent were among the first to move onto land from which Indigenous Peoples were forcibly removed. Mennonite Mission Network encourages congregations to find ways, in conversation with their Indigenous neighbors, to repair the harm done.

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.

New Announcements

Mennonite Women will meet on Wednesday, October 11 from 9 am to 3 pm. Jennifer Butler, from Adriel, will be the speaker. The noon meal will be provided. There are a variety of projects underway which meet a variety of interests with the finished products all going to a good cause – all are welcome.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: There was such a good response from our last Guess Who's Coming to dinner that we decided to do a fall one. So sign up if you are interested in hosting and sign up if you would like to be a guest. (There are 2 separate sign up sheets on the table across from the mailboxes) Dinner will be November 5th.

Don't go home yet....Sunday Dinner Is Prepared! Come to the Shalom Counseling's Annual Fall Fundraiser & 25th Anniversary Celebration 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. 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. **Thank you for attending and making Shalom Ministries possible through your generous support.**

New Announcements continued

Do you have shoes you don't wear any more taking up space in your house? The Stryker High School Spanish and Art club would like to take them off your hands. They are working with an organization that pays groups to gather gently used shoes. This organization then distributes the shoes to developing countries as a way to support small businesses in those countries. Until October 15, there will be a box by the office, and another by the back door for any shoes you might want to donate. The students are raising money for a trip to Panama in spring 2024. Thanks for considering supporting them. See Barb Yoder for questions.

The Archbold Community Garden invites you to participate in our final harvest of the year this Saturday, October 7 from 2:00-3:00 pm. With the cooler temps approaching next week, it is our mission to harvest as much of the remaining produce as possible and allow it to ripen indoors to avoid the cold and frost. Produce will be donated locally. Many hands make light work! The garden is located at 200 West Williams St., Archbold by the Scout Cabin at Ruibley Park.

Laurelville Retreat Center (PA): Leah Rittenhouse, Youth Program Manager, is coming on a trip to Archbold and will be here, Friday, October 13th from 6:30-8. She will be hosting a hangout at Tap Culture to get a free drink, hang out, play games and learn about Laurelville's summer camp.

The Pettisville Student council is in need of more blood donors or the blood drive at Pettisville High School on Wednesday October 11th from 9am-2pm. If you have any questions on how to sign up please contact Keegan Wyse at 419.966.5183. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Update from Matthew and Toni Krabill

Dear Zion family,

When we arrived in France three and a half years ago, we felt called to the Paris Mennonite Center (PMC) to pursue what an Anabaptist witness looks like in a secular, multicultural, urban and multi-religious context of Paris. We felt called to strengthen the witness of the French Mennonite Church as well as the broader Church through ministries related to immigrant Christianity, and Christian-Muslim relations. We also joined PMC in the hope of contributing to nurturing relational ties between North America, Europe and Africa.

Through our work with African communities in Europe and West Africa over the last couple of years, we have come to realize that we can best use our gifts for ministry through greater proximity to Africa. Coming to this realization has been a slow process but it is one that we fully embrace. Thus, after much prayer, discernment and reflection as well as conversations with Mennonite Mission Network, we have made the decision to move to Accra, Ghana (West Africa). The move to Ghana is prompted by the invitation of The Sanneh Institute (TSI)—a center that advances the study of Islam and Christianity and of Christian-Muslim relations—to join their team and to support their work. We are very honored by TSI's invitation and look forward to introducing its work to you in a future email.

The move to Ghana will also allow us to continue the work we began with PMC with theological institutions in French-speaking Africa, such as the Center of Formation for Justice and Peace (CFJP) and the Francophone Mennonite Network (Rmf), and will enable us to support an African institution all the while continuing to serve as Mennonite Mission Network international missionaries.

We do not take lightly the consequences of such a change for PMC and its partners in France, Europe, North America and Africa. We remain committed to supporting the Board and French Mennonite Church leaders as they discern PMC's vision, direction for the future and a healthy transition for the ministry.

We have not yet determined the dates of our move, but we can imagine a move in the early spring 2024. We wanted to share this news with you now in the hope that we'll have the opportunity to talk more with you in the coming months.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our work over the past three and a half years. We could not have come this far without your encouragement and friendship.

Grace and peace,
Toni and Matthew Krabill

Don't Forget

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.ams.edu/journey, or contact your pastor, or the Ohio conference office at ohmc@zoominternet.net or 330-857-5421.

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.

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.

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

It's a unique situation, isn't it, to be welcoming a new member of the Collaborative Ministry Team and sending another off at the same time? As you welcome John David, (and I encourage you to exercise hospitality toward him), I want to clarify how I think about my relationship with you as I leave.

First, I have very much enjoyed my time at Zion. Somewhere between 12 and 18 months I find that a congregation is actually taking up space in my heart. When I began, I knew next to nothing about NW Ohio Mennonites, and now there is this congregation, a certain set of people in Archbold, that I know and care about. I will nurture the seeds planted in my life by our time together. Thank you for expanding my world.

Second, while I feel great affection for you, it is almost time for me to depart, and for you to build a relationship with the newly updated Collaborative Ministry Team. Take what you are learning and move forward. To facilitate that, I usually stay away until the new pastor has been present longer than I was. In this case, 18 months. You have pastors and very capable leaders, so it is good to move forward. As you are connecting with the Collaborative Ministry Team, I will be letting go and adjusting to the divergence of our paths and preparing for a new engagement. At some point, I might attend a funeral or other special service, and that would be processed with the Spiritual Leadership Team. And I will be available if leadership has a question.*

Third, I will remember you fondly, pray for you, and always be glad when our paths cross. When we meet I want to hear about your life and your family. But let's not talk much about things at Zion.*

I share this with you with the intent of being transparent. Clarity is good. Feel free to ask questions or push back.

If you are interested in the signed Exit Agreement between me and Zion, there will be copies available on the table across from mailboxes.

* Having composed these great points, there is the complicating factor that in December I will become interim conference minister for Ohio Conference, the conference of which you are part. So much for clean lines and clear separation! :) I don't know exactly how that works out. But I do know Tony Doehrmann will still be your direct connection with Conference. My involvement with Ohio Conference will increase the likelihood of crossing paths. We might talk about Conference agenda, and I would still want to hear about you and your family.

~ Dan