

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 John David Thacker 419-572-0340
Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034
LAMP: 419-445-0728

December 10, 2023

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

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, December 10

8:30 am ~ Sojourners meet (310)
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
12:00 pm ~ Building reserved for a family reunion
7:00 pm ~ Choir Christmas concert

Monday, December 11

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)
11:00 pm ~ Congregational Caregivers

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

Wednesday, December 13

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, December 14

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
7:00 pm ~ Choir Caroling
7:00 pm ~ AA

Friday, December 15

4:30 pm ~ SLT

Sunday, December 17

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

Happy Anniversary

December 14 ~ Kirk & Sally Beck (49)

Happy Birthday

December 14 ~ Karin Legato
December 16 ~ Jodi Nofziger
December 16 ~ Mary Ellen Nofziger

Nursery Workers

December 10: Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth
December 17: Marcia Lehman & Holly Liechty

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Noteworthy
Welcome & Announcements ~ Jackie Lehman
Interlude ~ Choir
 “Noche Anunciada” (Night Long Awaited)
 “Still, Still, Still”
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Jackie Lehman
Candle Lighting ~ “Longing For Light” (STJ 54)
Children's Time ~ Jackie Lehman
Offering/Offertory ~ Jackie/Bill & Kathy Beck
Scripture ~ Isaiah 40:1-11
Song ~ Anita Roth
 “We Praise Thee O God” (HWB 99)
Scripture ~ Mark 1:1-8
Sermon ~ Sue Short
Communion
Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick
Closing Song ~ Anita Roth
 “To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born” (HWB 189)
Benediction ~ Sue Short

Office News

~ Bethany is out of the office this week. A big thanks to everyone who is filling in for her.



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 & Events

Advent Worship 2023 - "A Light Shines in the Darkness" *Advent is a time when we hold in tension the darkness of our world with the hope and light of Jesus' coming and Jesus' promise to come again - to bring justice and shalom to the earth. How do we acknowledge the darkness of our world without dwelling on it?*

Advent 2 - Sunday, December 10th: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; II Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8. (Noteworthy, from Pettisville High School, and the Zion Choir will be singing. We will also celebrate communion together.)

Advent 3 - Sunday, December 17th: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Longest Night Service - Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm. The holiday season can be particularly difficult for those who are grieving loss or experiencing painful situations, whether recently or many years ago. Come rest in God's care during this short service.

Advent 4 - Sunday, December 24th (morning worship): II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

Christmas Eve Service - Sunday December 24th at 7:00pm. Join us for this family-friendly service of storytelling, music, scripture, and candlelight *Silent Night*.

Prayers for the Global Church

Ohio Conference: The Ohio Conference Leadership Team will again meet on Dec. 14. Please cover this morning meeting in prayer as they work together to lead Ohio Conference and welcome Dan Miller, the interim conference minister. Pray for wisdom, discernment and the leading of God's Spirit to reign in their discussion.

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Remember the Bethel College community this evening during the annual Advent service, Lighting of the Green, the first since the death of service co-founder Patty Shelly.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.: We pray for success as we continue our annual Christmas fund drive throughout December.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for the students, faculty, staff, and community members who are coming together today to perform "Messiah" at Bluffton University. May those in attendance witness the love of God through the beautiful scripture, lyrics, and music performed at this annual event.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: We are thankful for our alumni and how they continue to support our school and be part of our community through events like Alumni Night (December 15) and Midnight Madness (Christmas Night).

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for our students, faculty, and staff during Christmas break. Pray they have time to rest and rejuvenate before the start of the spring semester. We also pray for any new students joining the campus community for the first time in January.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, who have walked alongside To-ba-Qom churches and communities in the Argentine Chaco since 2004. Pray for them as they provide continuity in long-term relationships and encourage the preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures.

Book Nook

- Please read the book *The Land Is Not Empty* by Sara Augustine. It tells about the "doctrine of discovery" and explains how it affected history in dealing with Native Americans.
- *Anabaptist World, Commonplace, Market Place*, and recent College Bulletins are grouped together on the bottom shelf on the long south side. They may be taken out without signing. All books should be signed out and the card left in the wooden box on the desk.

Thank You

A heartfelt 'thank you' in appreciation for all of the time, work, and thoughtfulness Nikki Aeschliman and Kellie Creighton put into decorating the sanctuary and the church building for Advent and Christmas. Thank you for sharing your gifts! It looks beautiful!!

New Announcements

Beginning Jan. 7, Zion will be offering an adult Sunday School series exploring the end of life. What do we believe about death and dying? How do we live the end of our lives faithfully and lovingly? What is most important to us in those moments? The class will also look at issues like planning for funerals, medical ethics, and communicating our wishes and values with family members. The sessions will be held Jan. 7, 14, 28, and Feb. 4 in the Fellowship Hall. They are intended for adults of all ages.

The Congregational Care Team will meet Monday December 11, at 11:00 am In room 310.

Mennonite Women will meet Wednesday, December 13, from 9 am – 3 pm in the fellowship room. Child's World Pre-school will join us for a program at 11:30 am. The noon meal will be provided. *If you are planning to attend MW on this date, can you bring 1-2 dozen Christmas cookies for our dessert? A container will be provided for each person to take home the leftovers (even if you are unable to donate)!"

Help spread Christmas cheer to our congregation and all who enter our doors by bringing in your Christmas card to hang amongst others from our Zion church family. An area has been designated on west wall of the fellowship hall. Use the provided clothespins to hang your Christmas card for all to enjoy! Questions? Contact Abby Pennington at (419)572-1345.

The biannual Ohio Conference Women in Leadership Retreat is quickly approaching on February 2-3, 2024. This year's retreat will be held at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. **You won't want to miss this time of learning, laughter, and fellowship.** Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, Dean of Lifelong Learning at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will lead participants in exploring what it means to claim the fullness of their identity as leaders created in God's image. This retreat is for **ALL** women – those serving in pastoral or congregational roles such as MYF leaders, mentor coordinators, Sunday school teachers and superintendents, Christian education leaders, delegates, commission leaders, or other positions, as well as for women who want to explore possibilities for using their gifts in the church. The registration deadline will be here soon (Jan. 12) and spaces are limited. Visit ohiomennoniteconference.org for more information.

Bangladesh arsenic project update: This Thanksgiving & Christmas season, we are especially thankful for the interest and support of so many for the people in Bangladesh facing water quality issues of arsenic-contaminated water! On the bulletin board across from the bathrooms is the most recent newsletter, giving some updates on our partnership with SIM-Bangladesh in expanding their long-running Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Program. Due to very generous donations of many people, the new office is open in the first expansion area and education sessions and filter distribution have begun. This will lead to saving many lives and improved health for many more, along with sharing Jesus' love in a very practical way with the people of Bangladesh. ~ Bill and Carole Schumacher

Don't Forget

Would you like to be a part of something larger than you could do alone? Come join us for the **2nd Annual NW Ohio Comforter Bash on January 10, 2024 from 3-8:00 pm.** at Central Mennonite Church. Sponsored by Mennonite Women from various churches in the area. These comforters will go all around the world to share God's love and the warmth of your handiwork! Find the poster with more information on the bulletin board.

Good Grief! It's Christmas! For some, the holidays are not all cheery and bright. They can be reminders of loss, family dysfunction, or overwhelming pressure. If this is you, or someone you know, please join Pastor Gary Stuckey, at Lockport Mennonite Church, on Thursday, December 7 and January 4 to share together what you are facing and to support one another. We will be meeting in the south overflow area of the sanctuary at 6:30pm.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Kitchen for the Poor is celebrating Christmas the week of December 18. We at Zion will be collecting gifts for the young children of families who attend the Kitchen. The range is birth through age 12. Gift ideas include toys, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. Please place your unwrapped gifts under the tree by the elevator area. **Bring gifts by Sunday, December 17.** The gifts will be delivered to the Kitchen for the Poor that week. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the MLK Kitchen for the Poor.

The Stewardship Team is taking grant requests for the Zion endowment fund. Applications can be found on the table across from the mailboxes. They can be turned into the office or to Dan Ruth's box. **Deadline for the applications is January 1, 2024.** Please contact stewardship team with any questions. ~ Stewardship Team: Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Crystal Rodriguez & Lynn Roth.