

# 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 17, 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 17**

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

### **Monday, December 18**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

### **Tuesday, December 19**

6:30 pm ~ Worship Team mtg

### **Wednesday, December 20**

9:00 am ~ Kitchen Reserved  
7:00 pm ~ Longest Night Service

### **Thursday, December 21**

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

### **Saturday, December 23**

Church Reserved for family gathering

### **Sunday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve***

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (preschool-12 will not meet)  
7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service

## Happy Birthday

**December 17** ~ Ruth (Grieser) Shoemaker

**December 23** ~ Quinn Wyse  
Sarah Hastings

## Nursery Workers

**December 17:** Marcia Lehman & Holly Liechty

**December 24 am:** Cecilia & Duane Wyse

## Office News

Bethany will be back in the office this week as usual.  
Thank you to all who filled in this past week! **The church office will be closed on Dec 25th, 26th, and Dec 29th, and Jan 1st.**

## November Offerings

\$53,815.64

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Abby Pennington

**Mission Moment** ~ LAMP

**Interlude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Abby Pennington

**Candle Lighting** ~ Abby Pennington

“Longing for Light” STJ 54

**Hymns of Praise** Eric Lehman

“Hark The Glad Sound” HWB 184

“Lo, How a Rose” HWB 211

**Children's Singing** ~ ZOW Kids

**Children's Time** ~ Mary Ann Yoder & Karen Ruth

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Abby/Karen Stuckey

**Hymn** ~ “Come, Thou Long Expected” HWB 178

**Scripture** ~ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker

**Hymn** ~ Hail to the Lord's Anointed” HWB 185

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Mike Zimmerman

**Closing Song** ~ “O Come, All Ye Faithful” HWB 212

**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 & 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 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

### Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: The "longest night" in the Western Hemisphere is a time to pray for students at Bethel College and everywhere who might be far from families and loved ones during the holiday season.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.: We pray for health, safety, and fellowship during the Christmas break.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton's winter athletes competing in basketball, indoor track and field swimming, and diving. May they be safe and healthy while strengthening their teamwork and leadership skills.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** SADRA (Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency) Conflict Transformation is a Mennonite Mission Network partner that offers a Christian response to injustice in South Africa. Pray for the conflict mediators, who train members of their communities to de-escalate situations that could lead to violence.

## Thank You

We, the **Good Shepherd Mennonite Church family**, want to thank you for letting us use your church for Alicia Soto's funeral. We greatly appreciate it. God's many blessings to you all.

Thanks to all who provided gifts for **Sunshine Communities** individuals.

## New Announcements

**An American Cross Blood Drive** is scheduled for December 27, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Schedule your appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or going to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org). Enter sponsor code ZIONMENN.

**The Disciples Sunday School class** will make their annual trip to Little Eden for Snow Camp on January 12-15, 2024. We would like to invite you to join us for fun, fellowship, food, and snow. Come and enjoy the northern Michigan scenery, games, and snacks! See Randy Stuckey for registration forms and further information.

**Child's World Preschool registration for the 2024-25 school year opens on January 1st at 1:00pm!** Register on the Preschool tab of Zion's website: <https://www.zionmennonitechurch.com/childsworldpreschool/>  
After completing the online registration, you'll be contacted with information about the registration fee to hold your student's spot. Register early, as spots fill up very quickly!

**Meet Tahir and Fouzia:** You may have seen Tahir Masood, or his wife Fouzia Tahir, around the church building recently. They are the founders of a non-profit organization called LAMP (Logistical Assistance for Migrant People), which is now using the office space Project Hope occupied. LAMP is continuing the work begun by Project Hope, while also helping provide for other needs that their clients may have. Originally from Pakistan, Tahir, Fouzia, and their four children live in the Toledo area, where they also operate another LAMP office. Tahir takes primary responsibility for the Archbold office, while Fouzia runs the Toledo office. **Tahir and Fouzia will be worshipping with us this Sunday, December 17th, and you'll have the chance to hear a bit about their work during worship.**

## Don't Forget

**Elective Sunday School class:** Beginning Jan. 7, Zion will be offering an adult Sunday School series exploring issues relating to 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 topics 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.**

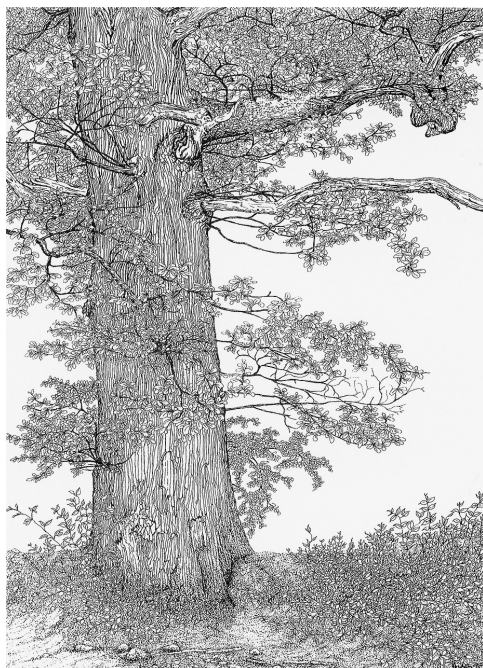
**Help spread Christmas cheer** to our congregation and all who enter our doors by **bringing in your Christmas card** to hang amongst others from our Zion church family. An area has been designated on west wall of the fellowship hall. Use the provided clothespins to hang your Christmas card for all 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](http://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

**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.

**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.



*They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord,  
to display his glory.  
(Isaiah 61:3b)*