

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 24, 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 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ No Sunday School
7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25 ~ *Office Closed*

Merry Christmas!!

Tuesday, December 26 ~ *Office Closed*

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am ~ Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, December 28

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

Friday, December 29

Saturday, December 30

12:00 pm ~ Church Reserved for family gathering
9:00 pm ~ CHAOS lock-in

Sunday, December 31

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

Nursery Workers

December 24: Cecilia & Duane Wyse

December 31: Lonnie & Carol Short

Happy Birthday

December 25 ~ Elinor Conrad

December 30 ~ Nedra Sauder

Happy Anniversary

December 25 ~ Eric & Marcia Lehman (41)

December 26 ~ Ned & Mary Gisel (52)

December 26 ~ Dave & Lou Ann Kanagy (59)

December 28 ~ Scott & Barb Yoder (32)

December 30 ~ Kelvin Friesen & Karen Rodriguez (6)

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.

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Julia Richer & Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Ruth

Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Karen Ruth

Candle Lighting

Hymns ~ Julia Richer

“Longing For Light” (STJ 54)

“He Came Down” (STJ 31)

Offering/Offertory ~ Karen/Julia & Bonnie

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“What Child Is This” (HWB 215)

Children's Time ~ Karen Ruth

Hymns ~ Julia Richer

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” (HWB 191)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (HWB 210)

Scripture ~ Luke 1:26-38

Sermon ~ John David Thacker

The Magnificat ~ Reiss Creighton & Grace Hastings

Hymn of Response ~ Julia Richer

“My Soul Is Filled With Joy” (STJ 13)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger

Closing Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Hark! The Heralds Angels Sing” (HWB 201)

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 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*. We will also collect our annual offering for the aid fund. This fund enables the elders to offer a monetary gift to those in the congregation facing difficult circumstances.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Pray for Bethel College men's and women's basketball players and coaches as they return to campus to prepare for games on Dec. 30 and 31 and early in the new year.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for our student athletes playing basketball. During the winter season, as they practice, compete, and travel, pray for the health and safety of our teams and coaches, for spectators coming onto our campus, and for our fans.

Mennonite Mission Network: requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.

New Announcements

The church office will be closed: Dec 25, 26, 29, and Jan 1.

On December 31st, there will be cookie fellowship following the worship service. If you have any cookies or Christmas goodies, bring a plate to share during this time. No sign up necessary.

On the Level announcement: The December edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King share stories of people "moving toward Jesus;" meet two women who enjoy cooking and painting with MDS; learn why a retired Army General in Kentucky says, "only God could have made that happen;" and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. **Click on this link to read more:**

<https://conta.cc/3v4fpYd>

Don't Forget

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!

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.