

# 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 3, 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 3**

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

### **Monday, December 4**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)  
Kitchen/FH reserved for CPC appreciation dinner

### **Wednesday, December 3**

6:00 pm ~ ZOW (preschool-5th grade)  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)  
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

### **Thursday, December 7**

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer  
6:00 pm ~ Kitchen Reserved for Community Garden  
7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice  
7:00 pm ~ AA

### **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

## Happy Birthday

**December 3** ~ Keith Lehman  
**December 4** ~ Tony Sauder  
**December 6** ~ Dale Short (Arlene)  
**December 7** ~ Glora Belle Yoder

## Thank You

ZMC: With gratitude, we thank you for helping to underwrite Ohio Conference's Pastor/Spouse Retreat. We greatly appreciate you playing a part in making this weekend of resting, refreshing, and reconnecting possible. Thank you for giving us this blessing. ~ Sue & Stan Short, and all attending pastor and spouses

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!!

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey  
**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Karen Rodriguez  
**Interlude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey  
**Musical Call to Worship** ~ Katie Graber  
**Prayer & Candle Lighting** ~ Mark Nafziger  
**Hymn** ~ Katie Graber ~ "Longing For Light"  
**Scripture** ~ Mark 13:24-37  
**Advent Hymn** ~ Katie Graber  
"Wisdom From On High Is Dawning"  
**Offering Prayer** ~ Trevor Short  
**Offertory Hymn** ~ Katie Graber  
"Now The Heavens Start To Whisper"  
**Scripture** ~ Isaiah 64:1-9  
**Advent Hymns** ~ Katie Graber  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
"Poor Of The Earth"  
"Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets"  
**Meditation** ~ Karen Ruth  
**Hymn of Response** ~ Katie Graber  
"Darkness Is Not Dark"  
**Scripture** ~ John 1:1-5, 10-14  
**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Barb Yoder  
**Prayer Hymn** ~ Katie Graber  
"Between Darkness And Light"  
**Benediction** ~ Karen Ruth  
**Sending Hymn** ~ Katie Graber  
"See Whose Glory Fills The Skies"

## Nursery Workers

December 3: Duane & Cecilia Wyse  
December 10: Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth



**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 1 - Sunday, December 3rd:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37 (Katie Graber, a member of the Voices Together hymnal committee, will be with us in worship and will also speak during the Sunday School hour.)

**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 @ 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 @ 7:00pm.** Join us for this family-friendly service of storytelling, music, scripture, and candlelight *Silent Night*.

## New Announcements

**Life planning** will meet at noon this Sunday at Chris and Julia Richer's home. The next meeting will be January 24.

**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.

## 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.

## Don't Forget

**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.

# Prayers for the Global Church

## Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Pray for staff and students of Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts as they cooperate with Newton Dance Connections to bring The Nutcracker to Bethel's stage Dec. 8-10.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for the EMU community as we continue to grapple with the sudden death of first-year student and softball player Sara Monger. Please pray especially for Sara's family and friends.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton students as they complete their last week of regular classes for the fall semester, begin finals, and return home for Christmas. May their minds be sharp and their travels safe.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for wisdom and clarity as the operating board and administration lead the school forward, continuing to add middle school grades.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College basketball players as they compete this month.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the participants in Mennonite Mission Network's Tucson, Arizona, Mennonite Voluntary Service unit — Nely Cotuc, Hannah Nuest, Ally Weaver, Magdalena Wenger and Deborah Yoder — as they help extend the ministries of their host congregation, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, through welcoming immigrants, promoting literacy and working to protect the environment.

## Spiritual Leadership Team Minutes

November 13, 2023

**Devotional:** Mike led us in a discussion of chapter 10 of *Pursuing God's Will Together*. The focus was a revisiting of the idea of holy indifference. Some concepts that can help lead us towards this indifference would be realizing that we can't see the future, developing a quiet trust which is difficult in the complicated world, and opening ourselves to new ideas. An indifferent state can bring us increased wisdom. The devotional time ended with prayer.

**Hymnal proposal:** We invited Karen Ruth, co-chair of the worship team, to attend the first part of the meeting to talk about the worship team presenting the *Voices Together* hymnal to the congregation. The worship team used the Communication Checklist developed during the Lombard Process as they thought through how to introduce a proposal for the new hymnals to the congregation. They plan to have a table set up on several Sundays so people can look at hymn books and worship resources, and ask questions of worship team members. It will also be an opportunity for the worship team to listen to feedback. A spreadsheet will be used to record feedback and it can be summarized and shared with the congregation at some point. She explained that Katie Graber will be here December 3 to introduce the hymnal, giving an opportunity for the congregation to sing songs from it. During Sunday School she will talk more about how the hymnal was developed and answer questions.

**Pastoral retreat:** Sue gave a report about the weekend pastor and spouse retreat and thanked everyone for the opportunity to go. The retreat was at a beautiful location, and a big highlight for her was the notes of encouragement that the retreat organizers had arranged for pastors and spouses to get from members of their congregations.

**SLT Retreat planning:** Cal and Cheryl Britsch have offered their cabin in Coldwater, Marble Lake as a place for us to meet. Available dates for the retreat are Friday/Saturday of the weekend of January 13th or 20th. Two possible topics for the weekend were discussed:

- 1) Ways to encourage spiritual practices in the congregation
- 2) The Colossian forum as a possible resource for discussing issues. Each of us could look at the Colossian Forum website before our next meeting and see what we might want to consider.

**SLT Covenant:** We read the covenant aloud to refresh our memory, discussed a few possible tweaks, and signed the covenant. We also discussed where and how we are storing SLT meeting minutes.

**Facilitating new visions** – Mike had compiled the comments from the congregation made in response to the presentation about facilitating new visions and shared them at the SLT meeting. (These were comments collected during the Sunday worship service in the fellowship hall on Dan's last Sunday.) We read through the comments and determined that the congregation seems affirming of the plan. Mike will work on getting these comments into a format that can easily be shared with the congregation, and then we will make available the checklist that helps people think through implementing an idea.

**Ohio Conference** – January 9 is our regional winter delegate meeting date, which will be held at Tedrow Mennonite this time. Attending from Zion will be Greg, Barb, Sue and John David.

**Pastoral concerns were discussed:**

**The next meeting will be Monday, December 11 at 4:30 p.m.**