

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 31, 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 31

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

Monday, January 1 ~ Office Closed

Happy New Year!!

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, January 4

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

Sunday, January 7

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

Nursery Workers

December 31: Lonnie & Carol Short

January 7: Lou Ann Kanagy & Maggie Short

Happy Birthday

December 31 ~ Kathy Beck

January 2 ~ Chloe Nofziger

January 4 ~ Gus Legato

January 6 ~ Ron Grieser

Happy Anniversary

December 31 ~ Al & Ginny Liechty (41)

December 31 ~ Dave & Jana Wheeler (52)

January 4 ~ Verlan & Mable Ann Klinger (59)

Office News

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

~ Sue will be out of the office from Tuesday afternoon, January 2nd - Friday morning, January 5th for her annual personal retreat. This year, she plans to use this time to write a paper.

Order of Service

Prelude ~ 1AD & Julia Richer

Welcome & Announcements ~ Jackie Lehman

Interlude ~ 1AD & Julia Richer

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Jackie Lehman

Songs of Praise ~ Julia Richer & 1AD

“The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy” (HWB 202)

“To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born” (HWB 189)

Offering/Offertory ~ Jackie/Julia Richer & 1AD

Songs ~ Julia Richer & 1AD

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (HWB 206)

“What Child Is This” (HWB 215)

Scripture ~ Luke 2:22-40

Sermon ~ John David Thacker

Songs ~ Julia Richer & 1AD

“Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime” (HWB 190)

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring” (HWB 192)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Sue Short

Benediction ~ John David Thacker

Closing Song ~ Julia Richer & 1AD

“Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace” (HWB 428)



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.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton's Adult and Graduate students who are resuming classes this week. May advanced education make a difference in their lives, in the management of their organizations, and in the well-being of their communities.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for our faculty and staff along with our students as we start a new semester. May students return from the holiday break relaxed and with renewed focus.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for a fruitful start to the new semester.

Mennonite Mission Network: Although 2023 is ending with much suffering and violence around the world, join Mennonite Mission Network personnel in proclaiming our hope in Jesus, who has overcome evil and injustice. May each of us continue to "be the Gospel" wherever we find ourselves.

Ohio Conference invites your prayers for its administrative assistant, Judy King, as she continues her work of preparing the documents for the Annual Conference Assembly registration, which will be published next week. Lift her up, praying for peace as she ties up all the loose ends and creates the final documents. May she feel confident in the job she has been called to complete.

New Announcements

Elective Sunday School class: Beginning next week, 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.**

From January through May, John David will be offering two evening classes a week. Tuesday nights will focus on exploring and practicing spiritual disciplines together. This contemplative time of seeking God begins Jan. 23 with *Creating a Rule of Life*.

Thursday evenings will be a teaching time on topics such as Scripture and theology. We will begin on Jan. 11 by participating in Ohio Mennonite Conference's Winter Read, discussing the book *Not Quite Fine: Mental Health, Faith and Showing Up for One Another* by Carlene Hill Byron. These conversations will be held online by Zoom, so you can participate from home or come to the church to join Zoom with others from Zion.

The book can be purchased from <https://bit.ly/NotQuiteFine>. Visit <https://bit.ly/OhioConferenceEventRegistration> to register.

Check the church calendar for dates and topics.

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.

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>

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!