

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

January 14, 2024

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, January 14

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (End of Life Class Option)

Monday, January 15 ~ *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 16

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting
7:00 pm ~ Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 17

9:00 am ~ Pastor Peer at Salem
6:00 pm ~ ZOW
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, January 18

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
6:30 pm ~ *Not Quite Fine* Book Study
7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice
7:00 pm ~ AA

Sunday, January 21 ~ *Anabaptist World Fellowship*

8:30 am ~ Sojourners
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (Sharing by Henok Mekonin)

Office News

~ Office will be closed Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
~ Sue, John David, and the elders will be at the SLT retreat Friday evening thru Saturday afternoon.

Nursery Workers

January 14: Barnaby Wyse & Jordan Rodriguez
January 21: Lou Ann Kanagy & Karen Rodriguez

Happy Birthday

January 22 ~ Robert Grieser
January 24 ~ Joyce Shehorn

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Marcia Lehman
Interlude ~ recording ("Jesus Be The Center")
Confession & Prayer ~ Marcia Lehman
Hymns ~ Anita Roth
"God Is Here Among Us" (HWB 16)
"How Firm A Foundation" (HWB 567)
Offering/Offertory ~ Marcia/Bonnie
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Two Fishermen" (HWB 227)
Scripture ~ Luke 5:1-11
Sermon ~ Sue Short
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Lord You Have Come To The Lakeshore" (HWB 229)
Prayer for Church & World ~ John David Thacker
Benediction ~ Sue Short
Sending Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Sent Forth By God's Blessing" [vs 2] (HWB 478)



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

Sunday, January 14th - "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" series: *Jesus is the Center of our Faith*

Sunday, January 21st - Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday: *Henok Mekonin, graduate of both Meserete Kristos Seminary, Ethiopia, and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, will be preaching during worship. During the Sunday School hour, Henok will be speaking about his work at AMBS in an educational partnership between the two seminaries for anyone who is interested.*

Sunday, January 28th - "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" series: *Community is the Center of our Lives*

Sunday, February 4th - "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" series: *Reconciliation is the Center of our Work*

Sunday, February 11th - Transfiguration Sunday

Attendance & Offering

December 31st: 90 ~ January 7th: 99

December offering was \$67,310.

Ongoing Classes

Elective Sunday School class: Zion will be continuing the 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.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for the work of the Title IX Implementation Group at Hesston College as they carry on their work. Pray for continued positive momentum in their work and that they will have a meaningful impact on our campus and all those who have been a part of the Hesston College community.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Join the Bethel College community in giving thanks for, and committing to act in honor of, the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Bluffton University will host our annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Forum today with Pastor Steve Terry sharing the message, "The Impact of a Positive Attitude." Please pray for justice, equity, peace, and love on campus and across the world.

Mennonite Mission Network: Tomorrow, we remember Martin Luther King Jr., who followed Jesus' way of nonviolent civil disobedience by bringing hope to people who have been denied justice. Pray for Mennonite Mission Network's ministries of dismantling racism in the United States and around the world.

Ohio Conference invites you to lift up Moderator Ken Sims in prayer. May the Lord bless him, guide him, and give him strength and wisdom as he leads not only the Leadership Team but also all of Ohio Conference. Pray that the Spirit's hand will be upon him.

Don't Forget

January 21 is Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday. Our special guest will be Henok Mekonin. Henok is a graduate of Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He currently works for AMBS as their Global Leadership Collaborative Specialist, connecting Anabaptist education with students around the world. **Henok will preach, and during the Sunday School hour, he will share about AMBS' collaboration with colleges and seminaries in Ethiopia and in other nations.** Learn more about Mennonite World Conference at <https://mwc-cmm.org>. Communion will be celebrated today as well.

Board Game Night, Fri., Jan. 26, 6 - 10 pm: Come play board games in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a game, a snack, a friend, or just yourself.

FISH food pantry is still looking for someone willing to make a run to pick up food once a month, the Monday before the 2nd Tuesday of the month. If you are interested or would like to know more details, please contact the church office.

Seminary Update from Sue

Many of you have been asking what classes I have this semester, and how much longer I have yet to go. Since I am in the home stretch, it felt like a good time for an extended update.

First of all, I want to say how much I appreciate all of your support for me in my studies at AMBS. You have encouraged me, prayed for me, and been extremely understanding and flexible with my schedule and availability. Please know how deeply grateful I am, and that I do not take any of this lightly. I am also thankful for the support of the College Student Financial Aid Committee, whose financial assistance has made seminary a possibility for me.

Spring semester began this past week, and I am taking two courses. One is called "Ministry in Church and World," which is a two semester course that I began last fall. This course has a weekly class time on Zoom, and also an internship-type of placement. For this placement, I have chosen to serve as a volunteer at CHP Home Care and Hospice, in order to learn more about the services they offer. While I am primarily based at the Hospice In-Patient Center in Defiance, I have also volunteered at the Adult Day Care at the Archbold CHP location, and ridden along with the hospice nurses as they see patients in their homes or in nursing care facilities.

The second course I have is called "Senior Capstone." It's typically one of the last courses AMBS students take before graduation. I'll have several final papers to write for this course, and will work on preparing for my senior exit interview defense. This course also has a weekly class session on Zoom.

My schedule for the semester looks like this: Senior Capstone class on Zoom on Tuesday evenings. Ministry in Church and World class on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons, and my volunteer internship with CHP all day on Thursdays.

In mid-March, I'll go to campus for my Senior Interview. The interview is with a panel of professors who have reviewed my written work, transcripts, and portfolio. I will give an oral presentation on my work, and be prepared to respond to their questions. The exact date for the interview has not yet been finalized. When it is, I'll let you know. I would appreciate prayer!

Assuming I pass this interview, and assuming I complete all my assignments this semester, I'll participate in graduation on Saturday, April 27th! As is common for many students, there is one course I'll still need to complete this summer. So, in mid-July, I'll be totally finished with my Master of Divinity degree, Pastoral Ministry concentration. (SO excited about this!! It's been 6.5 years of taking 1-2 courses every fall, spring, and summer semester.)

Grateful for my Zion family!

- Sue Short