

# 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 21, 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 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)

### **Monday, January 22**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

### **Tuesday, January 23**

7:00 pm ~ Spiritual Practices Class

### **Wednesday, January 24**

5:30 pm ~ Church Family Meal  
6:30 pm ~ Worship Team Meeting  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS  
7:00 pm ~ MYF Life Planning

### **Thursday, January 25**

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

### **Friday, January 26**

6:00 pm ~ Board Game Night

### **Sunday, January 28**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners  
9:00 am ~ Choir  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (End Of Life Class)

## Nursery Workers

**January 21:** Lou Ann Kanagy & Karen Rodriguez  
**January 28:** Marcia Lehman & Elaine Short

## Happy Birthday

**January 22** ~ Robert Grieser  
**January 24** ~ Joyce Shehorn

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey  
**Welcome & Announcements** ~ John David Thacker  
**Interlude** ~ Choir  
**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ John David Thacker  
**Songs** ~ Julia Richer  
    "God Loves All His Many People" (HWB 397)  
    "Santo, Santo, Santo" (HWB 400)  
**Offering/Offertory** ~ John David/Karen  
**Song** ~ Julia Richer  
    "Father God, You Are Holy" (HWB 78)  
**Scripture** ~ Matthew 22:34-40  
**Sermon** ~ Henok Mekonin  
**Communion**  
**Song** ~ Julia Richer  
    "Cantemos Al Senor" (HWB 55)  
**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Sue Short  
**Sending Song** ~ Julia Richer  
    "Bwana Awabariki" (HWB 422)  
**Benediction** ~ Henok Mekonin

## Office News

~ Sue, John David, and the elders will be at the SLT retreat Friday evening (Jan 19) thru Saturday afternoon (Jan 20).



**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 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**

\* Click the link below if you'd like to Becker's booklet, "What Is An Anabaptist Christian" online: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/Downloads/DL.MissioDei18.E.pdf>

### Attendance & Offering

January 14th: 62

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 Mark Charles as he joins us at Hesston College for the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series. Pray all in attendance can hear his message on dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery and the impact it has had on the indigenous people in North America.

**Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.:** Pray for the health and safety of Bethel College men's and women's basketball players and coaches during a busy month that includes travel in winter weather conditions.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Today is Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday. Mennonite Mission Network invites you to join in Mennonite World Conference's prayers for the global church: to work together in harmony, to reduce suffering, and to become God's people, who sow peace, love and truth.

**Ohio Conference** invites you to cover the Ohio Conference Leadership Team and its process consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, in prayer on Tuesday, Jan. 23. On that morning, the Leadership Team and Jeanne will be discussing the comments and questions heard at the cluster meetings. They will use this feedback to publish final documents for delegate and congregational discernment prior to the Annual Conference Assembly on March 1-2. Pray for wisdom and the Spirit's leading as they meet together via Zoom.

## Thank You

The NW Ohio Comforter Bash that took place on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 was a great success! This was sponsored by Central Mennonite Church, Lockport Mennonite Church, PEACE Mennonite Fellowship and Zion Mennonite Church.

The goal was 75 comforters: The result: 77 comforters completed and 5 fleece blankets knotted! Over 200 people attended. This event was great in the actual work that was accomplished, but the connections people and churches from all over the area made was more eventful than anything! The event started out slow at 3:00 pm. By 6:30 pm when youth groups attended, it was an amazing whirlwind of activity, smiles, warmth and friendly faces sharing in a common cause.

We thank you to all those who attended and to anyone who had even the smallest part in making this community event a success!

The Archbold Buckeye newspaper attended and took lots of photos. You should see an article this week!

Thank YOU, thank you!

Chris Wyse,  
NW Ohio Comforter Bash chairperson

## New Announcements

**Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30 will be Zion's first Church Family Meal for 2024!** Come and fellowship around the tables with your church family and enjoy a meal of pulled pork, mac'n cheese, veggie, cookies and fruit. No sign up necessary and you are welcome to bring a friend.

**Student Aid Donations Needed** - As Zion's six students at Mennonite colleges and seminaries return for the spring semester, we're sending Zion's student aid contributions on our students behalves to the various institutions. Your donations are welcomed and appreciated at this time. Please mark the memo line of your check "Student Aid". Our students this semester are: Elijah Zimmerman (Bluffton University); Quinn Wyse & Kate Roth (Goshen College); Rachel Wheeler & Sarah Wheeler (Eastern Mennonite University); and Sue Short (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary). **College Financial Aid Committee**

**Shalom Counseling and Mediation** is seeking individuals interested in working with parents and children in both our **Supervised Visitation** program, and our **Parent Education** program. Part-time and full-time positions. Training provided. If interested, please call or email Kerry Beck: (kbeck@shalomworks.org, 419-445-1552).

**On the Level announcement:** The January edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King shares inspiration from the dentist's chair; learn about a huge boost coming to Crisfield, Maryland; and don't miss the February 8 deadline to register for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3u2BztK>

## Don't Forget

**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.

## Book Nook

- Read this new book by Melissa Florer-Bixler called "How To Have An Enemy." In the book, Jesus named and confronted his enemies as an essential part of loving them. In this provocative book, the author calls us to do the same.

## Voices Together

**Proposal:** Worship Team recommends purchasing copies of **Voices Together** for the pews, several large-print editions, several copies of the Worship Leader resource book, an accompaniment book, and the projection software. We plan to keep the blue Hymnal Worship book also, but will remove the red hymnal, **Sing a New Creation** and **Sing the Journey**. We will offer some of those copies to the congregation and will also store some in the music room. Between money that has been donated and unspecified donated memorial money, we will be able to pay for the whole project.

**Feedback:** Most of the feedback from the congregation has been positive and favorable toward purchasing the hymnal. Some people were happy to see the confusion of hymnals in the pews change, and suggested keeping the blue hymnals. A number of people expressed appreciation for the theology in many of the new hymns. Some accompanists and musicians like having the chords on many of the songs. Some like the international songs that connect us to the wider church.

Some people expressed concern with changes in language in the texts of some hymns, which were addressed by Katie Graber and the **Voices Together** website. Some also commented on the thinness of the pages in the new book. Katie Graber explained that the publisher has changed printers, and the copies we would purchase have a little thicker paper.

Thank you for your feedback at the listening table. We appreciate your comments.

**Process:** The Worship Team would like a vote of affirmation by January 28.

We can purchase additional copies if individuals want to buy them. There will not be a discount on the purchase, but they can be shipped with the rest of the copies. Please contact Bethany if you would like a personal copy.

## 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