

# 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 28, 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 28**

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

### **Monday, January 29**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm ~ Preschool Board Meeting (basement)

### **Tuesday, January 30**

7:00 pm ~ Spiritual Practices Class: *Lectio Divina*

### **Wednesday, January 31**

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS  
7:00 pm ~ Host MYF Area Wide

### **Thursday, February 1**

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

### **Sunday, February 4**

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 28:** Marcia Lehman & Elaine Short  
**February 4:** Deb Zimmerman & Grace Hastings

## Office News

~ Sue will be out of town this weekend (Friday afternoon, Jan 26th - Sunday afternoon, Jan 28th) to attend the final required learning weekend/retreat with her mentee. Sue has been serving as the pastoral mentor for a woman exploring her own call to ministry through Journey - a program of AMBS, co-sponsored by several Conferences, including Ohio Conference. This program is a three year commitment, which will be completed this spring.

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey  
**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Rachel Short  
**Interlude** ~ Karen Stuckey  
**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Rachel Short  
**Hymns** ~ Eric Lehman  
    “Heart With Loving Heart” (HWB 420)  
    “We Gather Together” (HWB 17)  
**Offering/Offertory** ~ Rachel/Karen  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
    “In Christ There Is No East Or West” (HWB 306)  
**Scripture** ~ Acts 2:37-47  
**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
    “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” (HWB 307)  
**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Barb Yoder  
**Sending Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
    “We Are One In The Spirit” (handout)  
**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker

## Happy Birthday

**January 27** ~ David Kanagy, Lynn Roth  
**January 31** ~ Mableann Crossgrove  
**February 1** ~ Gerald Short  
**February 2** ~ Lonnie Short  
**February 3** ~ Sherry Wagler



**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 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 21st: 105

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 Hesston College alumni as they gather for their virtual class reunions this afternoon. Pray they have a meaningful time reconnecting with classmates as well as reminiscing on their Hesston Experience.

**Bluffton (Ohio) University:** Please pray for peace as the Bluffton campus community learns more about Israel and Palestine at two Forums this week. Tareq Abuhallima, Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center codirector, will share "Experiences in the Gaza Strip," and Dr. Martina Cucchiara, professor of history, will present "100 Years: Illuminating Key Moments in the Conflict Between Israel and Palestine."

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Praise God for the fruit that has grown from Mennonite Mission Network's five-year commitment to partner with Holy Trinity Brussels' peace and conflict transformation program in Belgium. Pray for Jean-Bosco Turahirwa, who developed the program for his congregation, which has members from more than 45 countries.

**Ohio Conference** invites you to pray for Dennis Graber, Jeff Hochstetler, and Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells. This group is planning the worship services that will be held at the upcoming Annual Conference Assembly at Sharon Mennonite on March 1-2, 2024. Pray that they would feel the Spirit's leading and direction as they plan these services based on Philippians 2:5-11 and the theme of Following Jesus Together with a Common Mission.

## Book Nook

Some books you might read to go along with the Anabaptist theme are:

- *The Legacy of Michael Sattler* by John H. Yoder
- *Mirror of the Martyrs* by John S. Oyer & Robert S. Kreider
- *Profiles of Anabaptist Women* by c. Arnold Snyder & Linda A. Huebert Hecht
- *Women Against the Good War* by Rachel Goossen
- *The Anabaptists Are Back!* By Duane Ruth Heffelbower

Also in the library is the book *Not Quite Fine* by Carlene Hill Byron which is the Ohio Conference winter read that is on Zoom.

## Thank You

Thank you for your prayers and loving support, in so many ways, during these days.  
~Virginia and the family of Orville Doehrmann

## New Announcements

**Save the date!** **MEN'S BREAKFAST** at 9 am on March 9th at Zion. There will be a sign up sheet and guests are welcome. More information to come.

**Hosting Opportunity:** Zion will be welcoming Goshen College's treble ensemble, "Voices of Earth" for a concert on Tuesday evening, February 27th. This is a large choir, so we'll need plenty of hosts. After the concert, hosts will be matched up with the number of students they requested. Host responsibilities include transporting students from Zion to your home for the night, serving breakfast the next morning, and transporting the students back to Zion by 8:00am in the morning. If you are willing to serve as a host, contact Bethany in the church office: 419-445-3796 or email: [church.zionmc@gmail.com](mailto:church.zionmc@gmail.com) She will want to know how many students you are able to host, and a phone number and email to reach you with information as the concert gets closer. Also, please indicate whether you are a pet-free home, since a couple of the students have indicated they have pet allergies. Thank you for considering this!

**The preschool is in need of oatmeal containers** to be used for Valentines. They are looking for about 15. If you have one (or more) that you would donate, you can leave it on the table by the stairs that heads down to the preschool! Thanks!

## Don't Forget

**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](mailto: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>

## 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.