

# 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 7, 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 7**

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

### **Monday, January 8**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting  
11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers

### **Tuesday, January 9**

6:00 pm ~ Ohio Conference Cluster at Tedrow

### **Wednesday, January 10**

3:00 pm ~ MCC Comforter Bash at Central  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS  
7:00 pm ~ MYF

### **Thursday, January 11**

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 14**

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

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey  
**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Suz Wirick  
**Interlude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey  
**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Suz Wirick  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
"Come Let Us All Unite To Sing" (HWB 12)  
**Scripture** ~ Matthew 2:1-12  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
"As With Gladness Men Of Old" (HWB 218)  
**Offering** ~ Suz Wirick  
**Offertory** ~ Kate & Leah Roth, Barb Rufenacht  
"Laudamus Te" by Vivaldi  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
"I Will Sing Of My Redeemer" (HWB 344)  
**Scripture** ~ Ephesians 3:1-12  
**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
"Marvelous Grace Of Our Loving Lord" (HWB 151)  
**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Karen Rodriguez  
**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker  
**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman  
"May The Grace Of Christ Our Savior" (HWB 423)



## Nursery Workers

**January 7:**

Lou Ann Kanagy & Maggie Short

**January 14:**

Barnaby Wyse & Jordan Rodriguez

## Happy Birthday

**January 16** ~ Troy Roth

**January 17** ~ Evon Rufenacht

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**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 7th - Epiphany:** Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**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**

## Prayers for the Global Church

### Mennonite Education Agency:

Hesston (Kan.) College: Pray for faculty as they come back to campus and gather together to plan for this upcoming semester. May they positively impact and make a difference in the lives of the students at Hesston College.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: : Pray for wisdom and clarity as the school board and administration make decisions to look toward the future. May God guide our path.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Lora Nafziger and Mitch Rhodes, who began a three-year assignment in September with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), working from the United States. Pray for this family, as Lora, Mitch and two of their four sons take up residence in Kathmandu, Nepal, this month. Lora is serving as UMN's staff support and counseling advisor, and Mitch serves as the expatriate coordinator.

Ohio Conference invites you to cover its upcoming cluster meetings in prayer. These meetings will take place on Jan. 9 at Tedrow Mennonite; Jan. 11 at Beech Mennonite; Jan. 16 at Crown Hill Mennonite; Jan. 18 at Oak Grove Mennonite, West Liberty; and Jan. 22 via Zoom. Pray for wisdom, especially for Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi, consultant, as she facilitates much of these meetings. May all who attend be covered in the love and unity of Christ.

## New Announcements

Note about Dan Miller's attendance at Orville Doehrmann's memorial service: Dan contacted the Spiritual Leadership Team, PCRC chair, and Council chair this week to ask for our discernment about attending the memorial service. Zion has an exit agreement with former pastors which requests a one year period of separation. This period of time allows both the pastor and the congregation to observe healthy boundaries and move forward. Dan's situation is unique in that he moved into the role of interim Conference Minister for Ohio Conference after leaving Zion. This means that Dan's obligations as our Conference Minister may bring him back to Zion, or into contact with congregants, during this one year period. Dan acknowledged these obligations with us as he prepared to leave Zion. The SLT was in agreement that Dan's presence at this memorial service would be appropriate as a representative of Ohio Conference, supporting Tony (our Conference Regional Pastor) during his time of significant loss. The pastors and elders welcome you to talk with them if you have questions or concerns.

The Congregational Care team will meet Monday, January 8 at 11:00 am in room 310.

Instead of meeting on January 10 at Zion, Mennonite Women will join with area churches in hosting a **MCC Comforter Bash at Central Mennonite Church from 3 pm – 8 pm**. Note that women, men, & children of all ages are invited. A light meal will be provided beginning at 4:30 pm. See the flyer in the foyer for more details. We hope you will join us in providing warmth and comfort to many in need as we share God's love around the globe.

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>.

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.

## Don't Forget

**Elective Sunday School class:** Beginning this Sunday, 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.

## Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

December 15, 2023

**Devotions:** John David led devotions focusing on chapter 11 of *Pursuing God's Will Together*. This chapter talks about the ways in which leaders can hold effective meetings. An important part of the process is clarifying the purpose of any given meeting. If some people come to a meeting expecting a decision to be made, while others come thinking the plan is to just discuss or brainstorm, there are bound to be disappointments. Another consideration is the value of coming to a meeting with as much information beforehand as possible. Leaders can think about what the people at the meeting will want to know and be prepared for questions and concerns. It is also helpful to create times of silence within a meeting for people to process information. Devotion time was closed with prayer by John David.

### **Follow-up from last meeting:**

- Sue will make sure that everyone has signed the elder covenant for this year, and will distribute copies for our files.
- We need to finalize plans for making available the materials for facilitating new visions. Mike asked everyone to look over the document he put together with responses from the congregation. The planning document for those who would like to implement an idea will be touched up by Barb. When both the responses and the planning document are ready, they will be shared in the newsletter and paper copies will be made available also. Eventually, the planning document will be made available on the Zion website.
- The worship team's work to present the idea of purchasing the *Voices Together* hymnal has progressed well. The worship team will be meeting soon to discuss the information they have collected and consider next steps.
- We reviewed the date and time for the Ohio Conference delegate cluster meeting. Delegates and pastors need to register so the organizers have a head count.

### **Spiritual input opportunities:**

- John David would like to provide opportunities for spiritual formation. His thoughts are to offer a time on Tuesdays that would focus on different types of spiritual practices, and one on Thursday that might focus more on specific topics.
- People in the congregation might want to consider taking part in the Ohio Conference Winter Read with the book *Not Quite Fine: Mental Health, Faith, and Showing Up for One Another* by Carlene Hill Byron. Discussions about the book will take place on January 11 and 18, and February 1, 8, and 15.

**SLT Retreat:** We will hold our annual retreat Friday evening, January 19 and Saturday January 20. Friday evening will be set aside for fellowship together. On Saturday, our focus will be practicing several spiritual disciplines, as we consider how to provide opportunities for spiritual formation at Zion. We will also plan to hold our regular January SLT meeting on Saturday.

**Pastoral concerns were discussed.**