

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
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February 11, 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, February 11

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

Monday, February 12

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting
11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers
5:00 pm ~ SLT

Tuesday, February 13

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

Wednesday, February 14 ~ *Ash Wednesday*

7:00 pm ~ Ash Wednesday Service (sanctuary & zoom)
7:20 pm ~ CHAOS
7:20 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, February 15

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
11:00 am ~ Kitchen Reserved
6:30 pm ~ *Not Quite Fine* Study
7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Saturday, February 17

12:00 pm ~ Kitchen/Gym/Fellowship Hall Reserved

Sunday, February 18

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

Nursery Workers

February 11: Joyce Nafziger, Miriam Richer

February 18: Hastings Family

Happy Birthday

February 12 ~ Bill Beck, Ellie Grieser,
Ron Lantz

February 14 ~ Judy Beck, Neil Nofziger

February 16 ~ Mary Beth Beck

Happy Anniversary

February 11 ~ Kenneth & Evon Rufenacht (63)

February 14 ~ Artie & Kathy Short (35)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Mike Zimmerman

Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Mike Zimmerman

Special Music ~ Choir

“How Many Times We Start Again”

“Be Thou My Vision”

Offering/Offertory ~ Mike/Bonnie

Baby Dedication

Hymn ~ Bradley Kauffman

“Longing For Light” (STJ 54)

Scripture ~ Luke 9:28-36

Sermon ~ Sue Short

Communion

Hymn ~ Bradley Kauffman

“God, Be The Love” (Insert)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger

Sending Hymn ~ Bradley Kauffman

“The Lord Lift You Up” (STJ 73)

Benediction ~ Sue Short



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, February 11th - Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, February 14th - Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00pm (sanctuary & zoom)

Sunday, February 18th - Lent begins

Lent 2024 - "Christ Among Us": This year's Lenten texts focus on covenants. They point to God's history of reaching out to continue in relationship with God's people. Time and time again, humanity fails to follow these covenants, yet God's mercy and grace remain. Christ is among us, reminding us of who we are - God's beloved.

Sunday, Feb 18 - Lent 1: "Christ Among Us, Repent and Believe"

(Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; Mark 1:9-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22.)

Sunday, Feb 25 - Lent 2: "Christ Among Us, Showing Us Faith"

(Genesis 17:1-17; Psalm 22:23-31; Mark 8:31-38; Romans 4:13-25)

Sunday, March 3 - Lent 3: "Christ Among Us, Showing Us Justice"

(Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Sunday, March 10 - Lent 4: "Christ Among Us, the Way of Mercy"

(Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:1-10)

Sunday, March 17 - Lent 5: "Christ Among Us, the New Covenant"

(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; John 12:20-33; Hebrews 5:5-10)

Sunday, March 24 - Lent 6, PALM SUNDAY: "Christ Among Us, the Way of a Servant"

(Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11/John 12:12-16; Philippians 2:5-11)

Attendance & Offering

February 4: 132

December offering was \$67,310.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for our annual Chili Supper fundraiser meal today – that we will host the meal well and it will be a successful fundraiser that people feel good about participating in.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Pray for the Hesston College baseball, softball, flag football, and golf teams, athletes, and coaches as they begin their seasons. Pray that they embrace the faith and character formation opportunities they encounter at Hesston College and become equipped to live out The Lark Way on and off the field.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: This year, the Bluffton University campus community is focused on the Civic Engagement theme “Exploring the Continuum of Emotional Wellness.” As mental health conditions increase around the world, please pray for the emotional well-being and support of Bluffton’s faculty, staff, and students.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for a meaningful and safe intercultural experience for our Guatemala-Cuba group.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Pray for head coach Joseph Gogus, coaching staff, and Bethel College cheer and dance teams as they prepare to host the Bethel Invitational.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN has launched a new fellowship and learning program, Just Peace Pilgrimages, to help participants enter more fully into God’s justice and shalom. Pray that God’s spirit will prepare the hearts and minds of all who join in the healing work of dismantling the oppressive structures in the United States.

Ohio Conference Ohio Conference invites you to cover all its constituency in prayer leading up to its Annual Conference Assembly on March 1-2. This is the time when delegates are discerning together with their congregations. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and to be present during these conversations.

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

January 20, 2024 (during the SLT retreat)

Review: We began with a review of what had been discussed at the last meeting and where those things stood now. Action items included:

- Sue will finalize the signing of the SLT covenant
- Mike will get the reactions to the proposal for facilitating new visions out in the newsletter by the end of February.
- Barb will send a final draft of the document containing the steps for planning new visions out for the SLT to look over before publishing.
- John David's weekly opportunities for spiritual formation have been announced, and will begin this week. There seems to be interest.

Ohio Conference Delegate Cluster meeting: Those who were at the Ohio Conference Cluster meeting at Tedrow on January 9 reviewed what had been discussed. After all of the regional delegate cluster meetings have been held, the compiled information and feedback about the new Conference structure will be sent to pastors and delegates to share with congregations. Annual Conference Assembly is the first weekend of March.

End-of-Life Sunday School Hour Discussions: There have been positive reactions to the Sunday School sessions about end-of-life topics. John David felt it had worked out well that the Congregational Caregivers had raised the idea of discussing these topics with the congregation at a time when he was also feeling the importance of sharing about this based on his experiences working as a chaplain. Questions raised during these discussions may offer ideas for future classes.

SLT Retreat: Mike will share a statement with highlights about our retreat with the congregation. Sue will type up the ideas from our retreat brainstorming session. For now, we will rest with the ideas and contemplate them. The next step will be to begin to process and discern what the next steps should be with what was discussed.

Pastoral care needs were discussed.

New Announcements

Anabaptist World magazine subscriptions are once again being renewed. If you are receiving it and would like to renew it for another year, or if you would like to start receiving it, please contact Bethany in the church office (church.zionmc@gmail.com, 419.445.3796) by February 20th.. Cost for the subscription will be \$39.

Mennonite Central Committee is looking ahead to summer 2024, when we invite young adults of color from across the U.S. to participate in Summer Service. This grant program lets the next generation of peacemakers gain spiritual direction, work experience and extra income while serving their churches or communities for 10 weeks. In turn, host churches benefit from fresh perspectives, seasonal assistance and the time-tested joy that comes with mentoring tomorrow's leaders. MCC covers 75% of costs associated with the program. We invite you to work with interested young adults to create a role that aligns church and community needs with their unique talents, goals and interests. Learn more and apply at mcc.org/summerservice. Or email Brooke Strayer at BrookeStrayer@mcc.org.

Everence offers college scholarship opportunities for you or your children. Eligible students can be chosen to receive scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 or \$1,000 for the coming academic year. Applications are accepted through Feb. 28. Visit everence.com/college-scholarships to download the application.

Ongoing Classes

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.

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.

Book Nook

On the south side of the library on the bottom shelf, are Anabaptist World Magazines, Marketplace, A Common Place, and a few other periodicals plus College Bulletins. Anyone may take them out without signing for them.

Don't Forget

Congregational Caregivers will meet Monday, February 12 at 11:00 am for our monthly meeting.

Mennonite Women will meet Wednesday, February 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. Elizabeth Zilba-Baer will be sharing with us about her work at Ten Thousand Villages. A noon meal will be provided. *A reminder to all who attend Zion, by turning in your Super Value receipts (at desk drawers at both the north and west entrance), you enable a rebate that will assist in the funding for the work of Mennonite Women.

Following an 80% vote in favor of getting **Voices Together**, Worship Team will proceed to order the hymnals and sort out the old ones. **If you want to order a personal copy of the new book, please let Bethany know ASAP.** The cost will be \$29 per copy. You do not need to pay until you pick it up.

Little Eden Kids Camp registration is now open for students that have completed the third grade through students that have completed 12th grade. See the pamphlets on the table across from the bulletin board for more information.

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" (featuring Kate Roth!!) 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 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!