

# 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

**April 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, April 14**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

### **Monday, April 15**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

### **Tuesday, April 16**

10:00 am ~ Pastor Peer at Toledo Mennonite  
11:00 am ~ Piano Tuning  
7:00 pm ~ Spiritual Practices: *Examen*

### **Wednesday, April 17**

6:00 pm ~ ZOW (preschool-5th)  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)  
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

### **Thursday, April 18**

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer (fellowship hall)  
7:00 pm ~ Scripture & Theology: *Galatians 5-6*  
7:00 pm ~ Choir practice  
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

### **Sunday, April 21 ~ CHAOS Sunday**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School, followed by MYF Taco Bar Fundraiser

## Nursery Workers

**April 14:** Hastings Family

**April 21:** LouAnn Kanagy, Carol Short

## Happy Birthday

**April 14** ~ Dan Nofziger

**April 14** ~ Ed Swartzbaugh

**April 15** ~ Josiah Dahl

**April 16** ~ Frank Ulrich

**April 17** ~ Kaylee Rodriguez

**April 18** ~ Kevin Sauder

**April 19** ~ Marlene Nofziger

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Elaine Short

**Interlude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Elaine Short

**Hymns** ~ Eric Lehman

“Jesus Stand Among Us” (HWB 25)

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” (VT 341)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Elaine/Bonnie

**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman

“Lord, You Have Come To The Lakeshore” (VT 283)

**Scripture** ~ John 21:1-14

**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker

**Communion**

**Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman

“Jesus, Be The Center” (VT 584)

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Jackie Lehman

**Sending Hymn** ~ Eric Lehman

“Sent Forth By God's Blessing” (VT 812)

**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker



## Attendance & Offering

April 7th: 106

March offering was \$26,130.

*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

**Save the Date:** Sunday, April 21st is a BIG SUNDAY! Our CHAOS (middle school) youth are helping to plan the service and will lead us in worship. Following a shortened Sunday School time, you are invited to a fundraising lunch prepared and hosted by the MYF (high school) youth. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this!

## Prayers for the Global Church

### Mennonite Education Agency:

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton's music students, faculty, staff, and community members as they present the Masterworks Spring Choral Concert today featuring Maurice Duruflé's "Requiem."

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for our FFA students as they travel to the State FFA Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for the safety of our school community during e-term April 15-19. This is where our 6-12 students encounter experiential learning and travel either locally or across state lines

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for Hesston College students who submitted works for the annual juried art exhibit. May the Lord bless them during this competition and encourage them to continue fostering their creativity.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** JCS International, a Mennonite Mission Network partner in Mongolia, requests continued prayer for herder families, as they struggle to survive this year's dzud (winter disaster), which has caused suffering across 90% of the country, with more than two million animal deaths. Pray that transportation routes will open, so aid can be delivered to remote areas.

## Weeknight Classes

**Spiritual Practices - Tuesday, 7PM (Fellowship Hall):** *The Examen*

We will explore the Christian tradition and spiritual practice of examining one's conscience.

**Bible and Theology - Thursday, 7PM (Fellowship Hall):** *Galatians 5-6*

We will finish our study of the book of Galatians.

## Church School Sunday

**Church School Day- Sunday, April 28** - Michael Danner, Executive Director of Mennonite Education Agency & Associate Executive Director of Church Vitality for MCUSA, will visit & share the morning message. After worship we'll have a session in the fellowship hall for all interested to explain Zion's student aid program, hear additional input from Michael as well as Zion's Elijah Zimmerman (a current student at Bluffton University) & give opportunity to pledge financial support toward the program.

Next school year Zion will have six students at the Mennonite schools. We have a fundraising goal of \$93,000 for the year. Those unable to attend on April 28th may make confidential pledges at any time via the secure electronic link below, or by contacting Phil Bontrager (pabontrager@gmail.com or cell 419-966-3127). Link to electronic pledge form: [Zion College Financial Aid Pledge](#)  
~ College Financial Aid Committee

## Book Nook

There are two new books available in the library, *Divine Gravity* and *God Conversations*. Below is some information about each.

*Divine Gravity* by Meghan Larissa Good: Gregory A. Boyd says "this book is powerful and insightful. She gives voice to the rising movement, highlighting its distinctive convictions while addressing how it corrects distortions of the gospel in the past. In the process, she presents a vision of God, the church, and the world that is as refreshing as it is compelling."

*God Conversations* by Tania Harris: This book tells stories of how God speaks and what happens when we listen. How do you know it's God? This book will show you.

## Zion Budget Update

Thank you for your generous budget support! Zion's 2023-24 budget is \$416,400. Divided by 12 months, the offerings needed average \$34,700 per month. Zion ended 2023 on a strong note. Our offerings showed a \$64,000 surplus balance. However, since January of 2024, the monthly totals have decreased by \$11,000 on average. With 5 months remaining in the budget year, Zion needs to average \$29,000 per month to meet the budget. Please check in with stewardship members if you have questions or concerns.

~ Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Lynn Roth, Crystal Rodriguez

March offerings (5 Sundays)	\$26,130.00
Average monthly budget	<u>34,700.00</u>
	-8,570.00
Year to date Offerings (Budgeted)	\$242,900
Year to date Offerings (Actual)	<u>\$272,734</u>
Surplus Offerings	+\$ 29,834

## New Announcements

**Burger Bash, Sunday, May 5** – You're encouraged to stop by the Ruihley Park Pavilion from 11- 1 for a burger as the community again celebrates our ecumenical mission effort. The free will donation for the burger and the picnic-type fixins' funds rural projects in third-world countries under the umbrella of Growing Hope Globally. Checks for the picnic can be made to our non-profit bookkeeping partner, the Pettisville FFA alumni Assoc.

**St. Martin's Concert Series** is proud to present *Silent Movie Night* on Sunday, May 5 @ 4:30pm. Cleveland organist David Blazer will accompany the 1931 Charlie Chaplin Film, "City Lights". Join us for *Silent Movie Night*, complete with popcorn! For more information visit: <https://the-welcome-place.org/about/worship-and-music/st-martins-2023-2024-concert-series/>

**Camp Lutz is hosting a Men's Retreat** on April 20th. The theme is Equipped from 2 Timothy 3:16-17. See the bulletin board for more information.

**St. Peter Catholic church is hosting Robert Rogers** to tell his story of loss and adversity to live a life with no regrets on April 25th. See the bulletin board for more information.

## Don't Forget

**LifeWise invites you to an Evening of Impact.** Join as they celebrate what God has done during our first year of Life-Wise Archbold. We'll even hear from some of our students. Doors open Monday, April 29 at 6:30 with the presentation at 7pm. Event is at Archbold Evan Church. Please RSVP to Rachel at 419.572.6199 by April 15. Assorted desserts and a coffee bar will be available to enjoy.

**Senior Citizen Luncheon:** Archbold High School is hosting the 12th Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon on Friday, April 26th at 11am in the High School Gymnasium. Please pass on to any senior citizens in your life who live in the Archbold School District. Lunch is free with a State of School Address, along with Band and Choir performances. To make reservations, please call 419-445-5579 or email [ayer@archboldschools.org](mailto:ayer@archboldschools.org). **Reservations need to be received by Wednesday, April 17.**

**The Junior Choral Society**, a community children's choir of 4th thru 8th grade students, has two final concerts this spring we invite you to enjoy! **On Sunday, April 14 @ 7:00 pm**, the JCS will provide a *CONCERT & HYMN SING* at North Clinton Church, Wauseon. **On Sunday, May 5 @ 7:00 pm**, the JCS will be celebrating their *40th ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI CONCERT* at Central Mennonite Church, Archbold. If you or a family member participated in JCS over the years, we invite you to join us by singing in the alumni choir! Go to our website [twojuniorchoralsociety.org](http://twojuniorchoralsociety.org) to register and receive all the details! We invite you to attend these spring JCS concerts, and enjoy God's gift of children and music!

**CPC Women's Health Resource 38th Annual Spring Benefit & Silent Auction** will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Archbold Evangelical Church (705 Lafayette St, Archbold, OH 43502). The doors open at 5:30pm with dinner being served at 6:00pm and the program starting at 7:00pm. The suggested donation is \$10 per adult and those under 18 are free. We prefer that you register at [cpcnwo.org/events/benefit](http://cpcnwo.org/events/benefit) or call 419.636.5692.

## Thank You

My brother Gerald Witmer has returned home to Georgia after his six weeks stay at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Thank you for your prayers as he continues to heal.

-Joyce Nafziger

## Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

March 19, 2024

**Opening** – Greg led the opening by challenging us to think about the tension between taking care of those close to us and reaching out to the outside world. The world uses terms like “deglobalization” to promote the idea of looking after your own interests and not getting involved with problems of other countries. As Christians, how do we respond by helping others while also protecting ourselves? How do we know the best way to help others locally or globally?

**Elder search** - We looked at the current elder ministry description. The plan is for everyone to read it over and suggest edits that might be needed before our next meeting. We discussed the value of starting conversations with people we felt might be a good fit for the position. The conversation wouldn't have to be a direct request for them to consider the role, but more of a way to help them start thinking of the possibility.

**Addition to prayer list** - As we discussed some of the work various ministry teams do at church, it was suggested that it might be encouraging to add the teams to the prayer list for the Church and World periodically.

**Membership transfer** - The church office received an email requesting LaVon and Linda Short's transfer of membership from Zion to Waterford Mennonite in Goshen, where they have been attending. Sue has completed the necessary paperwork for this.

**ACA further reporting** - Mike asked if there were any other topics from the Annual Conference Assembly of Ohio Conference that we should talk about. Those who attended felt that all topics had been covered at the last meeting. John David brought up a topic from the last Pastor Peer meeting that related to the theme at ACA. The Pastor Peer group discussed the idea of congregations interacting more with each other. Some suggestions were pulpit exchanges and helping each other to support special events. An example would be the Disarming Violence event that was held at Central last fall, which was planned by persons from several area Mennonite churches.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 8 at 5:00. Sue will have the opening.