

# 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

**March 31, 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, March 31 ~ Easter**

8:30 am ~ Easter potluck breakfast  
9:00 am ~ Easter Hymn sing  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ No Sunday School

### **Monday, April 1 ~ Office Closed**

### **Tuesday, April 2**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)  
11:00 am ~ Kitchen Reserved  
7:00 pm ~ Spiritual Practices: *Praying with Clay*

### **Wednesday, April 3**

10:00 am ~ Host AAMA (310)  
6:00 pm ~ ZOW (Preschool-5th)  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)  
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

### **Thursday, April 4**

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

### **Sunday, April 7**

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

## Nursery Workers

**March 31:** Elaine Short, Carol Short

**April 7:** Chad Aeschliman Family

## Happy Birthday

**April 2** ~ Darlene Polasek

**April 4** ~ Don Oesch

**April 6** ~ Andy Sauder

## Happy Anniversary

**April 6** ~ Duane & Cecilia Wyse (50 years)

## Attendance & Offering

March 24th: 107

February offering was \$22,987.

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Carrying in the Light** ~ Julia Richer  
"Longing For Light" (VT 715)

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Sue Short

**Interlude** ~ Karen Stuckey & Anita Roth

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

**Opening Hymns of Praise** ~ Anita Roth  
"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" (VT 346)  
"Low In The Grave He Lay" (VT 333)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Sue/Karen ~ (VT 348)

**Scripture** ~ Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**Hymn** ~ Julia Richer

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" (VT 348)

**Children's Time** ~ Sue Short

**Hymn** ~ Julia Richer

"Lift Your Glad Voices" (VT 340)

**Scripture** ~ Mark 16:1-8

**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker

**Hymn** ~ Julia Richer

"Christ Who Left His Home In Glory" (VT 361)

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Greg Nofziger

**Sending Hymn** ~ Julia Richer

"Praise God" (VT 70)

**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker



**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, March 31st - Easter Sunday:**

(8:30am Easter breakfast (finger foods) potluck; 9:00am Hymn Sing; 9:30am worship.)

## Prayers for the Global Church

### **Mennonite Education Agency:**

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for the Hesston College baseball, softball, flag football, track and field, disc golf, and golf teams, athletes, and coaches as their seasons start to wrap up with postseason competition on the horizon. Pray they perform their best and find success on and off the field while avoiding injury. May they bring glory to God with their talents, hard work, and determination.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Please pray for our Touring Choir as they travel to Goshen, Ind., for the Mennonite Schools Council Choir Festival.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Please pray for the Bethel College Board of Directors as they gather for spring meetings this weekend.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Fall semester registration is now underway. Please pray for Bluffton University students as they receive the support and resources to discover who they are and how they will make a difference in the world.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** On this Easter Sunday, join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for peace and abundant life in Israel and Palestine, the land where Jesus lived, embodied his teachings, was murdered and rose victorious from the dead.

## Weeknight Classes

**Spiritual Practices - Tuesday, 7PM (Fellowship Hall):** *Praying with Clay*

Come practice a contemplative exercise with clay.

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

We will begin a three-week study of Paul's letter to the 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

## New Announcements

**The church office will be closed on Monday, April 1st for Easter Monday,** a holiday in Canada and in many other countries. For us at Zion, it provides a much-needed break for our staff.

**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 [aoyer@archboldschools.org](mailto:aoyer@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 [www.juniorchoralsociety.org](http://www.juniorchoralsociety.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!

## Don't Forget

**CPC Women's Health Resource 38<sup>th</sup> 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.

**St. Martin's Concert Series** is proud to present Found Sounds on April 7 @ 3pm. This versatile group of musicians from NE Ohio specializes in various percussion music from around the world. This performance will feature the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, the steelpan. Made up of alumni from the acclaimed University of Akron Steel Drum Band, Found Sounds will transport you to the Caribbean with instrumental reggae, calypso, and soca music with many familiar pop tunes! For more information visit: <https://the-welcome-place.org/about/worship-and-music/st-martins-2023-2024-concert-series/>

**On the Level announcement:** The March edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King explores where we would see Jesus in disaster responses, get the latest on the damage left by the Midwest tornadoes, and learn how a remote electrician is adding a spark to an MDS project. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/4adqsxS>

**Join MCC Great Lakes for the Dismukes Project Learning Tour on August 14-17:** This learning tour provides a unique experience to learn more about Black history and experiences in the coalfields of Appalachia, while also learning the incredible story of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American physician in the early 1900's. Participants will visit various sites connected with Dr. Dismukes, hear from local speakers, learn about MCC's work to preserve Black history in the area and attend a gala on Dr. Dismukes Day. Learn more and register at [mcc.org/dismukes-learning-tour](http://mcc.org/dismukes-learning-tour)

**MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) home repair program is seeking summer staff in Kimball, West Virginia or Elkhorn City, Kentucky.** These three-month positions for Job Site Coordinators and Meals Coordinators will allow you to explore new cultures, develop skills, build friendships and live out your faith. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but the roles are not limited to young adults. An hourly wage plus room and board are provided. For more information and to apply, visit [mcc.org/swap-summer-meals](http://mcc.org/swap-summer-meals) or [mcc.org/swap-summer-job-site](http://mcc.org/swap-summer-job-site). Or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at (606) 634-4418 or [AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org](mailto:AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org).

## Thank You

Adriel is so grateful to have received the endowment fund grant! We are eager to begin ordering the items for the foster parent tool kits. We are hopeful this will be a powerful resource for those beginning, as well as those already providing foster care. Thank you for your support and caring for the foster care community. ~Jenn Butler, Vice President of Adriel Development.

## Sue's seminary update

Thank you so much for your prayers and words of encouragement for my senior interview last Monday! During the interview process, I was first required to offer a 20 minute presentation. Afterward, the panel questioned me about what I presented, as well as questioned me about the papers that I had submitted, and my journey through seminary. I was quite nervous ahead of the interview because I knew they could literally ask me anything from the past 6 years of work! I am happy to report that the process all went very well, and I am approved for graduation at the end of April!

For the rest of this semester, I have one final paper left to complete, several more weeks of class, and several more weeks of my internship placement at the hospice in-patient center in Defiance. Graduation weekend is Friday, April 26th - Saturday, April 27th. The weekend includes the Dean's Luncheon, official photos, and the Commissioning Service on Friday, as well as graduation rehearsal, more photos, and the Commencement Ceremony on Saturday. The Friday Commissioning Service and the Saturday Commencement Ceremony will also be available to watch live online. If you are interested in watching either of these, I can provide the links when they are available.

During the months of May, June, and July, I'll be finishing up a course that I began last summer. At the end of July, then, I'll be totally and completely done with my Master of Divinity degree program. It's challenging to get all of the course requirements completed by graduation, especially since some of them are not offered each year. Many students end up "graduating," and then finishing up a summer class, or even a summer class and a fall class, in good faith. I know some of my fellow graduates will also be continuing their work for a time beyond graduation weekend.

I am so deeply grateful for all of your support. I brag about all of you often, telling my professors and classmates what a wonderful congregation I serve. Thank you for accompanying me on this journey!