

# 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

**Elder Co-Chair** Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769

**Elder Co-Chair** Suz Wirick 419-966-2266

**Elder** Barb Yoder 567-694-3112

**Elder** Chris Richer 517-320-0429

**November 24, 2024**

## Zion Activities this Week

### **Sunday, November 24**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

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

### **Monday, November 25**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

### **Tuesday, November 26**

7:00 pm ~ Bible Study: Rev. 17-18 (310)

7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

### **Wednesday, November 27**

7:00 pm ~ Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Martins

### **Thursday, November 21 ~ Office Closed**

Church reserved for the day

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

### **Friday, November 22 ~ Office Closed**

### **Sunday, December 1**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School



## Nursery Workers

**November 24:** Eric & Marcia Lehman

**December 1:** Chad Aeschliman

## Happy Birthday

**November 26** ~ Michelle Wyse

**November 28** ~ Sam Hastings

**November 29** ~ Kathy Nofziger

## Office News

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th. Early newsletter deadline of Tuesday evening, November 26th.

## Attendance & Offering

**November 17:** 95 ~ \$11,584

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Karen Ruth

**Interlude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Call to Worship** ~ "Come And Fill Our Hearts" (VT 52)

*Karen Ruth, Anita Roth, Daniel Hastings, Elias Frankenfield*

**Prayer** ~ Karen Ruth

**Hymns** ~ Anita Roth

"Sing To The God Of Harvest" (VT 122)

"We Praise Thee, O God" (VT 91)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Karen/Bonnie

**Scripture** ~ Philippians 4:4-13

**Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

"God Of The Bible" (VT 420)

**Sermon** ~ Sue Short

**Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

"Nothing Is Lost On The Breath Of God" (VT 653)

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

**Sending Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

"Come, Bring Your Burdens" (VT 679)

**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

**November 24:** Read Philippians chapter 4. (focus will be on verses 4-13)

- ♦ What does it mean to 'rejoice' or 'not to be anxious' in the face of struggle? Is it more than just pasting a smile on our face?
- ♦ What word of hope does this text offer as we anticipate Thanksgiving and the beginning of the Advent season?

**Special Guest Sunday, December 1st:** MCC Great Lakes reached out to the pastors about an opportunity to invite Pastor Victor Dogos to Zion. Pastor Dogos is from Chad, and will be traveling around our area for a short time. He is the 2023 recipient of the Michael J. Sharp Peace Award. His work centers on empowering multiple faith denominations and tribal leaders to live together in peace. We are excited that his schedule allows him to be here on a Sunday morning, and for the opportunity to learn from his stories. **Pastor Dogos will offer a mission moment during worship on December 1st, and will also speak during the Sunday School for those who would like to hear more about his experiences.**

**Advent 2024 - "Together on the Journey"** - This year's theme focuses on the image of a hike along the way in community with one another. Where can we see God's guiding hand directing our steps as we anticipate encountering Jesus - God With Us - afresh this season?

**Longest Night Service - Wednesday, December 18th @ 7:00pm:** The winter solstice (Dec 21st) marks the day of the longest hours of darkness and shortest hours of daylight of the year. Some churches use this occasion to acknowledge grief. This observance is a short and quiet service of readings, prayer, and candle lighting. Grief can take many forms, from the death of a loved one to the loss that comes from a change in life situation. All are welcome to this space to receive comfort.

**Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday, December 24th @ 7:00pm:** Come celebrate at this short service of joy for all ages! We'll conclude with our traditional candle light singing of "Silent Night."

## Midweek Service & Class Info

**Tuesdays at 7 PM:** There will be a Bible Study on Revelation. We will be studying chapters 17-18 this week. This series will run through the end of the year.

## Prayers for the Global Church

**Mennonite Education Agency:**

Bluffton (Ohio) University: May our Bluffton community be thankful for our alumni and friends, who support and value the importance of higher education at Bluffton University.

Goshen (Indiana) College: Pray for Goshen College students, especially those who will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday far away from their families.

Hesston (Kansas) College: Pray for our students, as they travel home for Thanksgiving break. May they have safe travels home and back to campus, wonderful reconnections with family and friends, and the opportunity to reflect on all they are thankful for.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** On Thanksgiving Day, Joseph and Rachel Givens, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network, will continue a tradition of gathering the guests of Maria Skobtsova House and the other houses of refuge around Calais, France, for a meal. Pray that on this day, God's love will be shown, so that people fleeing violence may find community and people who are hungry may eat their fill.

## Book Nook

**New Books:** Christian Fiction - *A Truth Revealed* by Tracie Peterson and *Unforgotten* by Shelley Shephard Gray

**Donated Book:** *Postcards From Babylond* by Brian Zahnd.

## Thank You

"A BIG thank you to the ZOW children and adult helpers for inviting us to their Thanksgiving feast last Wednesday evening! It was fun to help you with the prep and to eat together." - Sue and John David

## Pastoral Review

The Pastor Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC) is patterning the upcoming pastoral review after the review document that was used in 2020, along with some updates. The PCRC has conferred with the Interim Conference Minister, Dan Miller, to look over the survey before releasing it to the congregation to be completed. The PCRC also asked the pastors to fill out a form about themselves, which will be compared to the congregation's feedback.

The review process timeline will be as follows:

- **November 10<sup>th</sup>:** Surveys are available for completion and will close on December 10th.
- **December/ January:** PCRC will compile and evaluate the responses to the survey.
- **January/ February:** PCRC will review a summary of the evaluation and responses with Pastors and Elders
- **February/March:** PCRC will provide the Congregation with a summary of results.

Electronic survey responses are encouraged via Google Docs and a link will be provided. Paper surveys are available on the table across the mailboxes, and PCRC members would also be willing to have face-to-face sit-downs to receive direct input from congregants and a sign-up sheet is available for those on the table.

If you have questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact one of the PCRC members: Micah Frankenfield, Bonnie Stuckey, Rachel Short and Larry Short

## New Announcements

**Zion is hosting a blood drive on Friday, December 6th,** from 12pm until 6pm. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use keyword ZIONMENN. See the bulletin board for more details.

**On the Level announcement:** Our November edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, learn about Bridging Together, a new partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response, read how hope is being renewed in Santa Cruz plus get all the details for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/4fWz7HD>

**Yule love this! Join MCC for a live, online event on Tuesday, December 3 at 12:00 p.m. EST** as we take you behind the scenes of MCC's Christmas Giving Guide. Discover the impact behind each gift and how your generosity makes a difference. Learn more and register to join this event at: [mcc.org/yule-love-this](http://mcc.org/yule-love-this)

**The Stewardship Team** is taking grant requests for the Zion endowment fund. Applications can be found on the table across from the mailboxes. They can be turned into the office or to Dan Ruth's box. Deadline for the applications is January 1, 2024. Please contact stewardship team with any questions. ~ Stewardship Team: Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Crystal Rodriguez & Lynn Roth.

**A note from Black Swamp Benefit, Inc.** The last annual Black Swamp Benefit, supporting the global work of MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) and the local work of Sunshine, Inc. was held in 2019. It is with great joy that we have been able to work alongside each of the organizations over the many years....working toward the goal of supporting each financially and bringing awareness to our community of their good works and what they do for those they serve. Your individual and church involvement were greatly appreciated! You volunteered your time and talents to the event. You donated and purchased auction and food items each year. This year any remaining event items were disposed of through donations to other non-profit organizations or by sale. Recently final checks were given. With your help, we raised and donated, after expenses, over \$2,308,616 for both organizations since 2002! THANK YOU! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

**Exploring Baptism:** We would like to offer an upcoming *Exploring Baptism* class for any high school student or adult who is interested. Through readings, spiritual practices, and group discussion, we'll explore what it means to follow Jesus, and to engage with the ongoing story of God at work in us and in our world. Participation in the class does not *require* baptism. We are committed, initially, to meeting together to learn more. Each class member will be asked at the conclusion to decide whether they are ready to commit themselves to be baptized. See Sue or John David if you'd like to join the class.



TREE TAGS FOR CHRISTMAS CHEER WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH OFFICE BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. A TABLE WILL BE SET UP OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR DONATED ITEMS.

1,200 FULTON COUNTY FAMILIES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERSONALIZED SHOPPING EXPERIENCE IN THE JUNIOR FAIR BUILDING IN WAUSEON. FAMILIES MAY SHOP FOR ANYTHING FROM CANNED GOODS AND DETERGENTS TO HATS, GLOVES, TOWELS, AND MORE.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, YOU MAY DO SO ONLINE THROUGH CHRISTMAS CHEER'S WEBSITE

FULTONCOUNTYCHRISTASCHEER.ORG OR BY SENDING A CHECK TO:  
CHEER, PEG HINES 209 BURKE ST., ARCHBOLD, OH 43502.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## Don't Forget