

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

December 1, 2024

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

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, December 1

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

Monday, December 2

Church Reserved all day (kitchen/fh)
9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm ~ Bible Study: Rev. 19-20 (310)

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 am ~ AAMA (off campus)
3:00 pm ~ Pastor Peer at Zion
6:00 pm ~ ZOW (kitchen) (preschool-5th)
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, December 5

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer (fellowship hall)
7:00 pm ~ Contemplative Worship Service (fellowship hall)
7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice (sanctuary)
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Friday, December 6

12:00 pm ~ Red Cross Blood Drive (multipurpose room)

Saturday, December 7

3:00 pm ~ Church Reserved (kitchen/gym/fh)

Sunday, December 8

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
7:00 pm ~ Christmas Choir Concert



Nursery Workers

December 1: Chad Aeschliman Family
December 8: Joyce Nafziger & Naomi Richer

Happy Birthday

December 1 ~ Martha Yoder
December 2 ~ Bonnie Short
December 3 ~ Keith Lehman
December 4 ~ Tony Sauder
December 6 ~ Doug Shoemaker, Dale Short
December 7 ~ Glora Belle Yoder

Happy Anniversary

December 1 ~ Neil & Kathy Nofziger (45 years)

Attendance & Offering

November 24: 106 ~ \$4,830

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Trevor Short
Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Trevor Short
Candle Lighting
~ Larry Wyse & Elizabeth Gaydou Miller
Hymns ~ Julia Richer
"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (VT 218)
"To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born" (VT 259)
Mission Moment ~ Pastor Victor Dogos
Offering/Offertory ~ Trevor/Karen
Time for young and young at heart ~ Steve Hastings
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"O Come, O Come, Immanuel" (VT 210)
Scripture ~ Daniel 6:6-27
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"Praise To The Living God" (VT 204)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Karen Ruth
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"God, Be With Us" (VT 613)
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

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 Global Peacemaker 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? Stop by the table across from the mailboxes to pick up your advent at home devotional which coordinates with our worship themes.

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.

On **Thursdays at 7 PM:** Join us for a contemplative service of prayer and silence and scripture.

Book Nook

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

Donated Book: *Postcards From Babylon* 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 10th:** 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

Martha Yoder turns 99 on Sunday, December 1. If you would like to remember her with a card, you can put it in her mailbox here at church, and Helen Weldy will see that she gets it. Or you can mail it to her at Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold.

Please consider purchasing new gifts this Christmas for individuals with developmental disabilities who are supported by Sunshine Communities. You can choose items on the holiday wish list (on the table across from the mailboxes) or by making a donation to Sunshine Communities. A \$40 donation will purchase a gift for one person, while \$500 will provide gifts for a living group of eight persons, as well as a shared item for the living area. Your gift can be made online (specify Holiday Gift Fund) or turn it in to the church office. The gifts do not need to be wrapped and can be placed in the basket across from the mailboxes. They need to be delivered to Sunshine on December 6. Thank you.

Global Anabaptist Bible Read-A-Thon: MennoMedia and Mennonite World Conference are partnering to sponsor an audio streaming of the entire Bible, recorded by Anabaptists from all around the world. This recording is in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement in 2025. Beginning January 18th, you'll be able to pop online and listen at any time to the 72 hour audio. Readers are needed to contribute to the recording in the language of their choice. If you are interested, fill out the form on the MennoMedia website at this link: <https://www.mennomedia.org/register-now/> You will receive an email with your assigned chapters of scripture, along with recording instructions and a link to record. Your recording must be completed by December 15th. Join Sue and register to read!

Don't Forget

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 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

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.

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!