

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 8, 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 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

Monday, December 9

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers (310)

5:30 pm ~ SLT (MYF room)

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

Wednesday, December 11

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)

7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, December 12

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer (fellowship hall)

4:45 pm ~ Choir Caroling

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Saturday, December 14

10:00 am ~ Church Reserved (kitchen/gym/fh)

Sunday, December 15

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

12:00 pm ~ Church Reserved for Family Reunion

Nursery Workers

December 8: Joyce Nafziger & Naomi Richer

December 15: Lonnie & Carol Short

Happy Birthday

December 14 ~ Karin Legato

Happy Anniversary

December 14 ~ Kirk & Sally Beck (50 years)

Attendance & Offering

December 1: 95 ~ \$11,960

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Noteworthy

Welcome & Announcements ~ Jackie Lehman

Interlude ~ 9th Grade Treble Quartet

Haiden Beck, Keren Maldonado, Sarah Young, Sophie Wyse

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Jackie Lehman

Opening Choral Hymns ~ Zion Choir

“O Savior, Rend The Heavens Wide”

“Comfort, Comfort O My People”

Candle Lighting ~ David & LouAnn Kanagy

Opening Congregational Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Hark! The Glad Sound!” (VT 217)

Offering/Offertory ~ Jackie/Anita

Time for young and young at heart ~ Steve Hastings

Scripture ~ Joel 2:12-13; 28-29

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

Scripture ~ Luke 3:3-16

Sermon ~ Sue Short

Communion

Prayer for Church & World ~ John David Thacker

Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“He Came Down” (VT 239)

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

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: No Bible study this week. Join next week for a study of Revelation chapters 21-22.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for Hillcrest Academy's student athletes playing basketball. During the winter season, as they practice, compete, and travel, pray for the health and safety of our teams and coaches, for spectators coming onto our campus, and for our fans.

Goshen (Indiana) College: Pray for Goshen College basketball players as they compete this month.

Hesston (Kansas) College: Pray for our students at Hesston College, as they leave campus today and head home for the Christmas holiday break. Also, pray for international students, who may not be able to return home for the holidays to see their families.

Mennonite Mission Network: Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine. Professors are adapting curricula to the changing needs of a society traumatized by prolonged war. Pray for the students, who are immediately putting into practice what they learn in their courses about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and crisis counseling and as they share the healing love of Christ.

Address Change

Kenny and Evon Rufenacht have moved to an Independent Living apartment at Fairlawn. Their new address is: 600 Haven Drive, Apt 116, Archbold, OH 43502

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

Upcoming address directory: An updated address directory will be coming after the new year. If you think your information may have changed since the last one, feel free to double check with the office to make sure your information is up to date!

Congregational Caregivers will meet Monday, December 9th in room 310.

We hope the ladies will join us for Mennonite Women next Wed., Dec. 11 from 9-3:00. Lunch is provided. Mennonite Women have been learning more about the stories behind favorite hymns during their devotion time this year. Sue Short will offer a story about a favorite Christmas Carol for our meeting this month.

The Builder's Class that meets in room 310 will be studying the book *How To Pray* by Pete Greig. The study will be taught by John David for the first 4 sessions. You are welcome to join us after the worship service.

Mennonite College Student Aid - As our students return home for Christmas break, and prepare for the upcoming spring semester at our Mennonite colleges in the coming weeks, we welcome your contributions to Zion's student aid fund, either as fulfillment of an existing pledge or as a new contribution. Your support of this important ministry of Zion is much appreciated. Our six students this semester are Kate Roth and Keegan & Quinn Wyse at Goshen College, and Ella Richer and Rachel & Sarah Wheeler at Eastern Mennonite University. Thank you for your support of our students!

~College Financial Aid Committee

The Martin Luther King Jr. Kitchen for the Poor is collecting items to celebrate Christmas. We at Zion will be collecting gifts for the young children of families who attend the Kitchen. The range is birth through age 12. Gift ideas include toys (still in packaging), hats, gloves, scarves, etc. For teens, gift cards (Kohls, Target, Walmart, etc.) are great options for them to then purchase what they like. **Please place your new and unwrapped gifts under the tree by the elevator area by Thursday, December 19.** The gifts will then be delivered to the Kitchen for the Poor. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the MLK Kitchen for the Poor.

Don't Forget

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!

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.



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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!