

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

Pastor Sue Short
Pastor John David Thacker

Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034
LAMP: 419-445-0728

September 14, 2025

Elder Suz Wirick
Elder Barb Yoder
Elder Chris Richer
Elder Max Aeschliman

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, September 14

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

Monday, September 15

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 18

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, September 21

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday school
11:30 am ~ LAMP Spaghetti Fundraiser (fellowship hall)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Larry Wyse

Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Larry Wyse

Hymns ~ Cheryl Britsch

"My Hope Is Built" (VT 621)

"A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus" (VT 626)

Offering/Offertory ~ Larry/Karen

Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch

"Jesus, Rock of Ages" (VT 622)

Scripture ~ Isaiah 44:1-8

Sermon ~ Sue Short

Communion

Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch

"Eat This Bread" (VT 476)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick

Sending Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch

"I Will Call Upon The Lord"

Benediction ~ Sue Short

Happy Birthday

September 14 ~ Julia Richer, Kenneth Rufenacht

September 15 ~ LouAnn Kanagy, Holly Liechty,
Jan Cobb Nofziger

September 16 ~ Ladonna Andres, Elias Frankenfield

September 17 ~ Brenda Aeschliman, Joe Legato,
Ben Wheeler

September 20 ~ Lynette Bontrager, Pete Rodriguez

Happy Anniversary

September 17 ~ Bill & Kathy Beck (47 years)

Nursery Workers

September 14: Lonnie & Carol Short

September 21: Glora Belle Yoder & Karen Ringenberg



*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

During the month of September, we'll take a thematic look at a few of the Old Testament prophets. What is the role of a prophet? How might these ancient words speak to us today?

Sept 14: "Groundedness during Crisis" (Isaiah)

Sept 21: "Speaking to the Powerful" (Elijah)

Sept 28: "Calling us to Faithful Obedience" (Jeremiah)

Formation Ministries Start Dates for Children and Youth

- Sunday School classes for preschool - high school will begin for the year on Sunday, September 14th.
- ZOW (Zion on Wednesdays) for preschool - grade 6 will begin for the year on Wednesday, September 17th, from 6:00 -7:00pm. (See the schedule for all the meeting dates for this school year on another page of the newsletter.)
- MYF (this year - grades 8-12) Held a kickoff of September 10th. They begin meeting weekly on Wednesday, September 17th with a work night at the church.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas: As the 2025-26 school year begins, pray for new employees at Bethel College, especially faculty in biology, economics, health and human performance, and staff in student life and athletics

Mennonite Mission Network: requests prayer for the Mennonite Christian Hospital (MCH) in Taiwan, the largest Mennonite hospital in the world, which offers diverse medical specialties and advanced technologies across multiple campuses. Pray that MCH's commitment to serving marginalized people in remote communities will continue to offer well-being to all of Taiwan's people.

Thank You

Dear Zion family, my deepest thanks to each of you for holding me and my blended family close in your hearts and prayers! The journey is difficult but we feel the love and concern. Your many kind words, hugs, prayers, and shared tears have touched my heart and mean so much! I am richly blessed and encouraged to continue on my journey knowing each of you, and God walks with me daily. Thank you for sharing the road with us. - Love and Peace always, Suz and family

New Announcements

The Sojourners/Builders Sunday school class is inviting those **70 and over to lunch at Fairlawn on Sunday, October 5**. If you would like to attend please let Tom (419-438-5145) or Bonnie Stuckey (419-551-6847) know by September 21. For Fairlawn's convenience, reservations are needed.

The Tuesday Archbold Community Meals will be resuming in October. (The remodeling at St John's Christian Church has not been completed as quickly as they had anticipated.) The schedule to provide meals is covered through the end of 2025. The Mission in Service team is looking for small groups, Sunday School classes, families, or a group of friends to schedule a Tuesday to prepare, transport, and serve a meal sometime in January - May 2026. Please contact Stan Short, Mission in Service team chair, for more information.

We invite all young adults to be a part of MCC's [Seeking Shalom Peace Camp](#), November 1–8! Come explore the meaning of shalom as a wholistic sense of peace that is not just the absence of violence, but the presence of life-giving relationships and dignity for all people. Register by October 5.

Organ Recital at St. Martin's: St. Martin's Lutheran Church opens its 2025–26 Concert Series with *Of Spirit, Strife, and Serenity*, an organ recital by Matthew Wachtman on Sunday, September 28 at 3pm (203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold). Matthew serves as Director of Music and Worship at St. Martin's and was recently appointed Lecturer of Organ at the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Performing Arts. He is a prize-winning organist, active composer, and published scholar, recognized for his engaging recitals across the country. The program brings together music of Diemer, Rorem, Locklair, Price, Langlais, Franck, and Wachtman himself—works that embody the concert's expressive themes. Admission is free, and all are invited to help us begin a new season of inspiring music at St. Martin's.



Don't Forget

In August Mennonite Women reported that we packaged up 200 school bags with all the supplies you provided. We are happy to announce this week we were able to provide 100 more for MCC's School Kit Challenge. Our total this year was 300! Thank you to everyone who participated. We will report the overall totals towards the 25,000 goal as soon as we hear.

LAMP will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sunday, September 21 at Zion. Food with start after church (11:30 am) and go until 1:30 pm. Any money raised will go to support the services LAMP provides to immigrants.

Update from Gifts Discernment Ministry Team: Thank you to all who responded to the Affirmation Slate and to those

who have agreed to serve on the various Ministry Teams for this new church year. We received a total of 61 responses and the overall affirmation rate was 99.7%. An updated list of Zion's Ministry Team members will be included with the new 2025 church documents that will be made available soon. ~ Gifts Discernment Ministry Team

2025-2026

ZOW

ZION ON WEDNESDAYS

SCHEDULE

AGES PRESCHOOL-6TH GRADE

JOIN US FOR BIBLE
STUDY, FELLOWSHIP,
SERVICE
PROJECTS, SNACKS,
AND FUN!

CONTACT ABBY PENNINGTON
WITH QUESTIONS (419) 572-1345

SEPTEMBER
17TH

OCTOBER
1ST & 15TH

NOVEMBER
5TH & 19TH

DECEMBER
3RD & 17TH

CHRISTMAS SONGS TBD
DECEMBER 7 OR 14

JANUARY
21ST

FEBRUARY
4TH & 18TH

MARCH
4TH

APRIL
1ST & 29TH

6:00-7:00PM

🎵 **Come Sing With Us!** 🎵 Do you love music? Do you find joy in harmonizing with others? Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or someone who just sings in the shower, our choir welcomes you! Joining the choir is more than just singing—it's about community, connection, and lifting spirits together. We rehearse weekly, share plenty of laughs, and sing music that inspires and uplifts. **No auditions. No pressure. Just voices raised in joy.** If you've ever felt the tug to sing, now's the time. Come to our first rehearsal on **Thursday evening, September 25 in the sanctuary, 7-8:30 pm**, and see what it's all about! If you want more information talk with Bonnie Stuckey, any choir member or the director, Duane Beck. Let your voice be heard—because every note matters, and so do you.

SLT Minutes

Devotion: The August SLT meeting was held after church. We began with a light lunch with some of Greg's favorites, as it was his last SLT meeting due to his term ending. After the meal, the meeting was opened with Greg leading devotions. He told a story from his baseball playing days about curveballs. He encouraged us to look challenges in the eye, instead of fearing them, and to consider how situations we encounter might look from another perspective. He closed the devotions with prayer.

Pastoral Care concerns in the congregation were discussed.

Memorial money: Greg reported that he thinks the Stewardship Team is pretty much up to date on dispersing the memorial donations that have come in. We discussed the need to continue to keep communication lines open, so that any group in the congregation that receives a designated donation is informed and a thank you can be given in a timely manner.

Formation Team: Duane Sauder and Sarah Hastings from the Gifts Discernment Team, and Carol Short from the Formation Team, met with John David and Sue to discuss restructuring the Formation Team. John David had sent the elders the information about this discussion for feedback, and there was agreement that it seemed like a good plan. The proposal was taken to Church Council, who voted to approve the new structure for the Formation Team. The Gifts Discernment Team will be finding people for the restructured team.

Vacation Bible School: Sue gave a report on this year's Archbold Community Vacation Bible School with Archbold Methodist, St. Martin's Lutheran, and PEACE Mennonite. She said the week went very well, and felt that the collaboration was a good opportunity to make Bible School available again for Zion kids. The week included a service project to collect school supplies and clothing items for Archbold and Pettisville elementary schools. There were about 50 kids who attended. The VBS leadership team (one person from each of the four congregations) met after VBS week to evaluate. They discussed ways that the three non-hosting churches could be more involved in the week, in order not to overburden the host church. Zion will take a turn hosting VBS next year.

Report on MCUSA Convention Delegate Session:

John David and Sue gave some updates on the MCUSA Convention. Overall, it was a good week to connect with friends from near and far, and to worship together. They reported that during the delegate business session, the resolution entitled *Abuse Prevention and Response in Mennonite Church USA*, that the SLT had discussed at previous meetings, passed. Ohio Conference has already been following the guidelines set forth in this document. The main addition to the resolution, as presented at Convention, was that all conferences will be required to follow the resolution exactly as written. This marks a big change in church polity for MCUSA. It is more of a 'top down' style approach, rather than conferences having their own discernment in how they follow guidelines. John David felt that there was a lot of heavy-handed language in the document, and that the requirement that all conferences follow it sets a precedent that may turn out to be problematic.

Ohio Conference Delegates: The fall cluster meeting for Ohio Conference delegates in our region will be held at Tedrow Mennonite in September. John David and Sue will be going, as pastors are automatically delegates. Another name was suggested to ask to serve as a delegate. Annual Conference Assembly will likely be moved to late July this year, from its usual spot in early March.

Other Discussion:

- There was some discussion about the decrease in congregational giving.
- We briefly discussed the idea of a churchwide overnight retreat again.
- The meeting ended with words of affirmation for Greg for his six years of service as an elder. His insight and concern for the well-being of all in the congregation were a valuable addition to the Spiritual Leadership Team.

The next SLT meeting is Monday, September 8.