

# 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  
Pastor John David Thacker

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

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

**September 28, 2025**

## Zion Activities this Week

### **Sunday, September 28**

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

### **Monday, September 29**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, October 1**

10:00 am ~ AAMA (pastors off campus)  
6:00 pm ~ ZOW (preschool-6th)  
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

### **Thursday, October 2**

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

### **Sunday, October 5 ~ *World Communion Sunday***

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:00 am ~ Choir  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School  
12:00 pm ~ Over 70 Fairlawn lunch

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Karen Ringenberg

**Interlude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Karen Ringenberg

**Hymns** ~ Anita Roth

“Come, Thou Fount” (VT 563)

“All Who Are Thirsty” (VT 49)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Karen/Karen

**Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

“I Sought The Lord” (VT 161)

**Scripture** ~ Stan Short ~ Jeremiah 2:4-13; 3:11-14

**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker

**Congregational Response**

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Sue Short

**Sending Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

“You Shall Go Out With Joy” (VT 847)

**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker

## Happy Birthday

**October 1** ~ Bonnie Short

**October 3** ~ Lydia Hastings

**October 3** ~ Corey Roth

**October 4** ~ Merrill Spiess

## Nursery Workers

**September 28:** Lonnie & Carol Short

**October 5:** Nikki Aeschliman & Miriam Richer



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

Oct 5th: World Communion Sunday - Join us for our annual celebration of our connection to other Christians of many denominations around the globe.

## Prayers for the Global Church

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Pray that MMN's Mennonite Voluntary Service participants in San Francisco, California — Bella Kephart, Keyan Krabill, Emmi Scott and Ana Esperanza Neufeld Weaver, who is continuing for a second year — will build good rhythms of life, as they learn to live as a household, adjust to their service assignments and integrate into their host congregation, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco.

## Thank You

**Thank you to the MYF youth and sponsors** for washing windows and painting the bases of the light poles in the parking lot. We appreciate your service!

**Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge!** Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 25,000 school kits for the 2025 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed **29,639 school kits!** Each of the 29,639 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year!

## Book Nook

Bonnie Stuckey has compiled a book of photos of beautiful flowers and quotations from famous people. *A Paintbrush for Joni* by John Geco is a book about Joni Eirikson Tada's true life story written for children.

## New Announcements

**You are still welcome to sing** with the choir if you would enjoy doing that. The next rehearsal is Thursday, October 2 at 7:00. Talk with Bonnie Stuckey if you're interested.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Shalom's Annual BBQ Fall Fundraiser will be Sunday, October 12th, 2025 from 11am-1:30pm at Ruihley Park in Archbold. Dine in or Carry-out meals will be served with your choice of a BBQ chicken or a pulled pork meal by donation. Help us help others in need of mental health services!

## Don't Forget

**Save the Date:** Our annual congregational business meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19th in the fellowship hall after worship. We welcome and encourage all who are engaged in the life of the congregation to attend.

**The preschool is looking to borrow** an old fashion apple peeler corer slicer. If you have one you would let them use for a day or 2, please contact Mrs. King at 419-551-7679. Also, we are in need of a few more farming toys. If you have gently used tractors, wagons or combines you'd be willing to donate, we would love to add them to our collection!

**MCC webinar: Detained and imprisoned - Immigration and mass incarceration in the U.S.:** On September 30, from 1:00-2:15 p.m. EDT, MCC will host a webinar to discuss the overlapping systems of immigrant detention and mass incarceration. Through guided panel conversation, speakers will consider the shared historical underpinnings, current manifestations, and spiritual ramifications of our approach to enforcement in the U.S. Join this free webinar to learn why solidarity with affected communities is important and how you can get involved to interrupt systems of harm. More information and registration: [mcc.org/solidarity-webinar](https://mcc.org/solidarity-webinar)

# Spiritual Leadership Team Minutes

September 8, 2025

**Devotion:** John David led a devotion from chapter 7 of *Divine Gravity* by Meghan Good. The chapter used the story from Matthew 4 when Jesus was tempted by Satan. One of the temptations was to be a powerful ruler. Jesus's denial of that power was one of the things that drew people to Christianity. For the first 300 years of Christianity, Christians didn't have any power, and the self-sacrificing love demonstrated by Jesus attracted followers. This changed as Christianity became a part of the government. Today it is helpful for the Church to remember the humility that Jesus modeled and try to live in to it.

**Beginning of the year organization:** The SLT welcomed Max Aeschliman to his first meeting with a light supper. Chris and Suz agreed to be elder co-chairs for the upcoming year. Suz will work on getting the agenda around, checking in with Chris before sending it out. Chris will lead the meetings. Together, they will make sure there is SLT representation at Church Council meetings. Suz will put together a report on SLT activities for the yearly report and get it to Bethany. Sue will lead devotions with the final chapter of the book *Divine Gravity* next month. John David and Sue will bring some suggestions for what we might read together for the coming year. The group read through the SLT Covenant, discussed as needed, and signed it. Mike Zimmerman has agreed to be a delegate for Ohio Conference ACA. Suz will get bread for communion on September 14. The next communion will be on October 5, the first week of the month, because it's World Communion Sunday.

**Pastoral care concerns in the congregation were discussed.**

**Safety concerns:** Having a handrail to get up the steps to the podium in the sanctuary has been discussed by a few groups for some time. We would like to see this idea move forward to the church council and trustees. Those who have been looking at possible options for handrails will pass them along.

**Ongoing topics:** An upcoming membership transfer request was discussed. There wasn't much time to talk about the idea of a churchwide retreat, but Barb handed out a list of issues for consideration as we continue the discussion.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 13 at 5:30.

## Help Wanted

Ohio Conference Safety Liaison: Do you have a passion for keeping our churches safe?

Ohio Mennonite Conference, along with other area conferences of Mennonite Church USA, will soon be implementing a new Abuse Prevention and Accountability Policy. The policy stresses preventing abuse and will provide consistency in how conferences handle cases of pastoral misconduct.

As part of implementation, each conference will have a "Conference Safety Liaison", who will serve as a point person within the conference for education on preventing abuse and will also work with conference staff to respond to reported misconduct.

We are looking for a volunteer to serve in the role (stipend and travel costs covered), who is part of an OMC congregation and brings interest and skills in this area. If you have interest or would like to nominate someone, please contact Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, credentialing committee chair: [rachelle@millersburgmennonite.org](mailto:rachelle@millersburgmennonite.org) OR Paula Snyder Belousek, Conference Minister: [paula@ohiomennoniteconference.org](mailto:paula@ohiomennoniteconference.org).

If you are interested, please have your information submitted by September 30th.