

# 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

**December 14, 2025**

## Zion Activities this week

### **Sunday, December 14**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School  
12:00 pm ~ Church Reserved

### **Monday, December 15**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 17**

8:30 am ~ Kitchen Reserved  
6:00 pm ~ ZOW (preschool-6th)  
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)  
7:00 pm ~ Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday, December 18**

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

### **Saturday, December 20**

1:00 pm ~ Mary Ellen Nofziger's Visitation  
2:00 pm ~ Mary Ellen Nofziger's Memorial Service

### **Sunday, December 21**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (no kids)



## Happy Birthday

**December 14** ~ Karin Legato

**December 16** ~ Jodi Nofziger

**December 17** ~ Ruth Shoemaker

## Happy Anniversary

**December 14** ~ Kirk & Sally Beck (51 years)

## Nursery Workers

**December 14:** Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth

**December 21:** Joyce Nafziger & Naomi Richer

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey & Julia Richer

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Kiersten Payne

**Silent Interlude**

**Call to Worship** ~ Kiersten Payne

**Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (VT 218)

**Prayer** ~ Kiersten Payne

**Advent Candle Lighting** ~ Dave & Jana Wheeler family

**Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

“He Came Down” (VT 239 Hope, Peace, Joy)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Kiersten/slides

**Scripture** ~ Psalm 146:5-10

**Children's Time** ~ Karen Ruth

**Children/Youth Singing**

**Scripture** ~ Luke 1:39-56

**Hymn** ~ Anita Roth

“My Soul Cries Out” (VT 412)

**Sermon** ~ Sue Short

**Communion**

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ John David Thacker

**Sending Hymn** ~ Anita Roth & ZOW kids

“Shalom Chaverim” (VT 842)

**Benediction** ~ Sue Short

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*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.*

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## Upcoming Worship

**Advent Gospel of Luke Read Thru:** If you haven't started reading Luke yet, it's never too late to join in! Start today and keep going. The goal is to encounter Luke's gospel as a single unit, and it's ok to take whatever time you need to complete it. If you are currently reading, keep at it and share what you are learning with someone!



**Advent 2025 Worship: The Mystery of the Incarnation:** As we look forward to the Second Coming of Christ, we remember the first coming of Jesus. This year during Advent, we want to focus on the mystery and gift of the Incarnation, a time when heaven and earth intersected. We look forward to a second Incarnation when Christ will bring shalom to all people. We will follow the lectionary texts with John 1 as an underlying text.

**Sunday, Dec 14th - Advent 3:** "He Came Down That We Might Have JOY" (Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:39-56)

**Wednesday, Dec 17th - Longest Night Service @ 7:00pm:** The winter solstice (Dec 21st) marks the point in the year when there are the longest number of hours of darkness, and the shortest hours of daylight. Some churches use this occasion to hold a special service, on or near this date, to acknowledge grief and loss. This observance is a very short, simple, and quiet service of readings, prayers, and candle lighting. Grief can take many forms - from the death of a loved one, to a sense of loss that accompanies a change in life situation. All are welcome to this space.

**Sunday, Dec 21st - Advent 4:** "He Came Down That We Might Have LOVE." (Matthew 1:18-25)

**Wednesday, Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00pm:** Our theme this year is "The Promise." Come celebrate Emmanuel (God with us) at this service of beautiful music, scripture, favorite Christmas carols, and candlelight "Silent Night." We will also collect our annual offering for the aid fund.

**Sunday, Dec 28th - Christmas Sunday** (Matthew 2:13-23)



## Thank You

From the family of Ron Grieser: Thank you all for the visits, the treats, the kind and encouraging words, those who drove him to appointments, and even the baby placed in his lap (he loved it), and especially for the prayers offered. Thank you Sue and John David for the visits and prayers, and for his memorial service. Thank you, ladies, who prepared food and served the meal after his memorial service. Not only was Ron blessed by these actions, but the entire family was too.

The SLT would like to thank those who took the time to complete the survey about a potential church retreat. Based on the responses, we will start looking at potential locations and dates.

## New Announcements

**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 five students this semester are Kate Roth and Keegan & Quinn Wyse at Goshen College, and Ella Richer and Sarah Wheeler at Eastern Mennonite University. Thank you for your support of our students! ~College Financial Aid Committee

**Arrangements for Sherm Kauffman:** Visitation will be held on Friday, December 26th from 2:00-4:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship (2509 Berkey Avenue Goshen, IN). The funeral will be on Saturday, December 27th at 11:00am at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship. Link to the obituary: <https://www.yoderculpfuneralhome.com/obituaries/sherman-kauffman>

**Calling all 17–20 year-olds: Take a gap year that matters!** Service Adventure is a 10-month volunteer program (August 2026–June 2027) where you'll live in joyful community with peers and caring unit leaders, serve at a local nonprofit 25–35 hours a week, and grow deeper in faith with a supporting congregation. Applications are open now—don't wait! Learn more and apply at [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](https://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure)

## Don't Forget

**The Martin Luther King Jr. Kitchen for the Poor in Toledo is collecting gifts to celebrate Christmas with the families they serve.** Zion has a long history of partnership with the Kitchen. For our annual gift collection, we invite you to purchase new toys, books, or games (still in original packaging) or winter items such as hats, gloves, and scarves for children ages baby through age 12. The Kitchen also serves many teenagers and appreciates gift cards to stores like Kohl's, Walmart, Target, etc.. for them. **Please leave your new and unwrapped items under the Christmas tree near the elevator by Wednesday, December 17th. Items will be delivered on Thursday, December 18th.** Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the Kitchen for the Poor.  
- Mission in Service team

**It is almost time for the MCC Mobile Meat Canner to arrive in Goshen at The Depot Thrift Shop.** As in past years, the meat canning committee is looking for volunteers from Mennonite and Brethren churches. The process has changed somewhat since 2021, and they grind the turkey or chicken meat rather than cut it into chunks as they used to. They are looking for volunteers to help any day from Tuesday, January 6 – Saturday, January 10; and Monday, January 12 – Friday, January 16, 2026. The committee is also in need of funds to help pay for the meat. Please see the bulletin board for ways that your church can help with either time or money. If you have questions, please contact Elam Weaver at 574-202-3250 or [weaversdcs@abcmailbox.net](mailto:weaversdcs@abcmailbox.net).

**2026 Ohio Conference Winter Book Study:** This year we will be study-ing **Making It Plain: Why We Need Anabaptism and the Black Church**, a book by Drew G. I. Hart. Winter Read discussion sessions will take place on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning January 7 and concluding on March 18. Sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. **Registration is free.** Participants need to purchase their own copy of the book. It is available on **Amazon, Menno Media**, or any other purchasing platform the reader chooses.

**Ruihley Park Blood Drive** Tuesday, December 30th 8:00am – 2:00pm All donors receive a special Long Sleeve Red Cross T-Shirt! For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**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, 2026.** Please contact the Stewardship Team with any questions: Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Karin Legato & Lynn Roth.