

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

December 21, 2025

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

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, December 21

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

Monday, December 22

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service (sanctuary & zoom)

Thursday, December 25 ~ *Christmas Day*

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Friday, December 26

Church reserved for the day

Saturday, December 27

11:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Church Reserved

Sunday, December 28

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm ~ Church Reserved

Office News

The church office will be closed for the holidays on
12/25, 12/26, 1/1, and 1/2.



Happy Birthday

December 23 ~ Sarah Hastings

December 23 ~ Quinn Wyse

Happy Anniversary

December 26 ~ Ned & Mary Gisel (54 years)

December 26 ~ David & LouAnn Kanagy (61 years)

Nursery Workers

December 21: Joyce Nafziger & Naomi Richer

December 28: Carol Short & Elaine Short

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Barb Yoder

Silent Interlude

Call to Worship ~ Barb Yoder

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Angels From The Realms Of Glory” (VT 265)

Prayer ~ Barb Yoder

Advent Candle Lighting ~ Brad & Rachel Short

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

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

Offering/Offertory ~ Barb/slides

Special Music ~ Women’s Ensemble

“The Wexford Carol”

Scripture ~ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Children’s Time ~ Karen Ruth

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“O Come, O Come” (VT 210)

Scripture ~ Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon ~ John David Thacker

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Comfort, Comfort, O My People” (VT 212)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Barb Yoder

Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Love Has Come” (VT 258)

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

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 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)



Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Mission Network: requests prayer for Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure volunteers. Some of these young adults are traveling home for Christmas. Pray for their safety in travel and as they share about their experiences with their home communities. Other participants will celebrate their first Christmas away from their families. Pray that they may experience Jesus coming into this world in a new and deeper way.

Hesston (Kansas) College: Pray for the continued clean up, restoration and reconstruction process of Charles Hall at Hesston College. Charles Hall was heavily damaged by a fire in May 2025 and the college hopes to have the building open in time for fall 2026 classes.

Please pray for all students as they have completed their finals and are returning home for Christmas. May their minds receive rest and their travels safe.

Updates from the Youth

On Wednesday evening, the ZOW kids and leaders enjoyed a fun evening out and about checking out the Archbold Festival of Lights and Archbold Parks and Rec Merry and Bright light display contest. We finished the evening off with hot cocoa, cookies, and the story of Jesus' birth at Brad and Rachel Short's house. A special thanks to Kellie and Eric Creighton for the use of their bus!

Life Planning youth and advocates are bringing Christmas joy to you. This week they created wrapping paper to share with the congregation. It's on a table in the lobby and available to anyone who still has presents to wrap. Merry Christmas!

New Announcements

You are welcome to join the Sojourners/Builders Sunday School class at 8:30 AM today, December 21 in Room 310. Amy Gingerich, executive director of MennoMedia will be joining the class via ZOOM.

An OPPORTUNITY to bring CHEER and TREATS to our friends who cannot join us for worship is here! There are bags of Christmas treats to deliver to them in the fellowship hall. Their names and addresses are on the packages. Pick up as many as you wish and deliver some joy! ~ Fellowship Committee

MCC Comforter Bash 2026 - Come to Zion Mennonite Church on January 7 from 2-8pm. All are welcome. A meal will be provided for a donation. Come have fun providing warmth around the world with comforters. Contact Chris Wyse for questions or to volunteer at 419-516-4164.

On the Level announcement: Our December edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, U.S. Board Chair Wayne Yoder share his observations from the past year, learn how determination brings disaster survivors home in Ohio, and see what volunteers have accomplished this year. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3YovH9P>

Live your faith in action! Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications now for August 2026–July 2027. Adults 20+ are invited to serve for one year (renewable up to three) alongside nonprofits tackling poverty, immigration, education, health, and more. You'll live intentionally with other MVSers in a unit house, be supported by a local Mennonite church, and join a worldwide movement for peace and justice. Ready for a year that could change everything? **Visit MennoniteMission.net/MVS** to explore placements and apply today!

Don't Forget

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

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.