

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 28, 2025

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, December 28

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

Monday, December 29

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Thursday, January 1 ~ *New Year's Day (office closed)*

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Friday, January 2 ~ (*office closed*)

9:00 am ~ John Baer Visitation

11:00 am ~ John Baer Memorial Service

Saturday, January 3

9:00 am ~ Virginia Doehrmann Visitation

11:00 am ~ Virginia Doehrmann Memorial Service

Sunday, January 4

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School (no primary-high school)

Office News

Sue will be out of the office Monday, Dec 29 - Wednesday, Dec 31 for two family Christmas celebrations.

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



Happy Birthday

December 30 ~ Nedra Sauder

December 31 ~ Kathy Beck

Happy Anniversary

December 28 ~ Scott & Barb Yoder (34 years)

December 31 ~ Allen & Ginny Liechty (53 years)

December 31 ~ Dave & Jana Wheeler (37 years)

Nursery Workers

December 28: Carol Short & Elaine Short

January 4: Deb Zimmerman & Grace Hastings

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bill & Kathy Beck

Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Ruth

Interlude ~ Bill & Kathy Beck

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Karen Ruth

Advent Candle Lighting ~ Brad & Rachel Short

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“He Came Down” (VT 239)

“What Child Is This” (VT 267)

Offering/Offertory ~ Karen/Bill & Kathy

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing” (VT 247)

Scripture ~ Luke 2:1-20

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Silent Night” (VT 244)

“Go Tell It On The Mountain” (VT 252)

Scripture ~ Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon ~ John David Thacker

Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” (VT 248)

Prayer for Church & World ~ Karen Ruth

Benediction ~ John David Thacker

Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer

“Joy To The World” (VT 240)

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

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

Thank you to Zion Church, both members and pastors. I am grateful for your words of support and all your prayers. I am grateful to God for my life and for all of you. I am beginning to mend and looking forward to joining you at church soon. - Elizabeth Miller

Special thanks to everyone who helped out with Advent and Christmas services. Thanks to Kellie Creighton, Nicole Aeschliman, Mark and Joyce Nafziger for the beautiful decorations. Thanks to Kiersten Payne for writing the candle lighting liturgies. Thanks to Lynn Roth for the videos during the offering. Thanks to all who played and directed music. Thanks to Gwen Stamm for the projected artwork. Thanks for your willingness to be involved. - Karen Ruth, *Worship Team Chair*

A BIG 'Thank You' to Larry and Elaine Short and Duane Wyse for delivering our donated items to Fulton County Christmas Cheer, as well as to Larry and Elaine for also delivering the gifts to the Martin Luther King Jr. Kitchen for the Poor. The Kitchen for the Poor was incredibly thankful for all the gifts that were delivered. The Mission in Service Team is grateful for the overwhelming support from the congregation each year for these projects. Thank you for your generosity! - Stan Short, *Mission in Service chair*

New Announcements

The Prknovi family and Krabills have updated newsletters on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes.

Just Peace Pilgrimage Calais, France: Walk with migrants, listen to their stories, and serve alongside organizations bringing hope at the edge of Europe. April 6–18, 2026: This 13-day pilgrimage will forever change how you see borders, justice, and the gospel call to welcome the stranger. Registration deadline: February 15, 2026. Only a few spots remain! Contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net or visit www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace

Don't Forget

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!

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

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.