

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 7, 2025

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, December 7

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

Monday, December 8

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting
11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers (310)
5:30 pm ~ SLT (MYF room)

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 pm ~ Church Council (310)

Wednesday, December 10

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women (Fellowship hall)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, December 11

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

Saturday, December 13

10:00 am - 6:00pm ~ Church Reserved

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

Happy Birthday

December 7 ~ Glora Belle Yoder

Nursery Workers

December 7: Joe Graber & Ben Wheeler
December 14: Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Mike Zimmerman
Interlude
Call to Worship ~ Mike Zimmerman
Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"O Little Town Of Bethlehem" (VT 245)
Prayer ~ Mike Zimmerman
Advent Candle Lighting
Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"He Came Down" (VT 239)
Offering/Offertory ~ Mike/Bonnie
Scripture ~ Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"Hark, The Glad Sound" (VT 217)
Children's Time ~ Karen Ruth
Scripture ~ Isaiah 11:1-10
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"Lo, How A Rose" (VT 216)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Max Aeschliman
Sending Hymn ~ Cheryl Britsch
"Go, My Children" vs 1, 2 (VT 830)
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 Wreath/Candles and Nativity photos wanted: The season of Advent is coming soon! Beginning Sunday, November 30th, which is the first Sunday of Advent, we'd like to show photos of your Advent wreaths and nativity sets. Like we did in August with photos of your garden, we'll put the photos we receive on slides to be shown during the offering. For those who haven't gotten their Christmas items out yet, photos of Advent wreaths/candles and nativity sets from previous years are welcome! **Please email photos to the church office:** church.zionmc@gmail.com If you have photos on your phone and need help getting them off, bring your phone to the office and we'll try to assist you.

Advent Gospel of Luke Read Thru: You are invited to join in our annual reading of Luke's gospel. Beginning Monday, December 1st, read one chapter each day, and on Christmas Eve you will have read Luke in its entirety. If you've done this in previous years, try mixing it up this time - listen to an audio Bible on Biblegateway.com, use a Bible app, read from a different Bible translation, read aloud with a family member or friend, etc... If you get behind, jump back in and keep going! The goal is to encounter Luke's gospel as a single unit. It's ok if it takes extra time to complete it.



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 7th - Advent 2: "He Came Down That We Might Have PEACE" (Isaiah 11:1-10)

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

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

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



Book Nook

Spying on Jesus, a novella, by Ryan Ahlgrim, is a story about watching Caleb's faith in Jesus grow from a deeply skeptical "watcher" of Jesus to a full on disciple. This is an inspirational example from which we have something to learn. It is a good Biblical interpretation and a well crafted narrative.

New Announcements

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

Wednesday, Dec. 10th is our monthly Mennonite Women's sewing from 9 am to 2:00 pm. Join us for a Christmas celebration at Zion Mennonite Church. Child's World Preschool from Zion will present us with our Christmas program. Come see the little ones who have practiced very hard to share the joy of the Christmas season with you! We will be prepping for our upcoming Comforter Bash in January. Sewing and knotting comforters and generally getting organized will be our work for this month. Come when you can and leave when you must, but be sure to come early this month, so you don't miss out on the program, as we have to adjust to the preschool's schedule. See you there!

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@abcmmailbox.net.

2026 Ohio Conference Winter Book Study this January. It will be a Conference-wide book study using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. 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 Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Don't Forget



TREE TAGS FOR CHRISTMAS CHEER WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH OFFICE BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH. A TABLE WILL BE SET UP OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR DONATED ITEMS.

1,200 FULTON COUNTY FAMILIES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERSONALIZED SHOPPING EXPERIENCE IN THE JUNIOR FAIR BUILDING IN WAUSEON. FAMILIES MAY SHOP FOR ANYTHING FROM CANNED GOODS AND DETERGENTS TO HATS, GLOVES, TOWELS, AND MORE.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, YOU MAY DO SO ONLINE THROUGH CHRISTMAS CHEER'S WEBSITE FULTONCOUNTYCHRISTMASCHEER.ORG OR BY SENDING A CHECK TO: CHEER, PEG HINES 209 BURKE ST., ARCHBOLD, OH 43502.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Christmas Cards: As the holiday season approaches, we want to show our love to our Zion friends in care facilities, as well as those who spend most of their time at home. If you'd like a current address list to send cards, contact the office.

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.