

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

February 22, 2026

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, February 22

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

Monday, February 23

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 pm ~ Life and Letters of Paul Class (310 & zoom)

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 pm ~ MYF Life Planning (high school)

Thursday, February 26

6:30 am ~ Men's prayer
7:00 pm ~ AA

Sunday, March 1

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

Happy Birthday

February 22 ~ Deb Nofziger
February 23 ~ Charlene Beck
February 23 ~ John Betts
February 23 ~ Karen Graber
February 25 ~ Kate Roth
February 26 ~ Randy Stuckey
February 27 ~ Chad Aeschliman

Nursery Workers

February 22: Sarah Hastings & Sophie Wyse
March 1: Holly Liechty & Viv Legato

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Anita Roth
Interlude ~ Recording
Fisk Jubilee Singers "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"
Introduction to Lent
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Anita Roth
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus)" (VT 499)
Offering/Offertory ~ Anita/Bonnie
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"I Want Jesus To Walk With Me" (VT 306)
Prayer Of Confession
Words Of Assurance
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"What A Friend We Have In Jesus" (VT 628)
Scripture ~ Matthew 4:1-11
Sermon ~ Sue Short
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"You Are All We Have" (VT 701)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Max Aeschliman
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"The Lord Lift You Up" (VT 832)
Benediction ~ Sue Short



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

The Journey of Lent: Everything in the Christian life can be thought of as a journey. Lent especially focuses on the journey of Jesus toward the cross. We also journey toward the cross with Jesus, understanding that we are travelling toward freedom and resurrection. During our worship this Lent, we'll be singing and learning about an African-American spiritual each week. You may be surprised to see how many familiar songs in our hymnals are spirituals!

"African-American Christians found great comfort and encouragement in believing that this life was only a journey, a 'passing through' to a better place...As they passed through the bitter trials of this earth, their desire was that they not walk alone, but that Jesus walk with them. Knowing that Jesus, who had already passed through the fiery trials and come out triumphant on the other side, was walking beside them gave them courage to go on." – Gwendolin Warren

Sunday, February 22nd - Lent 1: *The Journey of Lent: "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"* Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 32

Sunday, March 1st - Lent 2: *The Journey of Lent: "As I Went Down To The River To Pray"* Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Thank You

A big thank you to Larry and Barnaby Wyse for keeping our church warm and the water flowing correctly. - The Trustees

Lenten Devotionals 2026

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

READ: Matthew 4:1-11 (Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalm 91)

When Jesus is led into the desert, the devil arrives to tempt him three times. Jesus rejects the first temptation by quoting scripture (Deuteronomy 8:3). This seems to give the devil an idea: "Aha! Two can play the scripture game!"

So on his second attempt, he quotes from Psalm 91, attempting to weaponize scripture against Jesus, saying, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

It may seem surprising that the devil knows the scriptures so well. It may be less surprising that he would twist the words of scripture to suit his own purposes. After all, human beings have been doing that for thousands of years.

I am reminded of this story when I read news accounts of arms manufacturers printing Bible references on rifle scopes, of politicians brandishing Bibles at rallies, or anytime someone tries to justify un-Christlike behavior with a verse from the Bible.

The devil knows scripture. He knows theology. He knows church history. But he doesn't know Jesus. Not really. Not if he thinks that Jesus would ever fall down and worship him. It is a wonderful thing to know scripture; it is even more wonderful to know Jesus.

Jesus is the lens through which we read and understand God at work in scripture. It is Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life—who guides our reading and guides us to God. Without Jesus, our reading of the Word can be manipulated by tempters. Read your Bible, but read it with Jesus, the Word Made Flesh. – John David

New Announcements

This Sunday, February 22, Marisa Smucker, Executive Director of Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) will be joining the Sojourners / Builders Sunday school class via ZOOM. You are welcome to join the discussion in room 310 at 8:30 AM.

On the Level announcement: Our February edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King reflects on the early days of MDS, find out where to listen to MDS podcasts and Johann Zimmerman shares reflections and observations while surveying for a bridge project. We also share information on how you can join the Annual Celebration online February 27 and 28. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/40eP7yL>

Everence Financial® is hosting a **FREE educational Medicare webinar** on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. As you approach retirement, you may have some questions about moving to Medicare and Social Security. During this workshop, Everence discusses the important details you need to know about retirement income and transitioning to Medicare, including: Enrollment details and deadlines; Budgeting for health care and income in retirement; What are your options if you continue to work?; Social Security - when do I start?; Prescription drug coverage; Plans that supplement Medicare. *March 2 - 6:30 p.m. | online webinar | **[register here](#) For additional information and a list of future workshop dates, visit www.everence.com/medicare-mondays.

Please join us for CPC Women's Health Resource's 40th Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction on April 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM, Archbold Evangelical Church (705 Lafayette St, Archbold, OH). It will be an engaging evening with testimonies of God's handiwork, a delicious meal, keynote speaker Mike Spencer, as well as opportunities to support the ministry. Registration is required to reserve your spot. For more information call (419) 636-5692. Thank you for supporting our mission in saving babies! Your support is invaluable.

Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue's Pancake & Sausage Breakfast is Sunday, March 1 from 7am-1pm. See the flier on the bulletin board across from the bathroom for more information.

Child's World Preschool has a few openings left in the afternoon class for the 2026–2027 school year. This class serves children ages 4–5 (students must be 4 years old by August 1). The program focuses on kindergarten readiness through small and large motor development, language arts, math concepts, physical and natural science, sensory and dramatic play, cooking experiences, music, and art. All of this is taught within a loving Christian environment where children learn about God, the Bible, and the life of Jesus. Child's World Preschool is proud to be celebrating its 50th year at Zion! For inquiries, email: childsworldpreschool@gmail.com. Registration information is available on the preschool page on Zion's website: <https://www.zionmennonitechurch.com/childsworldpreschool/> or via the QR code on the flier (bulletin board).

Don't Forget

If you would like a statement of your church giving for 2025, please contact a member of the Stewardship Team. Statements will not be sent out unless requested.

There is an update from Paris Mennonite Center (a ministry we support) on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes.

Zion will be hosting an upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, March 9 from 12pm to 6pm. To register, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go online to redcrossblood.org and use keyword ZIONMENN.

JJ Safehouse has a newsletter posted on the bulletin board outside of the bathrooms titled: 2025 Year in Review Newsletter.

Become a Service Adventure leader! Are you sensing God's call to mentor young adults as they grow in faith, service and community? Want to live in beautiful places like Anchorage, Alaska or Colorado Springs, Colorado? Answer the call and become a Service Adventure unit leader! Unit leaders mentor the young adults in the unit and provide some oversight and guidance for the household. Ages 24+ should contact Michael Oyer at MichaelO@MennoniteMission.net!

Life and Letters of Paul: John David will be teaching a class on (most) Tuesday evenings on the Life and Letters of Paul. The apostle Paul was one of the most influential figures in the early church and the most prolific writer in the New Testament; his letters shaped Christian theology. Learn about his life, the churches he was writing to, and how we read and understand him today. **The class will meet at 7pm on Tuesdays, beginning February 17th, in Room 310. The class will be on Zoom. Join at:** <http://tiny.cc/zionpaul> .