

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

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

LAMP: 419-445-0728
Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034

March 1, 2026

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, March 1

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

Monday, March 2

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

10:00 am ~ AAMA (off campus)
6:00 pm ~ ZOW (preschool-6th)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, March 5

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

Sunday, March 8 ~ *Daylight Savings* (ahead one hour)

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

Happy Birthday

March 1 ~ Joyce Nafziger
March 1 ~ Ronald Nofziger
March 3 ~ Joyce Frey
March 4 ~ Sharon Stuckey
March 6 ~ Barnaby Wyse

Nursery Workers

March 1: Holly Liechty & Viv Legato
March 8: Greg Nofziger & Sam Hastings

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Barnaby Wyse
Interlude ~ Recording
Alison Krauss "As I Went Down To The River"
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Barnaby Wyse
Hymns ~ Anita Roth
"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (VT 606)
"New Earth, Heavens New" (VT 377)
Offering/Offertory ~ Barnaby/Karen
Children's Time ~ Bonnie Stuckey
"Follow The Drinking Gourd"
Spiritual Story ~ "As I Went Down To The River"
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"As I Went Down To The River To Pray" (VT 453)
Prayer Of Confession ~ Barnaby Wyse
Song Of Assurance ~ Anita Roth
"Don't Be Afraid" (VT 596)
Scripture ~ Romans 4:1-5; 13-17
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (VT 419)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Chris Richer
Sending Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Hope Of Abraham And Sarah" (VT 807)
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

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

Sunday, March 8th - Lent 3: *The Journey of Lent: "Wade In The Water"* (Romans 5:1-11)

Sunday, March 15th - Lent 4: *The Journey of Lent: "We Shall Walk Through The Valley."* (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Sunday, March 22nd - Lent 5: *The Journey of Lent: "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child."* (Romans 8:6-11)

Sunday, March 29th - Lent 6 - Palm Sunday: *The Journey of Lent: "Were You There."* (Philippians 2:5-11)

Lenten Devotionals 2026

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

READ: Romans 4 (Genesis 15:1-6)

Who are the children of Abraham? In Genesis, God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising him that he would be the ancestor of a multitude of nations, and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Although he was an old man and had no children, Abraham believed God, and God called him righteous because of his faith.

Thousands of years later, the apostle Paul was traveling throughout the pagan Roman world proclaiming that this promise was being fulfilled. To be a Gentile in the first century was to be an idol-worshipper—idolatry was part of the fabric of life in the Roman Empire. Yet Paul was overjoyed to witness Gentiles casting aside their idols to worship the One True God, the Creator, the God who had called Abraham. A multitude of nations—Greeks, Romans, Parthians, Medes, even Cretans—were declaring their faithfulness to Jesus, the Messiah!

God was creating a new covenant community of Jews *and* Gentiles gathered together in the name of Jesus. No longer would they be male and female, slave and free, Jew and Greek; they would be one people. This is how God would provide descendants for Abraham. This is how God would restore the brokenness of creation. The children of Abraham would be those who, like Abraham, had left behind their idols to follow God in faith. And like Abraham, they would be blessed and called righteous, with or without circumcision.
— John David

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.**" Galatians 3:26-29

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Pray for safe travels, rest and renewal, and that students return to campus ready to complete the semester with focus and energy.

Hesston (Kansas) College: Pray for the Hesston College Theatre department and the performers, musicians, directors and others involved in the spring musical production of “Xanadu,” taking place at Hesston College March 5 to 8.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray that our students return to campus safely and fully rested from Spring Break.

Mennonite Mission Network: Beginning tomorrow, the Anchorage, Alaska, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, Service Adventure units will gather in San Angelo, Texas, to serve with Mennonite Disaster Service. Pray for a great week of serving and learning together, as well as safe travels for the participants as they travel.

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

February 9, 2026

Opening: Max began with devotions. He introduced us to the singers Ben and Rose, a young Old Order Amish couple from Pennsylvania who have become popular on YouTube. He reminded us that everything we have is from God. We discussed being stewards of God’s property, and that a tithe is really giving back to God what is his. We show our gratitude to God by giving back a part of what he has given to us. It is a spiritual discipline that involves physical action, while some other disciplines are more internal. Sharing hospitality, and the giving of our time could be looked at as a tithe as well. We also observed that the act of taking the offering is different now in many ways. It might not be as noticeable an activity, but it is a practice we should continue to make real. Max closed the devotional time with prayer.

Conference Opportunity: John David informed us that Ohio Mennonite Conference has started several different affinity groups with the intention of connecting people online from around the conference who have similar responsibilities in their congregations. One affinity group has already been started for church treasurers. Another is starting for elders. These groups give opportunities to share ideas, experiences, areas of growth, etc with others. He will provide the contact information if any of us want to get involved in the affinity group for elders.

Pastoral care concerns were discussed.

Church Retreat

Barb gave updates about plans for an upcoming church retreat. A brainstorming session was held after the worship service on February 8 to get more feedback from the congregation, and a few people participated. Two more locations for a retreat were suggested as a result of asking for more ideas. Barb brought more information about those two locations and presented it.

In total, six locations were considered: Amigo Centre, Camp Friedenswald, Camp Palmer, Lial Renewal Center, Miracle Camp, and Sauder Heritage Inn. Based on the information we had from the survey, and looking at the six locations and their characteristics, it seems that Amigo Centre might be the place that would best fit our needs. Barb had emailed Amigo with some questions, most specifically about availability. At this point, fall 2026 dates are already taken. There should be openings during March through May 2027. It was decided to ask to have a date saved for April or early May 2027. We will tentatively plan for the retreat to begin on a Friday evening, with people to arrive after supper, and last through brunch on Sunday. Barb will contact Amigo for more information.

Other Agenda Items: Suz needed to change her upcoming date for Prayer for the Church and World. Max will take her date of February 22, and Suz will take March 15.

The next SLT meeting is Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00pm. John David will lead devotions.

New Announcements

The Builders Sunday school class will be having a **noon luncheon at Fairlawn chapel on Monday, March 16th**. The menu will be lasagna, salad, green beans, chocolate pie and garlic bread. Cost is \$10 payable on the day of the event. **Please RSVP to Elaine Schnitkey at 419-445-4851 as soon as possible**. There will be a program following the lunch.

MCC Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) home repair program is seeking summer staff in Kimball, West Virginia or Elkhorn City, Kentucky. These three-month positions for Job Site Coordinators and Meals Coordinators will allow you to explore new cultures, develop skills, build friendships and live out your faith. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but the roles are not limited to young adults. An hourly wage plus room and board are provided. For more information and to apply, visit mcc.org/careers. Or contact RoxyReyes@mcc.org

The Prknovi Family has an updated newsletter on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes.

Don't Forget

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).

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.

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.

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 is at 7pm on Tuesdays, in Room 310. The class will be on Zoom. Join at:** <http://tiny.cc/zionpaul>.