

# 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

**March 15, 2026**

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

## Zion Activities this Week

### Sunday, March 15

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (no pre-k through 12)

### Monday, March 16

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, March 17

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

### Thursday, March 19

6:30 am ~ Men's prayer  
10:00 am ~ Pastor Peer (off campus)  
7:00 pm ~ AA

### Sunday, March 22

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (no pre-k through 12)  
11:00 am ~ Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved

## Happy Birthday

March 16 ~ Barb Short  
March 21 ~ Mike Zimmerman

## Happy Anniversary

March 19 ~ Eric & Kellie Creighton (21 years)

## Nursery Workers

March 15: Elaine Short & Carol Short  
March 22: Lonnie & Carol Short

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey  
**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Deb Zimmerman  
**Interlude** ~ Recording  
    "We Shall Walk Through The Valley In Peace"  
**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Deb Zimmerman  
**Hymns** ~ Joe Graber  
    "Open My Eyes That I May See" (VT 738)  
    "Breathe On Me, Breath Of God" (VT 737)  
**Offering/Offertory** ~ Deb/Karen  
**Scripture Story**  
**Hymn** ~ Joe Graber  
    "We Shall Walk Through The Valley" (VT 574)  
**Prayer Of Confession** ~ Deb Zimmerman  
**Words Of Assurance** ~ Deb Zimmerman  
**Scripture** ~ Ephesians 5:8-14  
**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker  
**Hymn of Response** ~ Joe Graber  
    "This Little Light Of Mine" (VT 762)  
**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Suz Wirick  
**Sending Hymn** ~ Joe Graber  
    "Longing For Light" (VT 715)  
**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.

**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."* (John 11:1-27)

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

## Lenten Devotionals 2026

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**READ:** Ephesians 5:8-14

I am consistently impressed by the human capacity for self-deception. Are any of us capable of seeing ourselves as we truly are? As God sees us? We are skilled at perceiving and believing whatever we want about ourselves. If we believe we are superior specimens, we can find evidence in our favor. If we believe we are wretched worms, we will likewise discover proof of our worminess.

Lent is a season of self-reflection and confession. But is our self-examination truly shining the light of truth upon our inward being? Or are we deluding ourselves? We want to live as children of light. How do we let in the light of Christ?

Good news: the Christian journey is not a solo expedition. We have companions on this Way. And they can see in us what we sometimes struggle to see. They can be a light. We often benefit by sharing our struggles, sins, shortcomings, and ponderings with a trusted friend or spiritual guide. Sometimes they can see and bring to our awareness what we cannot.

Not all our friends will make a good "spiritual friend." Choose someone who is mature, compassionate, caring, and confidential—someone who understands that you share out of a desire to grow spiritually in response to God's work in your life. A wise confessor will not minimize our shortcomings and is willing to hold us accountable.

I hope that you will seek and find trusted companions to bear a light for you on this journey. - John David

## New Announcements

**Sunday, March 15, Ann Graber Hershberger**, Executive Director of MCC US, will be joining the Sojourners/Builders class via ZOOM. **You are welcome to join the class in room 310 at 8:30 AM.**

**If you would like to borrow any items** from the kitchen for personal use, or to reserve items to borrow at a later date, please coordinate with the church office. Zion also loans medical and mobility equipment like walkers, wheelchairs, and bed rails.

**Gospel of John Lent Read-Thru:** You are invited to encounter John's gospel this Lent! If you'd like to take on our annual challenge of '*one chapter a day to finish on Easter*,' begin reading or listening to John on Monday, March 16th. However, since the goal is to experience John's gospel in its entirety, you are welcome to read/listen at whatever pace works best.

## Thank You

Thank you to the MYF for washing and disinfecting the fellowship hall tables.

## Don't Forget

**Church School Day Sunday, April 12** - Rev. Dr. Shannon Dycus, President of Eastern Mennonite University, will visit & share the morning message. After worship we'll have a session in the fellowship hall for all interested to explain Zion's student aid program, hear additional input from President Dycus and a current Zion student, & give opportunity to pledge financial support toward the program. Next school year Zion will have seven or more students at our Mennonite schools. We have a fundraising goal of \$108,000 for the year. Those unable to attend on April 12<sup>th</sup> may make pledges by contacting Phil Bontrager (pabontrager@gmail.com or cell 419-966-3127). -College Financial Aid Committee

**Life and Letters of Paul:** John David is teaching a class on (most) Tuesday evenings on the Life and Letters of Paul. 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>. Read: Acts 15:36-18:22**