

# 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

**March 22, 2026**

## Zion Activities this Week

### 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

### Monday, March 23

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, March 24

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

### Wednesday, March 25

4:30 pm ~ Worship Team Meeting  
5:30 pm ~ Church Family Meal  
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

### Thursday, March 26

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

### Sunday, March 29

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

## Happy Birthday

March 22 ~ Barb Aeschliman

March 23 ~ Greg Nofziger

## Happy Anniversary

March 23 ~ Nathan & Bailey Short-Dickmann (7 years)

## Nursery Workers

March 22: Lonnie & Carol Short

March 29: Joe Graber & Ben Wheeler

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Glora Yoder

**Interlude** ~ Recording

“Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child”

**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Glora Yoder

**Hymns** ~ Karen Ruth

“Come, Thou Fount” (VT 563)

“Praise, I Will Praise You” (VT 131)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Glora/Bonnie

**Prayer Of Confession** ~ Glora Yoder

**Words Of Assurance** ~ Glora Yoder

**Hymn** ~ Karen Ruth

“The Lord Is My Light” (VT 437)

**Scripture** ~ John 11:1-27

**Sermon** ~ Sue Short

**Hymn of Response** ~ Karen Ruth

“We Come” (VT 225)

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ John David Thacker

**Sending Hymn** ~ Karen Ruth

“Guide My Feet” (VT 816)

**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.

**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)

**Holy Week Spiritual Practices:** The sanctuary will be open during Holy Week (Mon, March 30 - Fri, Apr 3) from 8:00am - noon. This is an unprogrammed drop-in time. Come and go as you like. There will be a variety of items on the table at the back of the sanctuary for your use: prayer and scripture sheets (new each day), coloring pages, prayer beads and stones, etc...) We will also email the prayer and scripture sheets out each day. If you can't make it here in person, we encourage you to have your own daily devotional time at home during Holy Week.

**Thursday, April 2nd - Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, Foot/Hand washing, Communion:** Join us in the fellowship hall for our annual worship observance around the tables, **beginning at 6:00pm.**

**Friday, April 3rd - Good Friday Service in the sanctuary, and on zoom, at 7:00pm**

## Thank You

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

## Lenten Devotionals 2026

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**READ:** John 11:1-44

Jesus wept.

John 11:35 is well-known as the shortest verse in the Bible. But have you ever wondered, *why* did Jesus weep?

His friend Lazarus was dead, and Jesus was in grief at his loss. That much is easy to understand. Yet Jesus knew that he had the power to raise Lazarus from the dead. And he knew that he would do just that in the next hour. Yet, even with that hope, still he wept.

Hope and sorrow can share the same space and the same heart. In fact, they are often found in company. We have little awareness of our hope for the future until we experience the pain of the present.

Jesus was crucified on a Friday and resurrected on a Sunday. On Saturday, Jesus lay in his silent tomb while Mary and Martha wept, just as they did outside the tomb of their brother Lazarus.

We live our whole lives on Saturday, the day connecting the pain of death and the joy of new life. It's the day of hope, and the day of weeping.

The power of Jesus didn't spare him the grief. He accepted it as an inevitable experience of life and expressed it in his tears. And then he demonstrated his power over death so that we might have hope and share new life with God in the power of the resurrection.

- John David

## New Announcements

**Sunday, March 22, 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.**

**On the Level announcement:** Our March edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King reflects on 22 years of service with MDS, learn how you can get involved with the MDS family program and you can relive the experience of our Annual Celebration online. **Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/4lvbFW5>**

**Just Peace Pilgrimages — South Africa Racial Justice Pilgrimage:** Hosted by Iziko Lamaqabane — This South African solidarity learning pilgrimage will explore the long history and legacy of settler colonialism and apartheid, which was an unjust socio-political policy that fostered racial segregation. The pilgrimage will focus on the social constructs created around race, land dispossession and how they so thoroughly defined, and continue to define, South African society. Dates: September 9-22, 2026; the optional safari extends the trip by 3 days. Registration deadline: July 15. Contact Stephanie Weaver at [StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net) or visit [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](http://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace) to learn more!

## Don't Forget

**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.

**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](mailto: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: 1 & 2 Thessalonians**

## Prayers for the Global Church

### **Mennonite Education Agency:**

**Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for God's presence and guidance for the Bethel College Board in their spring meetings Mar. 26-28.

**Hesston (Kansas) College:** Pray for safety for our students as they travel back to school at the end of spring break and that they enjoyed the pause from their studies. Pray also for the 2026 Bel Canto singers as they finish their spring break tour and return to campus.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Colleen and Pablo Fast have been serving in Brazil for more than 30 years. Praise God that the Brazilian churches they serve with are experiencing a time of growth, with multiple families being sent out to plant more churches and the already-established churches increasing the number of services they offer.