

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 29, 2026

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, March 29 ~ Palm Sunday

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

Monday, March 30

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, April 2

6:30 am ~ Men's prayer
6:00 pm ~ Maundy Thursday Service (fellowship hall)
7:00 pm ~ AA

Friday, April 3

7:00 pm ~ Good Friday Service (sanctuary & zoom)

Sunday, April 5 ~ Easter! He is Risen

8:45 am ~ Muffins & Fellowship (fellowship hall)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)

Happy Birthday

March 29 ~ Sarah Berry
April 2 ~ Darlene Polasek
April 4 ~ Don Oesch

Nursery Workers

March 29: Joe Graber & Ben Wheeler
April 5: Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Lynn Roth
Interlude ~ Recording
"Ride On King Jesus"
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Lynn Roth
Hymns ~ Julia Richer
"All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name" (VT 364)
"Crown Him With Many Crowns" (VT 408)
Offering/Offertory ~ Lynn/Bonnie & Julia
Prayer Of Confession ~ Lynn Roth
Words Of Assurance ~ Lynn Roth
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"Lord, I Want To Be A Christian" (VT 558)
Scripture ~ Philippians 2:1-11
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn of Response ~ Julia Richer
"We Are One In The Spirit" (VT 387)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Barb Yoder
Spiritual Story ~ Naomi Richer
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
"Were You There?" (VT 329)
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 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**. There will be a basket available during this service for your gifts to the Aid Fund, which offers encouragement to congregants in difficult situations.

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

Sunday, April 5th - Easter Celebration! He is Risen! Come early to enjoy some mini-muffins, coffee, tea, or juice provided by the Fellowship Team. Serving begins at 8:45am, and will also continue after worship. Worship will begin at 9:30 with singing.

Lenten Devotionals 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

READ: Philippians 2:1-11

When human beings attain power and authority, we all too often use it to control others and to seek our own gain. Other people become tools to exploit.

When Jesus received power and authority from God, he used that power to bless others, to raise them up, and to deliver them from the Powers of the World. Jesus showed that the best leaders are also servants.

Paul urges us to imitate the humility of Jesus. In a culture obsessed with self-esteem and personal pride, humility is not always regarded as a virtue. For some, it sounds too much like self-abasement and shame. Yet humility isn't the same thing as feeling bad about who we are.

Humility is rooted in the love of others, not contempt for ourselves. The humblest people think highly of other people. They see the best in them. They celebrate the gifts and virtues of companions and strangers alike. When we are filled with love for others, we don't think much about ourselves, either good or bad. Love is the antidote to the corrosive self-consciousness that births both pride and shame.

Jesus was humble—not because he disliked himself, but because he loved others so much. In calling us to humility, Paul is encouraging us to care for and love one another. To have the mind of Christ Jesus, we must love as Jesus loved.

- John David

Thank You

A BIG thank you to Tom Short for bringing loader and truck to clean around the shed. ~ The trustees

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and acts of kindness. I really appreciated it. ~ Mableann Crossgrove

Book Nook

Please be sure to take the card out of the book you are borrowing, sign your name and date it the day you're checking it out, including the year. Place the card in the box on the desk. Thank you for your cooperation.

New Announcements

You are invited to the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter's Annual Banquet on April 21st. This event will be held at New Hope Community Church and starts at 5pm. Highlights for the evening will include a silent auction, celebration and vision time, as well as community fellowship. RSVP or questions contact the Shelter at 419-636-2460 or email sanctuaryhomeless@gmail.com. See the bulletin board across from the bathrooms for more information.

Senior Citizen Luncheon: Archbold High School is hosting the 14th Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon on Friday, April 24th at 11:00am in the High School Gymnasium. Senior citizens who live in the Archbold School District are invited to this free lunch and program. The program features a 'State of School' address, and also performances by the Archbold High School Band and Choir. To make your reservation, please call 419-445-5579 or email aoyer@archboldschools.org. Reservations will be taken beginning Monday, March 30th, and need to be received by Monday, April 20.

Mennonite Voluntary Service: God is calling individuals ages 20+ to vibrant communities across the country to participate in Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS). MVS is accepting applications for the 2026-27 term. Serve with non-profits, live in community, and connect with a local church. Placements are available in the following locations: Alamosa, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; and Tucson, Arizona. Ready to jump in? Go to MennoniteMission.net/MVS to learn more and apply.

Don't Forget

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 or visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace to learn more!

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: If you've been reading/listening through John's gospel, keep going! If not, it's never too late to get started! Our goal of this annual experience is to read John's gospel in its entirety, whether or not you finish up by Easter. Read/listen at whatever pace works best for you.

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 12th 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 18:23-21:17**