

Zion Mennonite Church

300 Short Buehrer Road
Archbold, OH 43502

Newsletter

September 10, 2017

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E-mail: church.zionmc@gmail.com Website: www.zionmennonitearchbold.org

Church office hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am—12:00 pm

ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 10

- 9:30 am Worship: Corben Weaver Boshart
- 10:45 am No Sunday School for adults/
Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 13

- 9:00 am Mennonite Women
- 6:00 pm Meal; LOGOS/CHAOS
- 7:00 pm MYF service project

Thursday, September 14

- 6:30 am Men's Prayer
- 9:30 am Fairlawn Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Worship Ministry Team
- 7:00 pm AA

Saturday, September 16

- 8:30 am Zion Choir "Rolls and Rehearsal"

Sunday, September 17

- 9:30 am Worship: Sue Short/Cliff Brubaker
- 10:45 am Meet with Sue Short and Cliff Brubaker

Register for September 3, 2017

Attendance

Worship	121
No Sunday School	

Offering

Budget	\$6,756
Sunday School	162
Student Aid	2,050
Other	10

Total **\$8,978**

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Conversation: September 10

On September 10 we will be using the Sunday School period to have a congregational conversation on how we can sustainably cultivate Fellowship at Zion.

The Fellowship Ministry Team (most notably) provides leadership for potlucks, Family Meals, special receptions, and coffee on Sunday morning. More often than not the Gifts Discernment Team has struggled to find people who feel they are able to help with this ministry.

We would like to brainstorm together how we can develop fellowship in a way that is a gift to everyone in the church and not a taxing assignment for one or two people who are on the team each year.

Please consider these questions for our conversation on September 10:

- What has been the most meaningful fellowship activity you remember participating in within the life of the congregation?
- Why was it meaningful?
- What kind of fellowship opportunities would be meaningful in the future?
- How can we cultivate fellowship in a sustainable way?

Upcoming:

September 10: Congregational Meeting during Sunday School Hour concerning Fellowship

September 17: Candidate Sunday

October 8: Corben's Licensing

October 22: Annual Business Meeting at 6:00 pm

October 29: Amos & Esther Muhagachi (Amos is a bishop for Tanzania Mennonite Church). Speaking in worship and Sunday School Hour.

Update from the Gifts Discernment Team

The affirmation slate for this year's congregational reorganization has been placed in all mailboxes. We intended to distribute enough slates for all regularly attending adults and baptized youth. If we missed you, there are extra copies across from the mailboxes. Please mark your slate & place it in the collection box across from the mailboxes or give it to a member of the Gifts Discernment Commission **by September 10.**

Commission members are Phil Bontrager (Chr), Neil Nofziger, Angie Short, Rachel Short, & Helen Weldy.

We would like to thank everyone for their prayerful discernment throughout the reorganization process. We'd also like to thank all those appearing on the affirmation slate for their willingness to serve. It is truly appreciated by all of us here at Zion.

ZION CHURCH FAMILY

Happy Birthday

September 12:

Mara Beck

Sally Beck

Mabel Ann Klinger

September 13:

Richard Nyce

September 14:

Kenneth Rufenacht

Linda Short

September 15:

LouAnn Kanagy

Holly Liechty

Jan Nofziger

September 16:

Ladonna Andres

Elias Frankenfield

Happy Anniversary

September 13:

Gerald and Karen Short (48 Years)

Mennonite Women

Mennonite Women will be meeting on Wednesday, September 13. You are all welcome and invited to spend a day of fellowship and inspiration. Sue Short will be our speaker. The noon meal will be furnished.

Zion Choir is starting up!

You are invited and encouraged to sing in the Zion Choir this year. The first rehearsal will be Saturday morning, September 16 "Rolls and Rehearsal" with regular 7:00 pm Thursday rehearsals starting on September 21. The choir typically sings one Sunday morning a month at Zion plus several other evening programs throughout the year. Duane Beck will be directing for the second year. If you are interested or have questions, talk with a member of the choir committee: Cheryl Britsch, Karen Ruth, Kevin Sauder and Bonnie Stuckey.

Youth Activities

September 13:

6:00 pm LOGOS & CHAOS meal and meeting
MYF: Service Project Night!

September 20:

6:00 pm LOGOS & CHAOS meal and meeting
7:00 pm MYF: Faith and Fellowship Night

September 27:

7:00 pm Life Planning

Help Is Needed!

Calling all cooks! Wednesday night LOGOS meals (including CHAOS & MYF) will begin on September 13. Please see the Sign-up Sheet on the table across from the mailboxes if you are willing to prepare food or help in any way with the meals for our children, youth, and leaders. Meals are served from 6-7:00 pm to approximately 45 people. Please contact Lynette Bontrager, (419)445-8425 or Labontrager.83@gmail.com with any questions. Thanks for considering!

Zion Senior Adult Group

Zion Senior Adult Group will meet Wednesday, September 20th, at 9:00 am for coffee. We will have a get acquainted time with Pastor Corben. He will share a devotional and we will share some of our stories.



Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg Sabbatical 2017-2018

From: PCRC, Tim Wagler Chair

Zion along with Mennonite Church USA encourages pastors to take sabbatical. Jessica has accrued 18 weeks of sabbatical time and is going to use 14 weeks of this time in the coming year. Mennonite Church USA states "Sabbatical leaves for the pastor are good for the pastor, good for the congregation, and good for the church." PCRC and the Spiritual Leadership Ministry Team support Jessica's sabbatical outlined below and believe it will indeed be good for Jessica, Zion and the broader church. Questions about sabbaticals should be directed to Tim Wagler, chair of PCRC.

Events:

Exponential Emerging Leaders Cohort: 3 weeks

Week of November 27, 2017 Houston

Week of January 29, 2018 Los Angeles

Week of April 30, 2018 New York

Exponential multipliers emerging leaders cohort is an intentional study group that will meet to learn and collaborate on different ways of organizing and creating discipleship spaces, beyond the current paradigm of church. It will be a combination of webinars, readings, and 2 days in the various city locations.

Ohio Conference Missional Consultant: 6 weeks

On average 3-4 days a month beginning in October.

Part of the Exponential Emerging Leader's cohort is to work at equipping others to do what I am taught to do. In an effort to immediately use what I learn I will use a part of my sabbatical time to help develop the missional capacities of Ohio Conference and Ohio Conference leadership, in particular developing opportunities for training, learning and missional engagement throughout the Conference. In turn Ohio Conference has agreed to pay for all of my travel expenses for the Exponential Emerging Leaders Cohort.

Constituency Leadership Council: 1 week

April 12-14, 2018 Christopher Dock

October 2018 TBD

Continuing to be engaged in the life of the denomination as we move forward during this precarious time in our history will be important in the years to come. I am honored Ohio Conference wants me to continue to be their representative.

Regeneration/Sabbath:

June 2018 4 weeks

Some form of heading west to reconnect with my family in Kansas, Colorado, and Arizona.

(continued on back)

How will this impact staff that continues at Zion? What will you not be doing? What will be needed to cover for your absence? Not how, but what.

- *As implementing member of the Collaborative Ministry Team, it will be my responsibility to set a consistent tone of psychological safety for the team in order that we may have open and honest feedback, reflection, and accountability. However, leadership is an activity, not a position. Anyone can lead anytime, anywhere. It will simply be my responsibility to free the team to step up and take leadership when necessary.*
- Missional Discipleship Initiative: Corben will also be trained for Missional Discipleship Initiative and take the charge for the implementation of that here at Zion.
- Child's World Preschool Board: It would be helpful to always have a staff person present at board meetings, but I am not sure if it necessarily has to be the same staff person.
- Fairlawn Bible Study can be shared with the team.
- Preaching can be shared by the CMT and congregants and scheduled accordingly.
- Pastoral Care can be shared by the CMT and managed while I am gone.

Reporting

The training experience with Exponential will be regularly reported and brought back to the congregation, Ohio Conference and the Collaborative Ministry Team.

News from the Search Committee

The Ministerial Search Committee announced on August 27 that Sue Short and Cliff Brubaker are presented as candidates to join Jessica and Corben on Zion's Collaborative Ministry Team.

Candidate Sunday – September 17

9:30 am Worship in sanctuary with Sue and Cliff participating
10:45 am Session in fellowship hall with Sue and Cliff

Procedure for Voting: A congregational vote on extending an invitation to Cliff and Sue to join the Collaborative Ministry Team will take place at the end of the worship service on Sunday, September 24.

If you will be unable to vote that Sunday, you may vote in the office during the week of Monday, September 18 to Friday, September 22. Votes will be tabulated and results announced early in the week of September 24. All who are high school age and older and are engaged in the life of the congregation are invited to vote.

Get to Know the Candidates!

Sue Short and Cliff Brubaker graciously wrote a few paragraphs about themselves to help everyone get to know them a little better. Additionally, they both preached at Zion this summer. If you would like to listen to their sermons, go to the Zion church website at <http://www.zionmennonitearchbold.org>, click on “Menu” in the top, right corner, choose “Worship” and then “Sunday Service”. Launch Media Player and choose Cliff Brubaker on 8/6/17 or Sue Short on 6/11/17. DVD’s of the entire service are also in the library.

Meet Sue Short

Sue is the daughter of the late Paul and Donna Bliss, and the youngest of four. She is a “tagalong child,” as her other siblings are 11, 14, and 15 years older. (Boy, were they ever surprised to learn they’d soon have a baby sister!) Sue’s family lived on Leggett Street in Wauseon until she was in kindergarten, and then moved to the country in the northern part of the Delta school district. She graduated from Delta High School in 1986, and then obtained a Bachelor’s in Education, majoring in English, from the University of Toledo.

Sue’s better half, Stan, is originally from Archbold, and he grew up at West Clinton Mennonite Church. Sue met Stan at a campus ministry at the University of Toledo, in which they both had leadership roles, and they were married in 1990. Prior to moving to Archbold, Sue and Stan were an active part of Toledo Mennonite Church. Sue’s original plan was to teach high school English, particularly Literature (19th century British lit is her favorite). However, after working as a substitute teacher for a time, and especially after their children were born, she quickly decided that teaching was not for her. Sue stayed home to raise their children, and held a few part time jobs along the way, including working at the Archbold Community Library, and for the past eleven years, as the office manager at the Archbold United Methodist Church.

Sue and Stan are the proud parents of four unique individuals: Hannah, Meg (soon to be married to Josh Burkholder), Gabe, and Cam. Sue LOVES to read, visit with friends, cheer for Cleveland Indians baseball, tour museums of all sorts, and go out to lunch. If she could do anything she wished on a free day, she’d enjoy napping, reading, visiting a used bookstore, and eating out at a favorite restaurant. (Hint: Indian, Mexican, Italian, and Mediterranean are favorites!)

Sue is equal parts thrilled and terrified to be under consideration for the Collaborative Ministry Team, and she looks forward to sharing her sense of call and her spiritual journey with you on Sunday, September 17th.

Meet Cliff Brubaker

Cliff Brubaker and his wife, Marilyn Grasse-Brubaker, live near Hillsdale, Michigan, about thirty miles northwest of Zion. Cliff is currently employed by Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA and serves half-time as Regional Pastor West. He supports pastors and congregations in the west half of the state of Ohio. Support includes leading Pastor-Peer meetings, helping with Pastoral Search Committees, and serving as a voice for pastors to the Leadership Team of Ohio Conference. The other half-time part of Cliff's work is also with Ohio Conference, coordinating the "*Gathered and Sent*" theme of gathering to strengthen our commitments to one another, as well as growing as congregations sent in mission. This half-time assignment will go to quarter-time if Zion affirms Cliff's call to Zion, and will end when a person is called to serve as Conference Minister.

Cliff graduated from Eastern Mennonite (then) College with a focus in Bible and theology. While farming caring for a flock of sheep, he was called into pastoral ministry by the Salem Mennonite Church, Waldron, MI. For a sabbatical year granted by Salem Mennonite Church, Cliff studied at Associated Biblical Seminaries, Elkhart, IN. He served at Salem for 15 years. He then worked as a Transitional Pastor at Central Mennonite Church, Pine Grove Mennonite Church, Roanoke Mennonite Church (IL), Lockport Mennonite Church, and as an interim pastor at Zion for eleven months in 2009 and 2010. For the next five years, Cliff was Executive Director at Amigo Centre, Sturgis, MI, a camp and retreat center that is owned by the Indiana-Michigan Conference.

Cliff finds renewal in caring for his 32 acre tree farm, which includes a mature forest as well as 20 acres he and the family have planted to white pine, white spruce, Norway spruce, red and white oak, and walnut trees. He enjoys riding bicycle and still has two kayaks, although he shamefully admits he has not had them on the water this summer.

Recent occasions of joy and celebration for Cliff and Marilyn include the marriage of our two children in Virginia in 2014, just six days apart! Katie and her husband Chris Sanford currently live in Harrisonburg, VA, where she teaches English as a Second Language at Stonewall Jackson High School. Chris is employed by a firm that contracts with the U.S. Patent Office to process technology patent applications. Josh and spouse Celeste (Visser) recently returned to the U.S. to settle in Harrisonburg after working in Uganda for 1-1/2 years. Both are trained in International Economic Development and work remotely to monitor the impact of government development initiatives as well as grant and donor money in agricultural, health, and education initiatives. A great joy was the birth of a first grandchild to Josh and Celeste on June 8 this year.

Marilyn retired from a successful teaching career following the 2016 school year. She now works full-time during the tax season and part-time the rest of the year as an administrative assistant in an accounting firm in Hillsdale. Marilyn enjoys sewing, quilting, and gardening in her spare time. Cliff and Marilyn look forward to a time of getting reacquainted with Zion and to the possibility of Cliff joining the Collaborative Ministry Team.



Fall Worship Series

SURPRISE*

Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People
By: Michael Frost

Beginning in September we will be embarking on the journey of **practical** ways in which we at Zion Mennonite Church can become the Missional community we are called to be, simply by living intentional lives with our eyes open, our ears unstopped, and our hearts yearning to serve God within our Northwest Ohio communities.

Sept. 10 - Living Questionable Lives: Being Good News People *Colossians 4:2–6

Sept. 17- Living Questionable Lives: Be Prepared to Share Your Hope *1 Peter 3:15–16

Sept. 24 -Living Questionable Lives: Be Unpredictable! *Titus 2:1–10

Oct. 1- Habits of Faith: You are What You Do *James 2

Oct. 8– Corben’s Licensing

Oct. 15– Forming New Habits: Gathered and Sent

“BELLS” Bless- 3 people a week, at least one non-Christian in community

Eat- three times a week with non-family; at least one non-Christian

Listen- once a week spend time listening to the Holy Spirit

Learn- once a week intentionally study the gospels

Sent- see yourself as an ambassador of Christ in the community

Oct. 22– Blessing Phil 2:3-4; Proverbs 27:14 *STORY OF GENEROUS BLESSING OF STRANGERS

Oct. 29 - Eating Luke 7:34, Luke 22; Mark 10:45; Luke 19 Amos Muhagachi

Nov. 5 - Listening (for the Holy Spirit) John 3:8, John 14

Nov. 12– Learning (Christ)

* Intentionally setting time aside once a week to study

* Studying the gospels in order to pattern our lives after Christ

*Stories of Christ-like behavior

*ACT OUT A BIBLICAL STORY OF JESUS

Nov. 19—SENT

*Living life as a missionary wherever you are...

*LEAVING THE FRONT PORCH—

Books will be
available in the
church office