

Zion Mennonite Church

Zion Mennonite Church covenants to grow together as a Christ-centered community, extending our Anabaptist branch into our world, bearing the lasting fruit of discipleship, and planting the seeds for God's reign through hospitality, service, and reconciliation with God and others.

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent The Candle of LOVE



*Welcome to all visitors and extended families!
Today we celebrate the birth of Christ with a special children's drama, called "Christmas Letters"!*

Welcome and Greeting

Congregational Song: *HWB 206 Infant holy, infant lowly*

Children's Drama: "Christmas Letters"

Congregational Singing:

MH 466 Once in a royal David's city (insert)

HWB 201 Hark the herald angels sing

STS32 Beautiful star of Bethlehem

Offering

"O Come All Ye Faithful" - Eva Coulombe

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Leader: *Here is the ember of Love*

People: **In a story passed on through the ages**

Leader: *In a love surpassing all loves,*

People: **In a God who sacrifices self,**

All: **In the birth of a child, who is God,**

People: **Jesus of Nazareth,**

Leader: *Emmanuel, God with us.*

All: **An ember whose flame will kindle the world.**

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Song: *STS 26 Helpless and Hungry*

HWB 215 What child is this?

Benediction (*children come forward to receive bubbles*)

Worship Leader: Jana Gingerich,
Mathew Swora
Song Leader: Brandon Chupp
Prelude/Offertory: Karen Tro, Kristin Oakes

This Morning:

Coffee Time

Sunday School for All Ages

Prayer Team meets (upstairs classroom)

Worship Service

This Afternoon/Evening

No Activities

This Week:

Christmas Day—Office Closed

9:00am

9:30am

9:45am

10:45am

Tuesday

Worship Schedule:

December 30: Mathew will be preaching "Didn't You Know?"
Luke 2: 41-52. To prepare, consider how you might answer the following questions:

I realized how much I was NOT in charge when....

I got a sense for how God was in charge when...

January 6: Epiphany Sunday and Communion Service,
Mathew 2:1-12

Pastor Jana will be out of the office December 28-30. Jodi will be out of the office December 26-28. The bulletin will be printed on Thursday, December 27. Please submit announcements before then.

It's Official! Andy Coulombe has been affirmed for an Elder's position on Zion's Pastoral Leadership Team by a vastly overwhelming majority of the 72 ballots cast last Sunday, December 16. Thank you, Andy, for offering yourself, your time and your service to this ministry among us!

With a Service of Communion we will celebrate the timeless grace of God on the first Sunday of the new year, January 6, which is also Epiphany Sunday. Please prepare for the sharing of the bread and the cup as best you know how, in your relationship with God and others, so that we "may show forth in our lives what we profess by our faith" (Book of Common Prayer).

Pacific Covenant's Annual Christmas Eve Service Monday, December 24, 6:00pm

Pacific Covenant Church invites you to join them for their Christmas Eve service at Hope Village Community Center.



Everyone is invited to come to a New Year's Eve party at Zion from 8:00pm to midnight on Monday, December 31. Bring snacks to eat and games to play. We will be bagging beans/rice for JFP and putting hygiene kits together. We will welcome in the new year with a short service right before midnight.

If you have any questions, contact Stan or Vonnie Oyer.

Our friends at Lebanon Mennonite Church and Bethel Mountain Band invite you to celebrate the New Year with them for a concert of bluegrass gospel and other music, beginning at 7PM, on the evening of Monday, December 31. Special guests playing along with BMB include two fiddlers, Jerry Stutzman's 8-year-old grandson, Callum, and Pastor Mathew Swora.

Save the date for January 25-27, 2019! It is time for Zion's Annual Adult Retreat at Drift Creek Camp! Marlene Bogard will be our guest speaker. It costs \$20 if it's your first time at the retreat or \$40 if you are returning. Please feel free to invite anyone you would like! More information to come, but see Kelsey Sommer if you have any questions.

Thank you so much for all the love and support, the baby shower, the meal train and all the care we received around the birth of William.
—Oliver & Rachel Kropf

When using the church kitchen please remember to take used dish towels and wash them. The church does not have a laundry service. Thanks! —Kitchen Committee

Dinners for 8

If you would like to participate in the January, February, and March round of Dinners for 8, sign-up during the month of December. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Contact Vonnie Oyer or Sheryl Mast if you have any questions.

During the month of December, Zion will be collecting items for hygiene kits for MCC. As you do your holiday shopping, please consider picking up these items:

NEW items only:

- 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8in)

All donations may be left under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary foyer.

From the Pastoral Leadership Team: They Why, What, and Who of Christ's Body, The Church, will be the focus of teaching and preaching during worship from January 13, 2019, until the first Sunday of Lent (March 10), to help us consider who Christ is in our lives personally and together, and who we are in relation to Christ and each other. This series is intended to encourage, strengthen, or launch our commitment to Christ and each other as we search for ways to make and keep church membership most intentional and meaningful. It will also include reflections and testimonies from among us, in addition to messages from our pastors, one or more combined Sunday School hour classes, and a Sunday evening congregational conversation about membership. Watch the bulletins for more information.



Again, we thank the team of volunteers who shared their talents and helped Jana and Gina create this year's Advent display, including Lynn Miller, Jillian Sokso, Charlie Gingerich, and Judy Gingerich and her middle grade Sunday School class. Thank you also to Donna Ollis for decorating the trees in the foyers. And finally, to Joe and Marlene Harris and Doug Berkey for their work at re-lighting the 'Jesus the light of the world' sign on the red barn. May Zion always be a reflection of Christ's love!

Please keep in your prayers:

- Zion MC's friends, family and members who are kept home from church or family visits by illness, age and disability, such as Jim Graber, Luella Hostetler, Sue Roth, Vernon Gahler, Leroy & Olive Kenagy, and others.
- Academia Menonita Betania, a Christian school in Puerto Rico, which continues to rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Maria last year, and for SOOP volunteers who are helping with office work, maintenance and construction, as teachers' aides, and assisting in the kitchen (Mennonite Mission Network)
- SeBAH (Anabaptist Biblical Seminary of MC USA), for fruitful teaching and learning during the first trimester of 2019, supporters and the many Hispanic/Latino churches that have benefited from SeBAH's ministry (MEA)

A prayer to carry though the week: "O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; Cast our our sin and enter in; be born in us today."

From "O Little Town of Bethlehem", words by Philip Brooks

Budget Report: As of December 16, annual income is \$35,250.32 shy of meeting the 2018 budget of \$323,754.

Nursery:

This week: Emma Gingerich, Elizabeth Masingila

Next Week: Kelsey Sommer, Stephanie Moyer

Last Sunday:

Attendance: 175

Offering: \$3,368.26

Greeters Next Week:

Charlie Gingerich, Florence Regier,

Sheila Kauffman, Sheryl Mast

Church Staff:

Mathew Swora, Lead Pastor: zionpastor_ms@canby.com

Jana Gingerich, Associate Pastor: zionpastor_jg@canby.com

Jodi Hansen, Office Administrator: zionmc@canby.com

Elders: Pat Hershberger, Karen Tro, Lynn Miller

Ken Kauffman, Cynthia Hockman-Chupp, Stan Oyer

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OFFICE HOURS: TUES-FRI 9 A.M. TO NOON

ZIONMENNONITEOREGON.ORG