

Zion Mennonite Church

Zion Mennonite Church covenants to grow together as a Christ-centered community, worshipping God, 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 29, 2019

Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship: Candle Lighting
Singing:

HWB 178 Come thou long expected Jesus

STS 26 Helpless and hungry

HWB 215 What child is this

HWB 195 It came upon a midnight clear

Offering

Children's Story

Special Music: Ian Oakes

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

Message

Response Song: *HWB 189 To us a child of hope is born*

Sharing and Prayer

Sending Song: *STS 32 Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem*

Benediction



Worship Leader: Lynn Miller
Song Leader: Julie Yoder
Children's Story: Jana Glingerich
Prelude/Offertory: Lois Yoder

9:00am
9:30am
9:45am
10:45am

This Morning:

Coffee Time

Sunday School for All Ages

Prayer Team meets (upstairs classroom)

Worship Service

This Afternoon/Evening

No Activities

This Week:

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, January 1

Worship Schedule:

January 5: Epiphany Sunday

January 12: Guest speakers: Ken and Katherine Jameson Pitts
about Christian faith and climate change

With a service of communion we will celebrate Epiphany (the revealing of Christ to the nations, Matthew 2: 1-11) and the first Sunday of the New Year on January 5. Please prepare as best you know how to share this celebration of Christ's union with us and ours with Christ and each other.

Church Profile Survey Reminder! The church profile survey for our lead pastor search is due TODAY. There are paper copies available in the foyer that can be returned to the box on the table, or the online version can be completed and submitted.

CHOOSE JOY! Sign up soon to attend a Zion All Church Retreat at Drift Creek Camp, January 24-26. Money has been budgeted for this retreat so it is free to all who would like to attend. If you have questions or would be willing to help plan, see Vonnie Oyer.

Announcing a New Year's Eve Gathering at Zion!

Tuesday, December 31, 8:00pm—midnight

You are invited to an evening of sharing your favorite games, finger food, fun, and fellowship, and for this year, being a part of...



This is a project of MCC to celebrate their 100th anniversary. Being called the **Great Winter Warm-Up**, their goal is to make 6,500 comforters to be sent to places like Syria and Ukraine.

We will have comforters for tying. Please bring games and puzzles from home, and finger food snacks to share. Bring your whole family and come join us to be a part of something big!

DINNERS TOGETHER



Today is the last day to sign up if you would like to participate in the January, February, and March round. Anyone is welcome to sign up, as a single or as a couple. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Contact Vonnie Oyer if you have any questions.

THANK YOU to all who attended and/or participated in this year's Sing Your Own Messiah. We had close to 180 in attendance! Also thank you, Zion, for providing wonderful refreshments, hospitality and fellowship.

Margaret Shetler is recovering well from her surgery. She is in the health center, Room 131, of Mt. Angel Towers. Her mobility is limited and she tires easily, but still enjoys visitors and phone calls. She thanks everyone for your prayers, cards, and visits.

PRAYERS OF OUR MOTHERS

Devotional Guide for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany
December 2, 2019—January 5, 2020

Monday, December 30: Matthew 2: 1-12; On Sunday, January 5, many churches will celebrate Epiphany, the Greek word for “revealing,” that is, the revealing of the Christ to the Gentiles, the first being the magi from the East. Historic Eastern Churches, like the Chaldean and Assyrian Orthodox Churches, trace their roots to the testimony of the magi to the Jewish communities of the Persian Empire. In what ways is the magi’s visit a peace mission? And yet, what conflicts arise in response to this peace mission?

“Bright Morning Star, your light has come, and the birth of Jesus has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the magi of long ago, may we be drawn to you and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.”

Tuesday, December 31: Isaiah 60: 1-6; After promising the return to Zion of Hebrew Exiles from Babylon and elsewhere, Isaiah foresees something even more incredible: the ingathering of Gentiles into God’s people. How does this prophecy relate to the Epiphany passage read yesterday? Where do you see yourself in these images and promises?

“My brothers, you in whom is born, by the Holy Spirit, the faith working in you through love (Gal. 5:6), protect it, nourish it, until that child who is born for you is fully formed in you (Gal. 4:19).

By Gueric of Igny, 12th C. France

Wednesday, January 1: 2nd Peter 3: 1-14; The Biblical passages and promises of the season look forward to Christ’s next coming, as well as backward to his first coming. On this first day of a new calendar year, and of a new decade, the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany scriptures remind us how different our timeless God’s work and nature are from our own time-bound existence. What about this passage and prophecies are strange, challenging and frightening? What do you find comforting and encouraging?

“In this time between his first coming and the last, he is conforming us to his first one, while preparing us for his last. ..He comes to us now in such a way as to remake our spirit of arrogance and reconfigure it to his spirit of humility—the same spirit he showed in his first coming, so as to be able to remake our humble body and transform it to his glorious body, which he will manifest at his return.” Gueric of Igny.

Thursday, January 2: Ephesians 3: 1-12; God’s purpose for Israel, “that all nations shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3), was fulfilled perfectly in Jesus, even in his infancy. It now goes forward through Christ’s church. In what ways does your life reflect the reconciling “wisdom of God” (3:10) to the world? How might it?

Friday, January 3: Matthew 2: 12-18; “The prayers of our mothers” in the faith, Mary and Rachel, include prayers for protection, refuge, and lament for their children. Though long observed in Christian tradition, “The Flight to Egypt” and “The Massacre of the Innocents” are current events, as more people in the world are now displaced and persecuted than ever before in history. Check the website of the Mennonite Central Committee, or World Vision, Preemptive Love, or Voice of the Martyrs, to learn how to help, pray for, or advocate for, refugees and the persecuted, in our midst and around the world. *“Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ. You crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Help us to welcome you in newcomers, migrants and refugees. Blessed are You, God of all nations.”* From Interfaith Worker Justice

MCC RELIEF KITS



If you would like to include MCC relief projects in your prayers, there are star post-it notes in the foyer windows with country names written on them. Each country written on a star is currently receiving relief kits. You can peel the post-it from the hanging star and take it home as a visual reminder during your personal or family prayer time.

Items for the MCC relief kits may be left in a box or bag in the foyer. Please deliver kit items by Sunday, January 5, which is the date our collections will be consecrated.

Please keep in your prayers:

- Those in our congregation recovering from recent surgery, such as Margaret Shetler and Louise Gingerich, as well as those dealing with either chronic health problems or cold and flu season. May mobility and health be restored.
- The Congo Mennonite church and their Ndjoko Punda Mennonite mission station in the DR Congo, after torrential rains damaged the hospital, churches and schools, destroyed 1600 buildings, took 16 lives and injured 57, on November 22, and for the rebuilding efforts and trauma recovery (Mennonite World Conference)
- Our Mennonite World Conference partners in Burkina Faso, where jihadist attacks against churches and against symbols of foreign wealth and power, like hotels and gold mines, have created a refugee crisis and raised tensions between religious and ethnic groups (Mennonite Mission Network)

A prayer to carry though the week: *“Grant that we will always reach out for that which is high, realizing that we are made for the stars, created for the everlasting, born for eternity.”*

By Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Budget Report: Budget Amount: \$331,000 Giving year-to- date: \$282,761 Amount needed by year end to meet Budget: \$48,239

Nursery:

This week: Emma Gingerich, Sheryl Mast

Next Week: Rachel Kropf, Jennifer Gingerich

Greeters Next Week: Chris Keady,

Julie Yoder, Urszula Balenkowski

Last Sunday:

Attendance: 191

Offering: \$18,670

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

Pastoral Leadership Team: Andy Coulombe, Karen Tro, Stan Oyer

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OFFICE HOURS: MON, TUES, THUR, AND FRI –9 A.M. TO NOON

ZIONMENNONITEOREGON.ORG