



Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church
In the heart of Whitehouse



November, 2019

Pastor Carol's Comments

Ah, November...our mouths begin watering as soon as we turn the page on the calendar. There's the Thanksgiving holiday, of course, and Zion also has its Annual Ham/Turkey Dinner (read more on the next page). Yum! But we actually have a thanksgiving meal every month here at Zion—not with turkey on the table but with bread and wine (in our case grape juice, so that those avoiding alcohol can participate). We usually call this meal "Communion," but it's also called the "Eucharist." That name comes from a Greek word meaning "thanks" or "thanksgiving." The Eucharist is (in part) a time when we give thanks to God for the gifts of creation and salvation through Jesus Christ. In fact, part of the service itself is called "The Great Thanksgiving." So, come and enjoy the wonder of the Thanksgiving meal Jesus himself invites us to, every month of the year.



Membership Exploration Session

Are you ready to make it official—by becoming a member of Zion UMC? Pastor Carol is planning to hold a membership exploration session sometime in the coming months. It will likely be on a Sunday for 2-3 hours after worship. We will spend some time talking about what membership in the United Methodist Church and this congregation means. We'll review the vows that members take, either through Profession of Faith (transfer from another church/denomination) or through baptism. This session will help you decide whether this is the right move for you. Let Pastor Carol know if you would like to be included.

News Around Zion

Annual Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference is set for Sunday, 11/10, at 2:00 at Maumee UMC. At this meeting, we review the past year, vote on our lay leadership, and set pastoral compensation. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

It is time once again to fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child. There are some extra items in containers at the back of the sanctuary that you can pack into your box. See Denise for details. Fill out the envelope included with the pamphlet and include \$9 for each box to cover shipping cost. A check made out to "Samaritan's Purse" is preferred. Place the check inside the box on top of the items. Last, and most important, please pray for the child who will receive your gift. Have fun packing your box! These are due on November 10.

Advent Bible Study Preview

In December we will gather at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings to study the book, Light of the World, by Amy-Jill Levine. She traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

Purchase of the book is optional. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex.



News Around Zion (continued)

Thanksgiving Eve Service

The annual Community Thanksgiving Eve service will be held here at Zion on Wed., 11/27, at 7:00 p.m. As in the past couple of years, we will be worshipping with our friends from Community of Christ Lutheran Church, but this year Hope UMC is participating as well! Hope's pastor Warren Clifton, a newcomer to our community, will be preaching. The free-will offering will benefit our Food Pantry.

Hanging of the Greens

We will decorate the church on Sat., 11/30, at 9:30 a.m. as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. This always takes place before the 1st Sunday of Advent and is called the "Hanging of the Greens." The greenery we use is rich in Christian symbolism: fir and pine for everlasting life, cedar for royalty, holly for Jesus' death, and ivy for the resurrection. Everyone is invited to come and help prepare the church for Christ's birthday!

Living with Grief

Grief and loss touch all of us, and we all deal with it in different ways. Rev. Elaine J. Clinger Sturtz, an Elder in the West Ohio Conference and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, offers a web site with resources for those working through grief. She also has written a number of books on grief and loss. All of these resources, including her blog, can be found at <https://www.livinginthedifferent.com>.

Food...Food...Food

Our second TAP fellowship dinner features 2 kinds of chili, cornbread and desserts. Join us after TAP at 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 13. This is free!!!

At our TAP dinner in October, we served around 50 people. The attendance is up from last year. (Also we have 16 students signed up for TAP, which is more than last year.)

If you would like to help with the dinner, sign up in the narthex or let Pat Jones know. Thanks!

Fall Fundraiser

Our annual fall fundraiser dinner features ham and turkey with all the fixings and will be held on Nov. 7 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. It costs \$9 for adults and \$3 for children. Please join us!

We could use donations of desserts and, of course, your help would be greatly appreciated!

Thank You, Waterville Cub Scouts Pack 101!

The Waterville Cub Scouts Pack 101 delivered an enormous haul of supplies for the Food Pantry! What a blessing! The shelves were getting pretty empty, but they will be much better stocked now! Thank you to all who helped with the delivery and then to move the mountains of food out of the way for events in the Fellowship Hall the following week. And, of course, thanks to the Waterville Boy Scouts!

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday: 9:00 Sunday School for all ages
10:25 Worship

Nov. 7 - Ham/Turkey Fundraiser Dinner, 4:30-7 p.m.

Nov. 5 & 19 - Food Pantry, coffee and conversation at 9:30; food pick-up 10 a.m. to noon

Nov. 10 - Church conference at 2 p.m. at Maumee UMC

Nov. 10 - Operation Christmas Child boxes due

Nov. 13 - Second TAP Fellowship Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Nov. 27 - Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. here at Zion

Nov. 30 - Hanging of the Greens at 9:30 a.m.

Church Information

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