



Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church

In the heart of Whitehouse



June, 2020

Pastor Carol's Comments

In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus observes a poor widow by an offering box in the temple courtyard. Probably no one noticed her—old, shabby, alone, poor, amidst many rich people with large donations to make. But Jesus saw her, and he made the disciples see her, too. During this time of pandemic, we've come to "see" many people who until now have been invisible but are now called "essential"—minimum wage workers who mop hospital floors, stock and check out groceries, make and deliver meals to our doors. As we begin the return to more "normal" routines, will we go back to looking past, through and over these people? Or will we hold on to our corrected vision and see them as the precious children of God that they are? More importantly, will we work to make sure that they're able to enjoy the kind of lives they make possible for us, by supporting policies and legislation that ensure living wages, affordable housing, access to child care and health care? Let's remember the formerly invisible when the crisis passes, so that all may enjoy the abundance God provides.

Together and Apart: Updates

Our parking lot services are going well as we wait for the time when we can safely worship together inside. Make sure you let Pastor Carol know of any prayer concerns you'd like shared during worship on Sunday. (Please specify that you want a concern shared publicly, since otherwise Pastor Carol will treat it as confidential.)

Although restrictions are easing, congregational singing, reading, and praying are still not advised. So, our parking lot services actually are more "normal" than sanctuary services would be at this point (especially since a mic has been added to put Lee back at his post!). That said, the Administrative Council will be meeting on Wed., 6/10, to begin discussions about what will be required for a safe return to the sanctuary in the future. No date has been proposed; these conversations will help us in making that decision later on.

In the meantime, we'll continue to use new ways to learn and serve, like using Zoom for meetings and Bible studies. We'll use the safety precautions we've put in place for Food Pantry. Pastor Carol is putting the sermon online in both text and video formats. Make sure you watch for email updates.

News Around Zion

Missions Update: New Opportunity to Serve!

Food Pantry has continued to serve our community. We observe safe distancing, wear masks, and place groceries directly into cars. We have also continued to supply food for schoolchildren's weekend meal bags, regularly delivering needed supplies of **single-serve, non-perishable items** like fruits, mac-n-cheese cups, pasta cups, etc. (They need to be items that require little or no preparation beyond microwaving or adding hot water.) We'll continue to collect these supplies because . . .

We now have an expanded opportunity to serve. Because the schools can't provide meals for children during the summer, we will help make sure they don't go hungry. In cooperation with the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry and other local churches, we will be providing enough food in the bags to cover a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches.

Each week, 4 people are needed to pack the bags (Wednesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. at Waterville Community Church, Dutch and Monclova Roads, although the work may take less time than that). 2 people will be needed to distribute the bags (Fridays from 10:45 – 12:15 at Whitehouse Primary School). We are signed up to fill those slots on **7/8 and 7/10**. Please let Pastor Carol know if you would like to help.

Safety precautions will be taken to protect all involved. For packing, volunteers will wash hands before packing. Hand sanitizer will be available. You may wear gloves if you like. Masks are optional for packing (but Pastor Carol recommends them: she wants everyone to stay healthy!).

Bag distribution will be drive-thru. Recipients will remain in their cars, roll down their windows, and we will hand them their bag(s). Volunteers must wear masks. Gloves will be provided if you want to wear them. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be on hand.

104 children are signed up for this program. More slots to help are available. If you want to sign up on your own, go to <https://www.awawake.org/summer-food-program>, or contact Pastor Carol.



News Around Zion (continued)

West Ohio Conference News

As a result of the pandemic, the annual meeting of the West Ohio Conference at Lakeside was cancelled. Instead, it will be held in some form of electronic format.

Bishop Palmer will give his Episcopal Address on Tuesday, 6/9, at noon online. It will also be archived so that you can watch it at a later time if you wish. If you've never heard Bishop Palmer preach, this is a great opportunity to do so. The details about how to log in to watch will be provided when they become available.

The meeting of the Conference will take place virtually on Saturday, September 12. These details are still being worked out as well.

Freedom School

The past couple of years, we have participated in the Freedom School program. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, it will not be held this year. However, the needs of these children remain critical. Please keep them in your prayers, especially during this time when their communities are being hard hit by the virus and as many continue to face the barriers of systemic racism.

VBS

Our plans to partner with Hope UMC and Community of Christ for VBS have been upset by the virus. Hope is working on some online options, and other brainstorming is taking place. So, stay tuned!

Church Information

Pastor Carol Williams-Young
10926 Maumee St. P.O. Box 2457
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(419) 877-5820

Worship at 10:25 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

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Find us on Facebook: whitehousezionumc

Website:
<http://www.zionumcwhitehouse.org>

Camping Fun!

The West Ohio Camping & Retreat Ministries made the difficult decision to suspend all summer camp programs due to the coronavirus. But, that doesn't mean an end to camping fun!

The Camping Ministry staff is creating Camp@Home--a series of videos to share some of their favorite camp activities and faith-filled moments. Videos will be released from June 8-July 24 around the theme, "Love God - Love Others." On Mondays, camp pastors will share a message. On Wednesdays and Fridays, camp staff will share games, songs, and activities that you can do by yourself or with your family. They're also creating a journal to go along with the theme. It will be available to print from our website so that you can dive deeper into each week's theme, just like at camp! Join the fun by subscribing to their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQZQLhjecKHcELkj80JqINg>

Also, family cabin rentals and campsites will be available. Learn more about Camp@Home and cabin and campsite rentals here: <https://www.westohiocamps.org/camp/>.

Upcoming Events

- Sundays, 10:25 a.m.** Parking lot service on 106.1 FM
- Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.** Bible Study/Check-in on Zoom. Contact Pastor Carol if you need the link.
- June 9, Noon** - Bishop Palmer's Episcopal Address via livestream online
- June 10, 6:30 p.m.** - Admin. Council meeting
- June 15-20, 8:30-12:40** - Driving School, Fellowship Hall
- June 16, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.** - Food Pantry pick-up
- July 5** Communion Sunday. BYOBJ (Bring your own bread and juice!)
- July 8, 9-11:30 a.m.** - Food Bag Packing, Waterville Community Church
- July 10, 10:45-12:15** - Food Bag Distribution, Whitehouse Primary School