



# Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church  
*In the heart of Whitehouse*



**August, 2020**

## Pastor Carol's Comments

We had an anniversary recently. June 25 marked three years of my serving at Zion as your pastor. What a wonderful three years it has been for me! I've been looking back through photos of things we've done together—the Eclipse Day service on the front steps, Electronics Recycling Days (always in the worst weather of the season), painting Zion Rocks, the diaper-changing station at Cherry Fest, Food Pantry, TAP and TAP dinners, Operation Christmas Child, blanket collection, and more. We've served lots of turkey, ham, and ham loaf, and delivered lots of Valentine's Day cookies. Of course, there are all the activities that don't get recorded in photos—the Bible Studies and Sunday School classes, potlucks, and worshipping together—especially during those special services like Thanksgiving Eve, All Saints Sunday, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week. We've welcomed some new people into our congregation, and we've celebrated the lives of loved ones who have passed away. So many memories that I cherish!

I was thinking about all this after reading the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land. In Joshua 5:10-12, we read that, on the day the Israelites ate the food they found in their new homeland, the manna from God stopped appearing. God had blessed them with manna in the past, but when conditions changed, the blessing and provision changed as well.

We have been greatly blessed together at Zion, and you have stories to tell of blessings received long before I arrived on the scene. But now we live in a different world. The things we have been blessed by in the past have changed and will continue to change. Some things may never be exactly the same. But I am confident that God's intention to bless us has not changed, even though the blessings themselves may change. My prayer is that we will be able to keep our eyes, hearts, and minds open to the new possibilities that our "new homeland" will offer, as we continue to serve God and others together.

## News Around Zion

### Free Money!

When something sounds too good to be true, sometimes it actually *is* true! Zion is now enrolled in two shopping rewards programs that will provide us with cash based on shoppers' purchases. One is Kroger's Community Rewards program and the other is AmazonSmile. Kroger divides a "pot" of money among the participating charities in our region each quarter. Amazon will send us .5% of every eligible purchase each month when you choose Zion as your Smile charity. Here's how to sign up:

#### *For Kroger Community Rewards:*

Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com).

Log in to your account.

Click on "Community Rewards."

Search for and choose "Whitehouse Zion" (or PP098).

Make sure you use your Kroger card (or alternate ID) when you shop, so that we will get credit for your purchases. You only need to register online; after that, all you need to do is use your KrogerPlus card or alternate ID when you shop. If you don't have internet access, ask someone who does to help you sign up. Pastor Carol is happy to help as well.

#### *For Amazon Smile:*

Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) (This address doesn't have www. at the beginning.)

Go to Your Account, or create one.

Go to Choose/Change My Charity.

Choose Whitehouse Zion.

**Always begin your Amazon shopping session at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)** instead of the regular Amazon site. If you use the regular site, your purchase won't count. Purchases will automatically be credited to Zion.

Kroger asks that we only advertise their program among our own members and not the general public. But, Amazon's can be shared with anyone, so feel free to invite your friends and family everywhere to designate Zion as their Smile recipient.

The love of money may be the root of all evil, but a little extra cash can help us do a lot of good. Sign up today, and happy shopping!



**News Around Zion (continued)**

Weekly Bible Study

We have been meeting weekly for Bible Study at our usual time of 7:00 on Thursday evenings via a free, online meeting service called Zoom. The meetings last exactly 40 minutes—that’s when Zoom cuts us off!

We have been discussing “supporting players” in the Biblical story—people who played important roles and yet don’t get much attention, like Barnabas, Mary Magdalene, the sisters Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. We’ve all learned more about these “regular people” who had something to contribute to the spread of the Gospel. There’s no preparation required—just have your Bible on hand.

Won’t you join us? Setting up a Zoom account is free and easy. (Go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com).) Once you set up your account, you just click on the link Pastor Carol sends by email when it’s time to start. You can use your smartphone, laptop, or iPad-type device. (You can listen in on a desktop computer but it probably won’t have a camera or mic so that you can participate.)

The only downside to this is that those of you without internet access are left out. Hopefully, it won’t be much longer before we can safely meet again in person. If you have any ideas on how to include non-internet users, please pass them along to Pastor Carol.

Thank You Notes

*Zion has received some heart-warming thank you notes for the service we offer to our community. We are indeed blessed to be a blessing as we live out Jesus’ words, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

From Kate Bailin, Whitehouse Primary School counselor: “Thank you for supporting Whitehouse Primary throughout the school year. We are grateful for the TAP program, Adopt-a-Family program during the holidays, and the food bank. We are fortunate to have a church like Zion in our local community!”

From a Food Pantry client: “I just want you to know how much our family is grateful for the food pantry. It frees up a little money to help cover bills and other expenses that come up when we are already struggling. Even though I am working more hours at work, I’m still behind on bills and things always come up with five kids. I just want you to know how much of a blessing this food pantry is and hopefully one day I’m in a place to be able to return the favor and donate to you guys. Thank you again so much to you and the other volunteers who work to run it and to everyone who donates, it really does help. So in case nobody has told you guys, you are amazing. Bless you all!”

**Church Information**

**Pastor Carol Williams-Young**  
**10926 Maumee St. P.O. Box 2457**  
**Whitehouse OH 43571**  
**(419) 877-5820**

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

[Zionwhitehouseumc@gmail.com](mailto:Zionwhitehouseumc@gmail.com)  
[pastorcarol@bex.net](mailto:pastorcarol@bex.net)

**Find us on Facebook: whitehousezionumc**

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

**Upcoming Events**

**Sundays, 10:25 a.m.** - Parking lot service, 106.1 FM

**Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.** - Bible Study on Zoom.  
 Contact Pastor Carol if you need the link.

**August 4, 4-6:30 p.m.** - Food Pantry

**August 18, 4-6:30 p.m.** - Food Pantry

**August 23** - Read Song of Solomon in preparation for worship

**September 6** - Communion Sunday. BYOBJ (Bring your own bread and juice!)