



Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church

In the heart of Whitehouse



May, 2021

Pastor Carol's Comments

"God is not a God of confusion but of peace," Paul wrote to the church at Corinth. Although he was writing for a very particular situation, those words have been echoing in my mind lately. Because, this seems to be a very confusing time as we transition to another stage of the pandemic. With some people vaccinated and some not, we're now trying to figure out what our "best practices" should be. It can get pretty confusing! Should we wear masks or not? Indoors but not outdoors? Can we travel? How far and where to and with whom? How should we manage the risks for guests in our homes? The experts are learning right along with us, so it's understandable that their recommendations will change as the situation changes. Still, that can leave us all feeling confused and not very peaceful.

When that happens, I find the peace I need in Scripture, especially the Psalms. I love the passages that give me a sense of steadiness and security. "From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I," the psalmist sings, making me feel like I'm lifted above the confusion swirling around me and have a steady foundation beneath me. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you," Jesus said about the peace that passes all understanding. As we continue to learn how to live our best lives as we deal with the pandemic, I hope you'll find a verse or two that can lift you up and soothe your spirit—the gift of our peace-giving Lord.

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee will meet on Wed., 5/12, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss upcoming opportunities for serving in our community and world. Some of the topics will include the Prayer Square ministry, Freedom School, and vaccination days at the Migrant Rest Center. We've filled St. Luke's needs for prayer squares, so we need to discuss other possible destinations for the squares. Freedom School will once again be held in person and is looking for volunteers in a variety of capacities. There may be an opportunity to assist the Migrant Rest Center when they hold vaccination clinics. Do you have any ideas of new ways to serve? Contact Denise or Pastor Carol.

News Around Zion

Inside or Outside?

We're all wondering when we can resume worship in the sanctuary. Our church leadership recently met to consider our options. Since we are fortunate to have the option of our parking lot worship, and the situation is still so fluid, the leadership decided to continue with our parking lot worship for now, where we can all continue to sing and speak together. We will revisit the question in early June.

In preparation for the discussion, Ron and Pastor Carol dove into a number of resources to find the most reliable guidelines and information available. Some were for public gatherings in general; some were more specific to churches. (The UMC has been working in conjunction with other large denominations to offer guidance.) Pastor Carol also contacted other churches to find out what they're doing.

Unfortunately, there are few definite guidelines to follow. At Zion, we can meet distancing and masking guidelines. But the general consensus is no singing and no responsive or unison prayers/readings (even with masks) until the population is 70-85% immune (through natural immunity or vaccination). In the population of the Zion congregation, we are just barely at the lower limit, and some members of our church family can't be vaccinated at this time. Plus, Lucas County currently has the highest rate of infection in the state.

Other churches we contacted are all over the map in what they're doing. Most churches have only two choices for worship—inside or online. Some are still entirely online. Some are inside with no congregational singing or spoken word, some are singing but not speaking, some are speaking but not singing, some sing just two verses of two hymns, and one recommends humming! You can see that everyone is struggling to find a responsible way to worship together.

We are blessed to be able to worship together outside until our church family can worship indoors. As the weather gets nicer, one thing you may want to consider is bringing a lawn chair and sitting outside your car. Outdoor gatherings are very low risk, so we can enjoy even more of each other's company as we worship together.



News Around Zion (continued)

Cherry Fest Resumes

Whitehouse will once again host the Cherry Fest 6/10-12. Church leaders decided that we should continue our Diaper Changing Station as in the past on Friday and Saturday (6/11-12). We'll need volunteers for set-up and tear-down, and staffing the booth, so mark your calendars now. More details will be provided as they become available.

A Gift from the Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Troop #16232 meets every other Thursday evening in our Fellowship Hall. One of their recent projects was making first aid kits. They donated one of their kits to Zion! It includes a generous quantity of burn cream, antibiotic ointment, Band-aids of various sizes, gauze pads, and adhesive tape. Thanks to Troop #16232 and to their leaders, Kristina Friedman and Jessica McCord.

Calling All Grandparents and Grandchildren!

Camp Widewater will hold its Grand Adventure weekend camp for grandparents and grandkids on 6/11-13. Campfires, fishing, crafts, and surprises will make for an unforgettable weekend, all while learning about God's fearless, never-ending love. Learn more and sign up at <https://www.westohiocamps.org/camp/widewater/event/widewater-grand-adventure-camp-returns>.

Condolences

Pastor Gary Green's wife Barb passed away at home with her family by her side on the night of Wed., 4/28, of an inoperable brain tumor. Condolences may be sent to Pastor Gary at 4107 Murray St., Indian Land, SC, 29707.

Food Pantry Expands Partnership with AWAKE Coalition

Due to the generosity of the Anthony Wayne community, the Food Pantry is so full that there was some concern about giving away all our supplies before their recommended "use by" dates. So, the Food Pantry is now expanding our support of food bag distributions by the AWAKE Coalition.

Lee, Denise, and AWAKE director Amy Barrett filled Amy's RAV4 twice with items that had 2021 "use by" or "sell by" dates. Hundreds of containers of corn, green beans, meat, peanut butter, and mac-n-cheese were shared with AWAKE for use in their "family bags" to be distributed to AW families for school breaks.

Our partnership with AWAKE began with providing non-perishable, single-serving lunch, breakfast, and snack items for summer lunch bags. (Many students who rely on school lunches and breakfasts during the school year are at risk for hunger during the summer.) During the school year, the project continued to supply bags for the weekends. About 60 students have taken advantage of the weekend bags. The project expanded to provide food bags for families during school breaks. This school year, about 100 families used the program at Thanksgiving and Christmas with 60 using the service for Spring break.

Families using the free- and reduced-price lunch program at school receive a flyer about the bags. They sign up online and pick up the bags at Waterville Community Church.

AWAKE (AWAKE to a Safe and Healthy Community Coalition) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing drug and alcohol abuse in the AW community. They also offer other services for families, such as assistance with utility payments and referrals. Anyone needing assistance can email abarrett@awawake.org. More information and the food bag sign-up form can be found at www.awawake.org.

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.

Zionwhitehouseumc@gmail.com
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

Tues., 5/4 and 18, 4-6 p.m. - Food Pantry

Sunday, 5/9 - Happy Mother's Day

Wednesday, 5/12, 6 p.m. - Mission Committee

Thurs., 5/6, 13, 20 and 27, 6-6:40 p.m. - Zoom Bible Study