



# Heart Beat Newsletter

## Zion United Methodist Church

*In the heart of Whitehouse*



**September, 2021**

### **Pastor Carol's Comments**

There's a story in Acts (12:6-16) that always makes me laugh. Rhoda is a servant in the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark. The house is filled with people praying for Peter, who has been imprisoned by Herod. Unbeknownst to them, what they were praying for had happened—Peter had been freed with the help of an angel! Peter immediately went to Mary's house and knocked at the outer gate. Rhoda answered and, to her credit, recognized Peter by his voice through the closed gate. But then, Acts tells us, "She was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate." Peter was left outside.

The people who had been praying for that very thing told Rhoda she was out of her mind. She insisted that he was out there. Finally, the people inside went out, found that Rhoda was right after all, and let Peter in.

Can't you just see this as an episode of "I Love Lucy"? I can. I laugh at Rhoda being so excited that she forgot the most important thing—to let Peter in. But I wonder how often we are like Rhoda, hearing a knock on the door and recognizing the voice on the other side, but failing to take the next crucial step of opening the door.

In Revelation we read, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking." When Jesus is trying to get our attention, we may hear him knocking and even recognize his voice. Maybe he's asking us to serve in a new way, or connect with someone we don't have much in common with, or grow deeper in our knowledge of Scripture. But, we don't follow through. We hear his voice, but we don't open the door.

It's by opening the door that we grow closer to Jesus. Revelation continues, "If you hear my voice *and open the door*, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." It's when we act on what we hear that we have the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be listening for Jesus' voice as we discern the direction our ministry at Zion will take. May we be blessed with ears that can hear, and with hearts that are willing to open the door.

### **News Around Zion**

#### New Directions

A speaker at the Global Leadership Summit which Pastor Carol attended had this to say about change: you have to know what to continue and what to change. If you change what you should continue, you lose your identity. If you continue what you should change, you become irrelevant.

The past eighteen months have brought many changes to our ministry and to our congregation. The Administrative Council agreed that we need to take stock of the needs of the community and our resources to identify where we should focus our ongoing efforts to "love God, love people, and serve the world."

This needs to be a churchwide effort, and it will take some time. We will begin the process after worship on Sunday, 9/12. In a brief meeting, we will form some guidelines for how we want to approach this project and plan when we will hold future meetings. Together, we will decide how to continue what should continue and change what should be changed so that we may both maintain our identity as the Christian community called Zion and remain relevant in these days.

#### In-Person Bible Study Resumes!

After months of Bible Study on Zoom, we will again meet in-person for Bible Study, beginning Thursday, 9/16, at 6 p.m. We will use a 6-week video study called "The God We Can Know" by Rob Fuquay. We'll be exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. The videos will take us on location in the Holy Land, where we will actually see the places where Jesus disclosed his true identity and the context in which he spoke each "I Am" saying. A book is available but not required. (If you buy online, please don't forget to use Amazon Smile or iGive so that a portion of your purchase comes back to Zion.)

#### Changes in CHAT

In an effort to use our time more wisely and efficiently, it was decided at our last Administrative Council meeting to disband CHAT as a separate committee and fold its duties into Ad Council. CHAT has changed over time to become mainly an event-planning body. The work done at those separate meetings can easily be done at Ad Council meetings with no decrease in our ability to plan and serve.



Curb Appeal

As you're walking to and from your car, take a look at the ramp and stairs. They have been coated with fresh, white paint. Sandi Hood of Sunbeam Christian Preschool used some stimulus program grant money for the refurbishment project.

Then, take a look at the sign in front of the sanctuary. The broken plexiglass has been replaced, new letter boards were installed, and new letters provided. The doors now lock, so that curious hands won't be able to get inside. Thanks go to Ron and Howard, who spent many hours on this project that will improve our appearance to passers-by. Thanks, too, to the generous donors who provided the letter boards and letters.

Save the Dates!

The Administrative Council has added some events to our calendar so that you can put them on yours, too! Covid makes planning a little iffy at best, so we will make adjustments as needed.

- Thurs., 11/4 Fall Turkey/Ham Dinner
- Sat., 1/22 Electronics Recycling Day
- Thurs., 2/17 Ham Loaf Dinner

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held on Sun., 11/21, at Church of the Cross on Eastgate Ave. in Toledo. The time has not yet been set by the District Office, but it will be at either 2 or 4 p.m.

**Missions Update**

Prayer Squares: Our prayer square supply has run out, but Mercy Hospital in Perrysburg is begging for more! So, if you knit, crochet, or even sew, put making some of those (approx.) 5x5" squares on your to-do list. We've provided close to 500 of these squares to health care workers and to patients, and they have been greatly appreciated. Happy creating!

Operation Christmas Child: Take advantage of the back-to-school sales to get OCC shoebox supplies! We will again be filling boxes and money for shipping. Watch for more details.

John Wesley Would Have Loved This!

Wesley preached wise stewardship of our money, so he would have loved the way our purchases can support our ministries. These programs will send a portion of your purchases to Zion, and we have been getting regular checks since we signed up. Every penny helps!

**iGive through UMCMarket.org:** On your first visit, choose Zion as your organization and join iGive. Click on the link to your store or add an extension to your browser so that whenever you go to a participating retailer's web site, it will give you a button to click to activate your donation.

**Kroger Community Rewards** at Kroger.com. Log in, click on "Community Rewards," and choose "Whitehouse Zion" so that we'll be rewarded when you use your Kroger Plus Card.

**Amazon Smile:** Go to smile.amazon.com (no www.), log in, Choose/Change My Charity to Whitehouse Zion. Always begin shopping at smile.amazon.com, so your purchases will count. Encourage you friends and family to use it, too!

**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.**

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**Find us on Facebook: whitehousezionmc**

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

**Upcoming Events**

- Sundays, 10:25 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary
- Tues., 9/7 - 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for Sunbeam 3-year-olds
- Tues., 9/7, 4 - 6 p.m. - Food Pantry
- Wed., 9/8 - 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for Sunbeam 4-year-olds
- Sun., 9/12 Rally Day!  
 11:30-noon -- New Directions meeting
- Tues., 9/14, 6-7 p.m. - Girl Scouts
- Thurs., 9/16, 6:00 p.m. - Bible Study (in person)
- Tues., 9/21 4-6 p.m. - Food Pantry
- Thurs., 9/23, 6:00 p.m. - Bible Study (in person)