



## Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church  
*Loving God, Loving People, Serving the World*

**October, 2021**

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

I looked at my 7-year-old car the other day and observed that it has a lot of little chips in the paint. It also has a small dent and some scrapes where I assume someone banged into it with a shopping cart. I have no interest in trading it in anytime soon; it runs great, and it's a stick shift, which are hard to find these days! So, I told my husband that at some point I may want to have it repainted to guard against further damage and extend its useful life.

Zion is a little like my beloved car. It has some miles on it. It's acquired some scrapes and dents over time in the form of a smaller, older membership, an aging building, and so on. But, it also has valuable qualities that are hard to replace: a deep love for and desire for faithfulness to God, and care for each other and the community.

So, we may need to make a few repairs and touch-ups here and there to our priorities and our ministries as we think about our future together. Our "New Directions" meetings are designed to do just that. We are taking time to intentionally examine who and where we are, who we want to be (and who God wants us to be), where we want to go (and where God wants us to go). We'll talk about what we should keep, what we should discard, and what we need to change about our ministries. We'll talk about our identity as a congregation and how to let the wider community know, not just what we do, but who we are.

In Mark 8:27, on the road to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" People can learn who Jesus is by knowing who we are. For that to happen, we need to be clear about our identity, ensure that our congregational life is consistent with that identity, and help others to know who we are. As the old saying goes, we may be the only Bible some people ever read. May God guide us as we seek to be a church that enables others to know who Jesus is because they know who we are.

#### Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held on Sun., 11/21, at 4:00 p.m. at Church of the Cross in Toledo. Church of the Cross is located at 1750 Eastgate Road, Toledo, OH 43614. All are invited to this time of worship with others in the District and then to take care of important Zion business.

### **News Around Zion**

#### New Directions

At the District Leadership Development Day in February, Rev. Karl Vaters (founder of NewSmallChurch.com) said that a small church "is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use."

In our "New Directions" meetings, we are working to identify who we can be and what God wants us to be. Our first meeting was organizational. In the next two, we talked about how we want to be known in the community and the resources (blessings) we have at our disposal.

We decided that our current vision (Loving God, Loving People, Serving the World) continues to reflect our desired identity. We also came up with a long list of resources we have in our congregation or can access in the community. In future meetings we'll talk about how our ministries support our vision and how to communicate our identity to the community, among other topics.

This needs to be a whole-church effort, so please try to make as many meetings as you can. Meetings will continue to be held after church and will last no longer than an hour.

#### Welcome to Our New Members!

On 9/12, we were blessed to officially receive Pat Lehman and Jack and Annette Petree into Zion's membership. All three have been active participants with us in worship and service for some years. Pat has been a loyal Food Pantry worker and began worshipping with us during our parking lot services. Jack has helped with Food Pantry and the sound board in worship, and Annette takes her turn running the worship slides. All have contributed to our fund-raising dinners. Welcome, Pat, Jack, and Annette!

#### Meet Ruth in October

During the month of October, we'll be focusing on the book of Ruth in worship. Pastor Carol suggests reading its four short chapters in advance. It's a great story and easy to read.

#### Important Dates!

Make sure you have these dates on your calendar!

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



What Is That Weird Square I See Everywhere?

You're probably seeing more and more of the boxes like the one below. They're called QR (Quick Response) codes, and they're like the barcodes we're accustomed to seeing. When scanned with your smart phone, they take you to a web site where you can find more information related to what the code is attached to.

The code below could be very helpful to Zion! It's for iGive—the rebate program that sends Zion a portion of your online purchases from thousands of your favorite stores. For example, Office Depot returns .8%, Walmart gives .4%, Rite Aid gives 1.6%, and Macy's gives 1.2%

And, if you are new to iGive, you can make an even bigger impact by joining now. Every new member joining by 11/15 will earn a \$5 bonus on their first purchase made by 12/1.

Ready to earn extra funds for Zion while making your regular online purchases? If you don't have a QR scanner on your phone, download one from your App Store. ("QR Code Reader and Scanner" by Kapersky is a good one and it's free.) Then, open your app and point your phone's camera at the code above. It will register the code and take you to the iGive web site, where you can sign up.



Once you're signed up, you can also add an iGive extension to your computer browser, which will automatically tell you if your online retailer participates and prompts you to activate the rebate. It's a painless way to send extra dollars to Zion while making your normal purchases. Give it a try!

**Missions Update**

Prayer Squares Needed: If you knit, crochet, or even sew, please put making some of these (approx.) 5x5" squares on your to-do list. Directions can be found on our web site.

Operation Christmas Child: We will again be filling boxes and collecting money for shipping. *We will also be having a "packing party" to fill boxes with items that have been donated in the past. Watch for more details.*

Sunbeam Preschool Trunk or Treat

"Trunk or Treat" returns on Mon., 10/25, at 6:00 p.m., and we're invited to participate! Decorate the trunk of your car if you like and bring treats for 60-70 children. The children will trick-or-treat from car to car.

"The God We Can Know" Bible Study

It's not too late to join in our video Bible study called "The God We Can Know" by Rob Fuquay, which explores the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. If you can't be present but want to study along, a book is available. Buy online from Cokesbury or ABEbooks.com and earn iGive rebates for Zion, or earn Amazon Smile rebates at Amazon.

Girl Scouts at Zion

Two Girl Scout troops are again meeting at Zion this year. The activities of Troop #16232 will include "Caroling for Canned Goods" for the Food Pantry as they did last year. Troop #10143 is working on the "Night Owl" badge—learning about outdoor safety, nocturnal animals, the constellations, and what it's like to be a night-shift worker.

**Church Information**

Pastor Carol Williams-Young  
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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>

**Upcoming Events**

- Tues., 10/5, 4 - 6 p.m. - Food Pantry  
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts
- Wed., 10/6, 6:00 p.m. - Administrative Council meeting
- Thurs., 10/7, 6:00 p.m. - Bible Study (in person)
- Sun., 10/10, 11:30-12:30 -- New Directions meeting
- Tues., 10/12, 6-7 p.m. - Girl Scouts
- Thurs., 10/14, 6:00 p.m. - Bible Study (in person)
- Sun., 10/17, 11:30-12:30 -- New Directions meeting
- Tues., 10/19, 4 - 6 p.m. - Food Pantry  
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts
- Thurs., 10/21, 6:00 p.m. - Bible Study (in person)
- Mon., 10/25, 6:00 - Preschool Trunk or Treat
- TBA: Operation Christmas Child packing party