



Heart Beat Newsletter

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

May, 2022

Pastor Carol's Comments

While preparing the worship service recently, I was looking at the Nicene Creed. It was first adopted at the 1st Council of Nicaea in 325, then amended in 381 at the 1st Council of Constantinople. We call the amended one the Nicene Creed.

Early on, the Church struggled with questions about things like the role of Mary, the nature of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, and whether or not Jesus was indeed God. The Nicene Creed was worked out in order to establish the "orthodoxy" (or "right teaching") of the young religion.

The Nicene Creed says that the Church is "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic." These are called the "marks of the Church." The Church is "one," not because we all agree, but because all Christians are one in Christ. It is "holy," not because of our actions, but because God is present and active in it. It is "catholic" (that is, "universal"): Christians from *all* times and places belong and witness to our faith in Jesus. Finally, the Church is "apostolic": it continues in the apostles' teachings.

Christianity has always been messy. There was no how-to manual in the manger with Jesus. Disagreements between and within denominations abound. And yet, we are called to something better. We are called to be the Church that God desires, and this begins right in our own congregation. Jesus said, "Upon this rock, I will build my Church." He is the rock, and we are the Church he has built. May we live in ways that reflect a Church that is "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic."

Project Easter Bunny

Prompted by a Whitehouse resident's suggestion to provide Easter baskets for children in need, Zion stepped up to be the collection and assembly point for the baskets. So many donations of small toys and school supply items, candy, baskets, and grass poured in from the AW community that we were able to fill 71 baskets!



These baskets were given to children who participate in the weekend food bag program, serving those who receive free and reduced lunches at school.

News Around Zion

"Directions" Update

In our "Directions" meetings, we continue seek ways in which Zion can better serve the community, grow in discipleship, and invite others into a relationship with Jesus.

In our Worship review, it was agreed that our pattern of worship works well. Some questions have come up since then which we will address in future meetings.

Since many people are involved in activities at the local parks and athletic fields on Sundays, we are making tentative plans to hold worship in the park pavilion on Sunday, 6/12 (the day after Cherry Fest ends). This depends on pavilion availability, how to handle music and sound, etc. Our hope is that, by taking worship to where people are, some may join in but, at the least, we will be visible in the community in a new way.

Regarding Food Pantry, we discussed several issues related to how we run it and how to increase the number of people using it. One issue is that there are differing understandings about what/how much to give out, and there was a concern that our customers can end up being "in the middle" when ideas conflict. We will be creating some clearer guidelines to avoid that.

Second is how to deal with surplus food nearing its "best used by" date. Our policy has been not to give out food past this date. (We all use these in our own homes, but we wouldn't buy it that way.) Lee has proposed that we keep no more than a 3-month supply of food in our inventory, and give the rest to whatever food-related ministry needs it. Our first priority would be other AW ministries, but if there isn't a great enough need locally, we will support others in the greater Toledo area. We will need to make this clear as we solicit and accept donations.

We also talked about the drop in the number of people using the Pantry. Although we speculated about several possible reasons, we agreed that we needed to try to learn more about why people aren't coming. We have names and phone numbers of former clients, so we will be creating a list of questions and calling them to ask for their help in making the Food Pantry as useable as possible.



Missions News

The Missions Committee held its first meeting in several months and worked on a lot of plans for the coming year.

We had a challenge finding homes for our hats, mittens, and gloves this year, but the donations of underwear and socks were greatly appreciated by the Marketplace for All People at St. Paul’s UMC in downtown Toledo. St. Paul’s has a vital ministry to the homeless. (Although St. Paul’s UMC was instrumental in beginning St. Paul’s Community Center, they no longer an official tie.) Everything in the Marketplace is free to the users. You can learn more about the Marketplace at <https://www.stpaulsumctoledo.com/page/mission-outreach>.

According to Pastor Mary Sullivan, socks and underwear (including bras) are always needed, especially in larger sizes. Bras can be gently used. We are planning a “Christmas in July” collection of these items. So, if you see them on sale, start collecting your items, and watch for more information.

We also plan to participate in Freedom School again this year if we have an opportunity. So far, there have been no announcements about dates, etc., but it is usually held in June and July.

We will once again fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child, but this year we will try spreading the word more widely through the use of our social media and our contacts with groups such as the Girl Scouts.

Since the need for hats, gloves, and mittens seems to be declining, we plan to focus on blankets at Christmas.

More News Around Zion

Directions, cont.

Finally, it was decided that we would change our Bible Study day and time to 2:30 on Food Pantry days (at least for the summer). Our hope is that some of our Food Pantry customers and helpers will join us. Customers will be able to pick up their food right after Bible Study.

New Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will help us to really know—and pray—the Lord’s Prayer through a video series by Adam Hamilton. As noted above, we will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30, beginning 6/7. If you would like an evening study, please let Pastor Carol know.

Diaper Changing Station Returns to Cherry Fest

Our diaper changing station will again be open for families attending Cherry Fest on Fri., 6/9, and Sat. 6/10. Plan now to take a shift at our tent.

Dragons at Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is set for June 20-23 from 9 a.m. to noon at Hope UMC, with a movie night on 6/24. It will be open to 3-year-olds (potty-trained) through those who have completed 4th grade. The theme is “How to Train Your Emotions.” God shows us how to tame our emotional “dragons” so we can have joy and peace in the midst of them. Brenda Hendricks is our rep at the planning meetings.



Have a Seat!

When our old chair lift was in need of expensive repairs, the Council decided to replace it. The new one, which offers a number of improvements, has been installed and is ready to get you safely into the sanctuary.

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](https://www.facebook.com/whitehousezionumc)

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

Upcoming Events

Sundays after worship: “Directions” meetings
Thursdays, 5/5 and 5/12, 2:00 p.m., Bible Study

Tues., 5/3, 4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
6:30-7:30 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #10143

Tues., 5/10, 6-7 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #16232

Tues., 5/17, 4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
6:30-7:30 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #10143

Wed., 5/18, 6:00 p.m., Church Council