



Heart Beat Newsletter

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

October, 2022

Pastor Carol's Comments

By chance, I was listening to the news on the radio in my car on the evening when a NASA spacecraft was to crash into an asteroid called Dimorphos—on purpose. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) was intended to see if an asteroid's orbit could be altered, just in case an asteroid ever poses a threat to Earth. (Dimorphos never was a threat to us Earthlings.) Dimorphos is 7 million miles from earth, and DART sent back amazing pictures as it approached the asteroid's surface, including rocks as small as beach balls. You can see what DART was seeing during its final few minutes: https://dart.jhuapl.edu/Gallery/media/videos/dart_impact_replay.mp4

This kind of thing simply flabbergasts me! There is so much beauty to behold right here on earth and in the sky that we can see with the naked eye, but then there's all that beauty out in space that is becoming more and more accessible to us. Take a look at that video, or the pictures from the new Webb Space Telescope, and just try to keep from shouting, "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork!" (Psalm 19:1)

As I look with awe at these images, I have the same feelings that the psalmist did: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4) And yet, God does care for us! Every day, in spite of the vastness of God's creation, God knows what each of us is feeling and experiencing. God feels our pains and our joys.

It is easy to feel insignificant when we look into the heavens. But, I hope that the next time you gaze at the beauty above us, you will be assured of two things: first, that our God is great beyond all imagining and, second, that you are one of God's most precious creations.



The "Cosmic Cliffs," the edge of a region where a star is being born 7,600 light-years away (45,600 trillion miles). Photo from the Webb Space Telescope.

News Around Zion

Lots of Activity Coming Up!

The Zion calendar is filling up for the next couple months, so mark your calendars now!

Sunbeam Preschool will hold its annual "**Trunk or Treat**" in our parking lot on Mon., 10/24. If you'd like to join in the fun, stick some decorations on the back of your car (if you like) and bring approx. 80 treats to hand out. Park your car as directed around 5:30. The students will begin going trunk-to-trunk at 6:00.

We will resume our own **Marshmallow Roasting** event on Halloween night (Mon., 10/31) from 6-8.

The annual **Fall Ham/Turkey Dinner** returns on Thurs., 11/10, from 4:30-7. The usual menu will be offered in a carry-out-only format--\$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 10.

Zion's **Charge Conference** will be held at Zion, immediately following worship, on Sun., 11/20. (See the related article for details.)

We will again be part of the **Community Thanksgiving Eve Service** on Wed., 11/23, at 7:00 p.m., at Community of Christ. Pastor Carol will be preaching.

Bible Study will be held weekly during Advent (Tuesdays at 2:30, 11/29-12/20). Watch for details in next month's "Heart Beat." (We will continue on Food Pantry days only until Advent begins.)

At-Home COVID Test Expiration Dates Extended

The expiration dates of some at-home COVID tests have been extended past the dates printed on the boxes. Before throwing out your tests, you can check to see if your brand of test is still useable on the following web site:

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>



Mission News

The Missions Committee met to discuss future plans. Next up is Operation Christmas Child. Boxes will be blessed on Sun., 11/13. The cost of postage this year is \$10/box. It's important to put your donation for postage on top of your items, so that the money can easily be removed before shipping.

We learned that our traditional Christmas collection of winterwear for children comes too late to be useful. So, this Christmas, we will collect adult-sized underwear and socks to be given to St. Paul's Marketplace for All People (as we did for Christmas in July). Large sizes are especially appreciated, including bras (which can be gently used).

We received a large anonymous donation of winterwear. It will be shared with Susie's Coats, a non-profit that collects these items year-round and distributes them in early fall.

"Directions" Update

Brenda has met with one of the juvenile offender diversion programs, and they seem willing to let their clients know that they can do community service hours at the Food Pantry. This will be helpful for us and, we hope, for young people who need a loving, supportive environment. Also, we have a contact at Cedar Creek to see if we may want to partner with them to get food to where it's most needed.

Watch for future Directions meetings. All are encouraged to participate as we seek ways in which Zion can better serve the community, grow in discipleship, and invite others into a relationship with Jesus.

Zion Annual Charge Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held on Sun., 11/20, right after worship. This is the meeting at which we take care of important church matters, such as electing our leadership and setting pastoral compensation. Although only elected leaders may vote, all are encouraged to attend and participate in any discussion. Pastor Warren Clifton of Hope UMC will preside.

Special Session of the West Ohio Conference

The West Ohio Conference will hold a Special Session on Sat., 11/19, from 10:00 a.m. – noon to deal with requests for disaffiliation. Requests by churches complying with all requirements will be voted on. The conference likely will be held online. While only clergy and elected lay members may vote, anyone can observe the proceedings.

Contrary to what you may have heard, pastors **cannot** remove their congregations from the UMC; that decision is made by the congregation through a specific process which includes voting on the issue. No congregations are being forced to leave. While some congregations may elect to disaffiliate, no changes of any kind in the UMC can or will be made before the 2024 General Conference. Any proposed changes will be voted on at GC2024, as they always are.

If you have questions about anything you hear, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Carol.

Church Information

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Worship at 10:25 a.m.

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Find us on Facebook: whitehousezionumc



Upcoming Events

Tues., 10/4, 2:30-3:30, Bible Study
4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #10143

Tues., 10/11, 6-7 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #16232

Tues., 10/18, 2:30-3:30, Bible Study
4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #10143

Mon., 10/24, 6:00 p.m. Sunbeam Trunk-or-Treat

Mon., 10/31, 6-8 p.m., Marshmallow Roast

Wed., 11/9, 6:00 p.m., Church Council meeting
All are welcome to attend.

Sat., 11/19, 10 a.m. - noon
Annual Conference Special Session (virtual)

Sun., 11/20, 4:30-7 p.m. Charge Conference