



Heart Beat Newsletter

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

November, 2022

Pastor Carol's Comments

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2). As I write this, we are exactly one week away from the midterm elections.

As Christians, we have a duty to cast our votes for those who support kingdom values. That doesn't mean we can only vote for Christians; there are many people who don't share our faith but live in ways that promote justice and mercy, and who will vote to care for the poor, the outcast, and the stranger. And it certainly doesn't mean that we must vote for those who say they are Christians but whose lives say the opposite. We cannot (and should not) judge the hearts of others, but we have a responsibility to carefully consider each candidate's words and actions.

There is room for disagreement about what kingdom values look like when it comes to individual issues. Faithful people disagree on issues like abortion and gender matters. But, we can disagree while not being disagreeable. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly" (Proverbs 15:1-2). Violence, whether perpetrated in deed or encouraged in word, is never justified.

Proverbs 17:15 says, "One who justifies the wicked and one who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord." We may never speak words of hate, and we certainly would not commit violence against people with whom we disagree. But our votes are a form of approval. When you go to the polls on 11/8, be careful to cast your votes for those who don't just wear a cross on their lapels, but whose actions show that they live in its shadow.

Zion Annual Church 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.

News Around Zion

It's Turkey (and Ham) Time!

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.

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

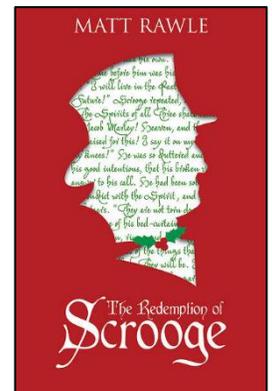
The Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wed., 11/23, at 7:00 p.m., at Community of Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor Carol will be preaching, and we will share Communion together. Because the Food Pantry is well-supplied right now, the offering of food and money will go to a food ministry in East Toledo supported by Community of Christ.

Advent Begins 11/27

We will soon enter the season of Advent! The first Sunday of Advent is 11/27. Watch for announcements about when we'll be decorating the church.

During Advent, our Bible Study will move to weekly meetings (instead of only on Food Pantry days), beginning on Tues., 11/29, at 2:30.

Our study this year will be *The Redemption of Scrooge*. With help from the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come, this video series will teach us about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. A book is available but not required. If you purchase a book, please remember to use Amazon Smile or iGive so that a portion of your purchase will come back to Zion.



We will have our traditional Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Carols on Sat., 12/24, at 7:00 p.m. That means that Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. We will worship on Christmas morning as usual. (What better day to worship the Savior?!) Feel free to come in your Christmas PJs if you like!



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.

For our Christmas mission focus, 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). Socks, underwear, and t-shirts are the item most requested by our homeless neighbors.

Christmas Assistance Program Is Underway

The Christmas Assistance program is once again under way. In 2021 the program supported 75 students from 30 families. All AW students received a letter explaining how to request assistance or sponsor a family. Sponsor's gift drop-off will be 12/11 and 12/12. Gift pick-up for the families will be 12/15. All requests should be sent to zionumcadopts@gmail.com by 12/1. (Sponsors may add themselves to the list at any time.)

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 by churches to leave the UMC. Although only elected members of the conference may vote, anyone may watch online. If you have questions about this issue, please contact Pastor Carol.

Halloween Fun



Traditional Marshmallow Roasting Continues!



Lee and Pastor Carol participated in Sunbeam Christian Preschool's Trunk or Treat event.

Church Information

Pastor Carol Williams-Young
10926 Maumee St. P.O. Box 2457
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Worship at 10:25 a.m.

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pastorcarol@bex.net

<http://www.zionumcwhitehouse.org>

Find us on Facebook: [whitehousezionumc](https://www.facebook.com/whitehousezionumc)



Upcoming Events

- Tues., 11/8, 6-7 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #16232
- Wed., 11/9, 6:00 p.m., Church Council meeting
All are welcome to attend.
- Thurs., 11/10, 4:30 - 7 p.m., Fall Ham/Turkey Dinner
- Sun., 11/13, Operation Christmas Child boxes due
- Tues., 11/15, 2:30-3:30, Bible Study
4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #10143
- Sat., 11/19, 10:30 -11:30 a.m.
Annual Conference Special Session (virtual)
- Sun., 11/20 after worship, Zion Charge Conference
- Tues., 11/22, 6-7 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #16232
- Wed., 11/23, 7:00 p.m., Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Sun., 11/27, Advent begins
- Tues., 11/29, 2:30 p.m., Advent Bible study