



# Heart Beat Newsletter



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

June, 2023

## Pastor Carol's Comments

I recently reread the story of the "Tower of Babel" (Genesis 11:1-9). It's interesting to read this story just after Pentecost. We read that, after the flood, "the whole earth had one language and the same words." "The whole earth" came to the plain of Shinar and settled there. Then their aspirations grew. "Let's make bricks, build a city, build a tower to the heavens, and make a name for ourselves so that we won't be scattered across the whole earth."

On the surface, their desire to stay together doesn't seem like a bad motivation. But, their plan wasn't consistent with God's plan for them: to "fill the earth." They couldn't do that if they were holed up in their comfortable city with people just like them. So, God made a bold move. "Let's confuse their speech, so they won't understand each other." As a result, the community did disperse "over the face of all the earth."

But then came Pentecost. Some say that at Pentecost, God undid what was done at Babel. But, at Pentecost, the people gathered in Jerusalem, all speaking their own languages, didn't suddenly begin to speak the same language. The disciples began to speak in other languages, so that all the people heard about God's deeds of power in their own languages. Difference wasn't erased; it was bridged by the disciples, speaking in the languages of others.

We encounter many people who speak languages we don't understand—maybe literally different languages but also the language of culture, tradition, or life experiences. In any case, we are called to be a Pentecost people. We are called to speak so that others may understand us and, through us, about God's deeds of power. This means we first have to become better listeners, letting go of preconceived notions about how people "should" speak, meeting people where they are, and really hearing what they have to say. Thanks be to God whose Holy Spirit gives us the power of understanding and the ability to speak so that others may hear in their own languages.



## News Around Zion

### Goodbye to Pastor Carol

Our congregation is gathering after the service on June 25 to wish Pastor Carol all the best on her retirement and her life's next chapter. Our congregation would like to show our appreciation for all that Pastor Carol has done for us over the last 6 years. She has brought much love, guidance, and teaching while here and she will be truly missed. Refreshments will be served.

### Cherry Fest Diaper Changing Station

Cherry Fest returns June 8-10, and we will again offer our diaper changing station to little ones and their families on Fri. and Sat. Help is needed for set-up on Thurs. evening, tear-town on Sat., and greeting guests throughout the festival. The Changing Station will be open on Fri. from 11-8, and Sat. from 10-6. See Cassie for more details.

### Thank You, Sunbeam Christian Preschool!



Thanks to a grant secured by Sandi Hood of Sunbeam Christian Preschool, the parking lot has been newly renovated. The even surface is safer for the children as well as all who use the lot. You'll notice that there is a "no-parking" area near the door and the ramp. This marks the space where the children can be safely gathered before entering the classroom. The grant covered the entire \$40,000 cost. The work was completed by Morlock Asphalt.



Christmas Is Coming!

Christmas is coming—in July! Once again we will collect socks and underwear for our homeless and low-income sisters and brothers. Items are needed for both men and women, especially in larger sizes. (Bras may be gently used.) Watch for details about the deadline for bringing in your items.

The items we collect will be shared through the Marketplace for All People at St. Paul’s UMC in downtown Toledo. Everything in the Marketplace is free to the users. (St. Paul’s UMC was instrumental in beginning St. Paul’s Community Center and continues a vital ministry to the homeless, although they no longer have an official tie.) Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmarket> -or- [stpaulsumctoledo.com/page/mission-outreach](http://stpaulsumctoledo.com/page/mission-outreach).



West Ohio Annual Conference

The West Ohio Annual Conference met in the Dayton Convention Center, 6/1-3. The approximately 2000 clergy and laypeople addressed administrative tasks such as the Conference budget; pension, salary, and health insurance for clergy; requests by churches for disaffiliation; and how to handle the camp properties which are in need of a huge investment to remain operational. A variety of recommendations relating to matters of social justice were approved, however *none of these recommendations change any policies for individual congregations, the conference, or the denomination; they are simply an expression of sentiment.*

Appointments that have been decided were announced. Zion is one of 60 congregations which have not yet received an appointment. (8 are in the newly-formed Maumee River District, which now encompasses all of northwest Ohio.) Our District Supt. Amy Haines assured Pastor Carol that she continues to seek an appropriate pastor who will meet Zion’s needs, so stay tuned.

Next year’s Annual Conference will be held 5/30 – 6/2 at a location to be announced.

**Church Information**

Pastor Carol Williams-Young  
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Worship at 10:25 a.m.

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**Upcoming Events**

- Sun., 6/4 “Directions” meeting (after worship)
- Tues., 6/6 2:30-3:30 p.m., Bible Study  
4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
- Thurs., 6/8 - Sat., 6/10 Cherry Fest
- Sun., 6/11 “Directions” meeting, if needed  
(after worship)
- Sun., 6/18 “Directions” meeting, if needed  
(after worship)
- Tues., 6/20 2:30-3:30 p.m., Bible Study  
4-6 p.m., Food Pantry
- Sun., 6/25 Farewell gathering with Pastor Carol  
(after worship)