

# West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Morning Worship

Vol. LVIII December 17, 2023 No. 51

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prelude Carla Stucky

Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome Sharon Gehring

The Lord be with you / **and also with you.**

Announcements

Testimony Carl Duffman

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in preparation,

**People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

Leader: We gather in expectation,

**People: for joy is about to break forth in our midst.**

Leader: We gather in celebration,

**People: for we are people who say**

**yes to the manger,**

**yes to the One incarnate for others,**

**yes to the wholeness of God.**

**All: In preparation and expectation, let us celebrate!**

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading Dave & Zettie Wedel

\*\*Celebrating in song words on screen

*Hark the Herald HWB 201*

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear HWB 195*

Message Steve Sherbenou

"Your Joy will be Complete" John 16:20-24

\*\*Song *The First Noel HWB 199*

Offering (*Offering will be received in the basket on the back table*)

Song for Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns (*Raise your hand, and we'll bring the mic to you*)

Prayers of the People

\*\*Sending Song *Joy to the World HWB 318*

\*\*Benediction

Steve Sherbenou

\*\*Postlude

\*\*please stand if you are able

Greeter(s): Ken Stucky

CCLI # 9106321  
Stream CCLI #20084674  
OneLicense #A-738752

*Livestream can be found on our West Zion Youtube page*

## **Christmas Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**9:30 AM:** *Last* Sunday School      **10:30 AM:** Worship Service  
**Message:** Steve Sherbenou      **Scripture:** Steve Sherbenou  
**Worship Leader:** Carla Stucky      **Accompanist:** Donna Stucky  
**Greeter(s):** Dave & Zettie Wedel  
**5:30 PM:** Christmas Eve musical prelude  
**6:00 PM:** Christmas Eve program

### **Coming Events**

Dec. 20: Church Council 7 PM  
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service 5:30 PM Prelude, 6 PM service  
Dec. 31: Steve Sherbenou preaches  
Jan. 7: Praise & Worship service (originally Nov. 26 service)  
Jan. 21: Meal & Annual Meeting

**Our Mission:** God calls us into community to worship God and follow Jesus through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Secretary Carla Stucky**  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays 9-11:30 AM, 1-4 PM  
**Cell:** 620-386-0414  
**Email:** secretary@westzionmc.org

**Church:** 620-345-8143  
**Church website:** www.westzionmc.org

## West Zion Announcements

Please have bulletin announcements to the office by Thursday noon.

1. **Interim Pastor:** On Dec 10 the Deacons announced they called Phil Slabaugh to become our Interim Pastor. Phil comes from eastern Ohio. He studied in the Hesston College Pastoral Ministries in the mid 1990's and has pastored in 2 different churches over the last 24 years. He will be coming mid-January. We will need to find an apartment and furnish it for him. He was widowed 2 years ago and will be coming alone. He has 2 grown sons. For more complete information please talk with one of the Deacons or Church Chairperson.

2. **White Christmas Offering:** This year's White Christmas Offering will be a towel drive for MCC. The last collection date is next Sunday, December 24. The following items are needed: **Hand towels** (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approx. 40 cm x 65 cm (16 in x 26 in) and **Bath towels** (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approximately 70 cm x 125 cm (28 in x 50 in). If you would like CDT to purchase towels for MCC, please make out a check for West Zion with **White Christmas offering** in the memo. Our goal is to collect 100 towels. Can you help us reach our goal?

3. Our West Zion **Christmas Eve program**, "The Simplicity of Christmas" will take place on Sunday, December 24. A prelude of music will begin at 5:30 PM with the program beginning at 6:00. Friends, neighbors and family are all welcome! Thank you to Crysta Guhr for planning the program.

4. All are welcome to join the **Christian Homemakers** for a work afternoon at the MCC Center January 8 at 1:00 PM. Plans are to eat lunch at the Breadbasket in Newton at noon. If you wish to carpool, join the group at West Zion church at 11:30 AM.

5. **Wayne and Jeanne Larson** have sent West Zion an update of their work. Read the informative letter posted on the lobby bulletin board. Pray for two new board participants with them, one having led a vision-setting process. Also pray that the team finds a chief financial officer, as well as their ongoing ministry across the Middle East.

6. A very **deep gratitude** is felt for the many prayers and visits done for me while I was in the hospital recently. Now I am home hoping

medications and pacemaker will work. It is a deep joy to realize that all of you are a caring people for God's own. Thank you again.  
– Geneva Wedel

7. **Yearbook changes:** 'Tis the season for the secretary to begin thinking about the yearbook. Please make any changes needed for your address or family addresses in the yearbook on a foyer table.

8. Christmas season can be a time when we **miss our loved ones** a little more than usual. We would like to honor those who have died in a December 24 bulletin insert. The poinsettias up front represent the many beautiful memories and love they brought into our lives. Please send Carla the name(s) of who you would like listed by December 17.

9. There is a **Christmas card** with a family picture from former pastors John & Marcia Yoder-Schrock in the foyer.

## General Announcements

10. **Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024!** This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at [mcc.org/south-texas-lt](http://mcc.org/south-texas-lt). Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20.

11. The **Moundridge Community Blood Drive** is scheduled for December 29, 2023 from 12:00 noon until 6:00 PM at the Pine Village Wellness Center. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use "Moundridge" for the sponsor code. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Carol at 620-345-6774 or email [bczenger@mtelco.net](mailto:bczenger@mtelco.net).

12. **Hoffnungsaue Mennonite Church**, Inman, is celebrating 150 years August 31 - September 1, 2024. We are planning a Sunday School class reunion along with other activities. Share with your families and others who have Hoffnungsaue connections. Watch Hoffnungsaue's Facebook page for church trivia and more details of our weekend celebration. If you'd like to be added to our email list for further details as they develop, please contact Barb at [bj.reeves@live.com](mailto:bj.reeves@live.com).

13. **Interviews for the 2024 Camp Mennoscah summer staff** start over the Christmas/semester break! Complete your application by

going to the Mennoscah website. Summer staff must be 18 years old or older. The staff leadership positions receiving stipends are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, and office/media. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. The 2024 summer camp season begins with orientation for summer-long positions on June 2 and ends August 4.

14. You still have an opportunity to participate in the 2024 **SMCHA 150<sup>th</sup> celebration musical drama**. We are particularly looking for young men (teens or slightly older), but will have openings for others as well. We have some very talented participants, and hope you will join them. If interested, contact Jenny Schrag by text or phone (620) 747-9158.

<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>	<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Regular collections – this week	\$ 950.00	\$ 3,772.00
Regular collections – year to date	\$111,178.83	\$140,038.26
Budget	\$163,155.00	\$157,300.00
Expended to date	\$104,605.61	\$137,007.81
White Christmas-to-date	\$ 545.00	

### **West Zion Prayers**

The family of Joyce Dirks who died December 12  
 Those dealing with health issues and recovering from surgery  
 Search for a new pastor  
 Pray for our new interim pastor, Phil Slabaugh, as he transitions to Moundridge in January

### **Prayer Request from Western District Conference**

Pray for generous financial support for WDC congregations, as they seek to meet annual budget goals for mission and ministry.

### **Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network**

SADRA (Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency) Conflict Transformation is a Mennonite Mission Network partner that offers a Christian response to injustice in South Africa. Pray for the conflict mediators, who train members of their communities to de-escalate situations that could lead to violence.

### **Mission Mosaic Prayer**

Participants in SOOP training in Texas

December 10 attendance: 49



We wish a **“Happy Birthday”** to:  
 December 22: Carla Stucky  
 December 23: Connie Kaufman

We wish a **“Happy Anniversary”** to:  
 December 17: Brian & Laura Bretz