

West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Morning Worship

Vol. LVIII December 31, 2023 No. 53

Prelude Donna Stucky
Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome Sharon Gehring
The Lord be with you / **and also with you.**

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Source of all hope and holiness,

People: we gather today to be church.

Leader: Bless those who are absent,

People: but not from our hearts.

Leader: Bless those who are distant,

People: but not from our love.

Leader: Bless each of us here

People: that we may choose justice by your Spirit,

Leader: draw kindness from the well of your mercy,

All: and walk humbly in your path.

**Celebrating in song words on screen

Hope is a Candle STS 15

Infant holy, infant lowly HWB 206

Message “Come Before Winter” 2 Tim. 4:9-22

Due to illness for both Steve and Amy, they could not be here this morning. Steve forwarded the sermon he had written which will be read as the message.

**Song of Response *What Child is This HWB 215*

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 *Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem STS 32*

**Benediction

**Postlude

**please stand if you are able

Greeter(s): Geneva Wedel

CCLI # 9106321

Stream CCLI #20084674

OneLicense #A-738752

Livestream can be found on our West Zion Youtube page

Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:30 AM: Worship Service

Message: Praise & Worship

Scripture: Various people

Accompanist: Donna Stucky

Worship Leader: Ellen Kaufman

Greeter(s): Dave & Zettie Wedel

Coming Events

- Jan. 7: Praise & Worship service (originally Nov. 26 service)
Jan. 14: 9:30 AM: Informational meeting about Evana with Matt Hamsher, time for Q & A
10:30 AM: Matt Hamsher brings the message
Jan. 21: Meal & Annual Meeting, vote on conference affiliation

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. **The Deacons along with Church Council** have been working on making decisions regarding our conference affiliation. The Church Council is making a recommendation to leave Western District Conference and move to Evana. We feel this conference aligns with our beliefs and have communicated our desire to the Evana conference leaders. Matt Hamsher, Evana Executive Director, will be here on Jan. 14 to visit with us and will be filling the pulpit that Sunday. ***An informational meeting will take place at 9:30 AM on Jan. 14 with a time for questions and answers.*** Because of Matt's help through Evana, we were able to secure Phil Slabaugh as our interim minister beginning mid-January. In order to make the move to another conference, a church vote is required. The Council is proposing that we leave Western District Conference and move to Evana. The Council is requiring a two-thirds yes vote in order for the motion to move forward. Upon receiving the positive vote, there will need to be acceptance from Evana and revisions to the constitution and handbook. ***We would like to take this vote on Jan. 21 at the annual church meeting.*** We ask that you pray about this decision and plan to attend the Jan. 14 informational meeting as well as the annual meeting. If you have further questions, please visit with one of the Deacons or Connie Kaufman.

2. **Due to illness** for both Steve and Amy, the Sherbenous could not be here this morning. If you would like to send them a get-well card or a card of thanks, their address is: 8704 E. Parkmont Dr, Wichita, KS 67207.

3. **Interim Pastor:** The Deacons have 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.

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. **Yearbook changes:** Please take time to check the yearbook in the foyer and make any changes in addresses for you and family members.

6. The 2024 lists of **greeters and scripture readers** can be found in church mailboxes. Please be sure to check your box if you will be helping with these.

General Announcements

6. **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. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20.

West Zion Prayers

Terry Kessler is at Mercy being treated for pneumonia

Leon Guhr is at Mercy dealing with respiratory issues

Carl Duffman is at Wesley

Lee Schrag, friend of Mike & Connie, who suffered a heart attack

Jan Dyck's brother, Glen, who is on hospice

Frances Neufeld as she continues with health concerns

Search for a new pastor

December 24 attendance: 38

Christmas Eve: 64



We wish a **“Happy Birthday”** to:
January 1: Virginia Guhr