

## Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

**Worship attendance** (with 4 visitors; & ...x2 Twitchers): c.80  
(No stream / recording last week, due to no internet)  
**Offering: Local Fund** \$3,300  
Local Fund receipts in June (\$11,600 / month needed per budget) \$3,300

## This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

**SS classes meet** 9:45 A.M., June 18  
**Worship** 10:45 A.M., June 18  
**Farewell reception** for Pastor Ray in foyer c.Noon, June 18

### Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church

Mowing Church / Parsonage: Don Regier Before next Sun.  
Mowing Cemetery: Joe Friesen and Wes Brewer Before next Sun.  
Worship Leader(s): Deacons Next Sun.  
Accompanist: Bonnie Brewer (Annette Voth, prelude) Next Sun.  
Children's Time: Bonnie Brewer Next Sun.  
Offering: Mennonite Mission Network Next Sun.

## Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

**Ice cream social honoring Naomi** 3:30 P.M., June 25  
**Deacons meet** ? - 9 A.M., July 10  
**Governing Council meets** 7 P.M., July 10  
**Spiritual Life Board** meets (via Zoom) 7 P.M., July 19  
**Zion / GH retreat @** Camp Mennoscah Aug. 26-27

## Pray and Give Thanks This Week for...

- Martha Wedel, unable to worship with us regularly, and recovering in her apartment at Kansas Christian Home after a fall a week ago.
- Pastor Ray as he concludes several years of ministry with us (and several decades overall), and steps into a new stage of life.
- pastoral candidates, and for pastoral search committees in WDC congregations, as they discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit for future ministerial leadership.
- Robin Gingerich, who has served in administrative and academic capacities at LCC International Un. in Lithuania since 2001, partnering with MMN. Pray for her as she builds relationships with students, faculty and staff from around the world.

# Zion Mennonite Church

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## June 18, 2023: Farewell to Pastor Ray

Worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 A.M.; also live-streamed

|  |                                    |                      |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Gathering Song                           | "Come, come, ye saints"            | HWB #425             |
| Welcome, Introductions, Announcements    |                                    | Steph Entz           |
| Prelude                                  |                                    | Caleb K.             |
| Call to Worship                          |                                    | VT #963              |
| Offering                                 | <i>Western District Conference</i> |                      |
| Children's Time                          |                                    | Rachel Reimer-Kouame |
| Song                                     | "Praise, I will praise you, Lord"  | VT #131              |
| Scripture                                | <i>selections from Acts 20</i>     |                      |
| Meditation                               | "Cockleburs and crocuses"          | Ray Reimer           |
| Response Song                            | "God is working this purpose out"  | VT #770              |
| Sharing Celebrations and Concern         |                                    |                      |
| Prayer                                   |                                    | Ann Schowengerdt     |
| Sketch of Pastor Ray's Career            |                                    | Marcel Kouame        |
| Special Music                            |                                    | Renee Reimer         |
| Sharing of Memories and Gratitude        |                                    | John Janzen          |
| Litany of Release and Prayer of Blessing |                                    | Kathy Neufeld Dunn   |
| Sending Song                             | "Praise God (Dedication Anthem)"   | VT #70               |
| Benediction                              |                                    | Ray Reimer           |

Worship Leaders: Deacons Accompanist / Vocalist: Brett Klingenberg  
Pastor: Ray Reimer (through this service; thereafter... in process)

(Our worship is live-streamed and recorded at <twitch.tv/zionmennonite>; recorded services are available for 7 days. Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #737503-A. All rights reserved)

**Pastor's Schedule:** Please contact the deacons (Steph Entz, John Janzen, Ann Schowengerdt) with pastoral concerns.

## *Congregational Announcements*

There is a **new e-mail** for our new Administrative Assistants (Bonnie and Wes Brewer: <office.zionelbing@gmail.com>). Please use this henceforth for bulletin details, etc. Ann Schowengerdt will monitor the main Zion e-mail account the next few weeks.

June 25, 3:30 P.M.: **Ice Cream Social honoring Naomi:** Naomi has been a blessing to our community and we want to wish her bon voyage as she embarks on her next journey. Come join us for a homemade ice cream and pie social in the Zion Menn. Ch. basement on the date / time noted. Help would be appreciated providing homemade ice cream, toppings, and pies; please see Bonnie Brewer or Steph Entz for sign-up information.

**Thank you** for all your cards and wishes for my Birthday. Also for the snacks the children gave me. It's great to be a part of a church family that respects both old and young!  
—Thelma Wedel

A big **“Thank You”** for all the gifts, cards, affirmation, cake, and scrap book of memories that I received last week. The service was a special one for me so thank you for sharing in my celebration. Thanks too for allowing me to be your pastor these past three years. Blessings to each one as you look forward to the future.

—Karen Andres

## *Other Organizations*

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton **critically low on inventory!** An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is available for assembly. You can help by filling the following needs: new infant onesies and sleepers (3-12 month sizes); notebooks (70 sheets) and black or blue ballpoint pens. Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: shampoo (20 oz or more), men's deodorant (min 2.25 oz) and toothpaste (min. 5 oz). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).

June 25, 4 P.M.: Casa Betania is inviting people from sister congregations to a **15<sup>th</sup> anniversary service** in the First Menn. Ch. (Newton) sanctuary where Casa Betania worships. After the service there will be a time of fellowship with a meal. Casa Betania will provide the main dishes and an anniversary cake. Guests do not need to bring food, but those who would like to bring something are welcome to share a salad or fruit.

July 8, 6:30 P.M.: First Menn. Ch. (52 Rambler Road, Hutchinson, KS 67502) invites you to a Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery **Movie Showing & Book Signing** with Mark Charles. The film, *The Custodians: A Story of Ancient Echoes*, explores the work of local landowners, volunteers and municipal government of Herschel, SK, Canada, in protecting and conserving the many signs of historic Indigenous presence in the region. The book, *Unsettling Truths*, by author Mark Charles, is a prophetic blend of history, theology, and cultural commentary, that reveals the far-reaching, damaging effects of the “Doctrine of Discovery.” Stay after the film showing for a panel with Mark Charles and Jonathan Neufeld.

Camp MennoScah is moving forward on the **M&M Project**. As of early June, we are close to one-third of the way to our goal of \$100,000. We have 30 plus giving units committed to being Fire Keepers and the list grows weekly. Churches are invited to put together a fundraising event this year that would specifically benefit the M&M Project. Churches are planning events for the summer and the fall. If you would like camp representation at such an event at your church, we are more than happy to see what we can do! And we'll advertise for you on our website and Facebook page. We know you will want to be in on this opportunity to continue our Mission at Camp. Now is the time to sign up—your family, your Sunday School class, your small group, yourself—to be a Fire Keeper! Or, get a plan together for an event at your church to “fan the flames.” For more info, check out the Camp MennoScah Website, or contact Tammy Duvanel Unruh at <tammy.d.unruh@campmennoscah.org> or 316-207-3472.

**Opening:** The Newton Et Cetera Shop is taking applications for our full-time Retail Manager position. Job descriptions and applications can be picked up at the shop.

## *Litany of Release and Blessing*

Congregational Chairperson: As sisters and brothers in this faith community, today we give thanks for your twelve years of ministry among us, Ray. We say farewell to you and we ask God to bless the journey ahead—yours and this congregation’s work to move forward.

**Congregation: All praise be to our God. In God there is one Body, one Spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us all.**

Ray: We have shared worship and work, happy and sad occasions, many, many committee meetings and service projects. We worshipped God and studied God’s word together; we met together at ICUs and health care facilities, over Zoom and Twitch and in homes, during “harvest rides” and at retreats and funerals.

Congregational Chairperson: This is a time of various feelings: sadness, joy, loss, and thankfulness. It’s the goodbyes that are hard, but we have accomplished much during these years together, and we give God thanks and praise for you and your fruitful ministry.

Ray: I leave as your pastor with cherished memories of our times together. You have shaped my faith. You have helped me see and seek God’s presence in my life and in the community. Thank you for your care, your creativity, your encouragement, and your hope along the way. I ask your forgiveness for where I’ve fallen short.

Deacon representative: God has blessed us richly through your ministry. We now bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Conference Minister: As you, the people of Zion Mennonite Church bless Ray as he leaves this congregation, do you now release him from his pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

**Congregation: With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for Ray’s faithful leadership and now acknowledge this transition in the life of our congregation. We will pray for God’s continued guidance in his life.**

Conference Minister: Ray, do you release the congregation from its loyalty to you as their pastor? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Ray: With the help of God, I do. When we interact in the future, we will be brothers and sisters in Christ, not pastor and church members. But I still will hold the congregation and its ministries in my prayers.

Conference Minister: Ray, may God bless and guide you on the next steps of your journey. May God bless the relationships you will faithfully tend and other important work that utilizes your gifts. May God bless and guide this congregation into a hopeful future as it continues kingdom work and seeks new leadership. May God bless and guide each of us as we revise our relationship into the future. Amen.

### *Other Organizations, continued*

**Opening:** Western District Conference seeks a half-time Business Manager beginning July 10, at WDC’s North Newton, KS, office (some remote work possible). Responsibilities include financial management, bookkeeping, reporting and payroll. Qualifications include organizational, computer and communication skills, bookkeeping or accounting experience, and willingness to support WDC’s mission and priorities. For position description and application form, see <<https://mennowdc.org/wdc-staff-position-opening/>>. Interested applicants should submit application form and letter of interest to <[heidirk@mennowdc.org](mailto:heidirk@mennowdc.org)>.

**Opening:** Western District Conference seeks a quarter-time Fund Development Coordinator beginning July 2023 to cultivate donor relationships and congregational giving, promote planned giving, and generate creative fundraising initiatives. Qualifications include communication, fund-raising and development skills. Position description and application form can be found at: <<https://mennowdc.org/employment/>> Please submit application and letter of interest to <[heidirk@mennowdc.org](mailto:heidirk@mennowdc.org)>.