

Adult SS Classes

- *Salt & Light* meets in the library
- *If the Church were Christian*: Read or listen to Chapter 5 for discussion this Sunday. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

MYF

- **TODAY** – Bible Study, 6-7:30 PM
- **March 3** – Crowded Closet volunteer activity; carpool meets at the school @12:5pm. Hockey outing & pizza to follow.

JYF

- **Wednesdays** – 6-8 PM @Wayland Mennonite. All 7th & 8th graders are welcome for food, games and learning about the parables of Jesus! Sugar Creek will provide meals March 6, 20, 27 & April 3. Contact Lori Miller to sign up: 319-759-1068



This week please remember in prayer Brad, Sam, Aubrey & Ava Eichelberger and Phil Kleese

Pray for those dealing with medical issues: Sandy Koehler (Kathy Roth's sister), Cindy Harms, Roni Stowers, Kent McDougal (cancer return), Sharon Jennings (Brooke Kleese's grandmother), Victor Hartzler (Orpha's brother), Doug Steele (Opal's neighbor), Randy Roth, Jeremy Niemeyer (Wilbur & Debbie's nephew), Martha Hernandez, Carol Long

Pray for the JYF and MYF. Pray for God to bless the leaders with wisdom, understanding, and love for the youth they lead. Pray for God to bless the youth with willing hearts and the chance to be examples to others.

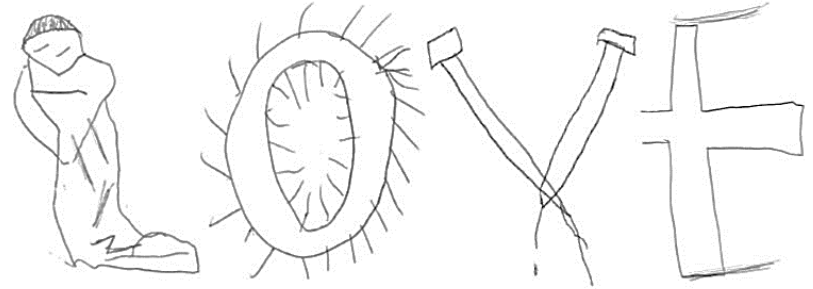
CPMC Prayer Request Pray for your sister churches in SE Iowa: First of Iowa City, West Union, Wellman, East Union, Kalona, Washington, Wayland, Sugar Creek, Pleasant View, and Zion Mennonite Churches.

MMN Prayer Request Pray for the leaders of Anabaptist seminaries in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and the US, as they collaborate to expand Spanish-language opportunities for church leadership development.

LAST SUNDAY

Offering: Home Missions \$3,785; Missions \$1,755; Conference \$1,000; General Fund \$650; Education \$300

- My Coins Count (2 weeks) \$163.57



Drawn by Madden Black

February 18, 2024



PO Box 146, Wayland, IA 52654

Office Phone: 319-256-6061 or 319-750-4040

Website: sugarcreekmennonitechurch.org

Email address: sugarcreekmc@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9AM-1PM

Interim Pastor

Pam Gerig Unruh: 319-750-3091 (pgunruh@gmail.com)

Elders

Lisa Graber: 319-461-0270 (liscgraber@gmail.com)

Matt Slagel: 319-430-6741 (slagelm@gmail.com)

Justin Freyenberger: 319-461-7040 (freyenberger12@gmail.com)

February 18, 2024

Christ among Us, Repent and Believe

Christ is among us, reminding us of who we are,
and even when we fail, reminding us of grace
and calling us beloved.

9:15 AM: Sunday School

10:10 AM: Fellowship Time

10:30 AM: Worship

Live Stream: <https://tinyurl.com/SCMLiveStream>
<facebook.com/sugarcreekmennonitechurch>

Worship Leader: Matt Slagel

Song Leader: Nathan Luitjens

Piano/Organ: Tamara Zechin

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Lord, I need you

Silent Worship – Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer/Lent Theme Sharing

Praising

WB 102 To God be the glory

10,000 Reasons

Hearing the Word

Children's Story: Sidney Garrett

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Message: Orlando Redekopp, "Lent: Time to Detoxify our Faith"

Prayer of Confession (*please kneel as able*)

Responding

STJ 92 Just as I am

Offering: Home Missions & **My Coins Count**

(2/25 Home Missions & **My Coins Count**)

Sharing & Prayers

Sending

Benediction

WB 349 Spirit of the living God

Thank you to Garry & Lori Leichty for serving as ushers today.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Pam Gerig Unruh

SUGAR CREEK NEWS

Lent: Reminder that the table in the foyer and in the prayer room will have prayer guides that you can use for a focused prayer time on the Lent theme for each week. If you have any questions, please talk with Dana or Tamara.

The table in the foyer also contains the 2024 Lent at Home: Lenten Worship Guide and Daily Ritual Calendar from Mennonite Education Agency if you would like to use them in your Lenten journey.

On the podium in front of the pulpit is a worship arts display that will expand throughout the Lent season. Today, on our first Sunday of Lent, you will notice a burlap cloth that represents our path. The youngest children's Sunday school class traced their feet, which we have added on and around the cloth as an example of our steps on the journey. The bowl reminds us that God wants to fill us and the roundness of the bowl reminds us of God's never-ending love for each person.

Fellowship: Please see the available slots for the Cookie time signup below or contact Vi Graber. Thank you!

signupgenius.com/go/4090E45AEAB2DA0FA7-46238258-sugar#

My Coins Count: During the month of February the children will be collecting your loose change during the morning worship service for MCC's "My Coins Count". Bring your change each week and help provide safe water for Nepal.

Office Hours & Bulletin: Katy's maternity leave will be the remainder of February, and she will be working part time from home. There will not be regular office hours. Bulletin announcements should be received by noon on Wednesdays. Please email the church or text Katy with any announcements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

- **Advocate Luncheon and Activity** – Meet in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **7:00 PM:** Church Council, MYF Room

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- **6:00 PM:** Sunday Evening Gospel Reading Discussion in the Fellowship Hall; bring your own snack!

FEBRUARY 18, 2024
AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Plains: Mark your calendars ~ June 20-23 - The SE Iowa Churches will be hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. If you would like to help plan this event or want more information, please contact Pastor John David of West Union Mennonite Church. His email is pastor@westunionmennonite.org or you can call him at (319) 461-2781. The main areas that need planning are worship, food, childcare, and lodging. Your prayers are cherished by all those working to plan this event.

Cradle of Hope: has now opened a new mother's home in Mt. Pleasant. They need volunteers who are willing to hang out with residents so that the house mom can have some breaks for personal appointments. Please call the office to get more information about volunteering: 319-986-5336. Thank you!

Crooked Creek Christian Camp: Registration is now open for our spring craft retreat, March 1-3. Join us for a fun weekend of crafting and fellowship! Visit crookedcreekcamp.org/craft-retreat.html for more information and to register.

Crowded Closet Thrift Shop: Ready for a year of goodness and growth as we act on our mission of love and compassion! We are fully staffed and ready to welcome more volunteers into purposeful service together. Support Mennonite Central Committee through service as we transform material donations into relief, development, and peace that reaches around the world, and helps our local community, too. Current volunteer openings: Cashier, Donation Processing (multiple departments), and Donation Receiving. The board of directors is actively receiving nominations for open board positions. To learn more about these opportunities or to plan a shop visit to explore behind the scenes, contact Christine Maust Beachy, Volunteer Coordinator, 319-337-5924 or crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com.

The Family Connection: The Family Connection is a home visitor program for families with children age prenatal-kindergarten in both Washington and Henry Counties. Our philosophy is that parents are the first, and most important, teachers of their children. We provide two home visits per month and use the Parents as Teachers curriculum to teach families about child development and the importance of play in early childhood. Our program is voluntary and absolutely free. We also have incentives for our families, and we are seeking donations to enhance our incentive program. If you have any questions or would like to make a referral, please call Amy McLaughlin at 319-385-8126. A pack 'n' play is set up in the foyer for donations, or checks may be earmarked for The Family Connection. Items we regularly use are:

- Diapers (especially size 4, 5, 6)
- Diaper wipes
- Diaper cream
- Laundry detergent (allergen free)
- Dish and hand soap
- Baby wash
- Pacifiers
- Sippy cups
- Educational toys (no batteries)
- Teething rings, rattles and other infant toys
- Bottles and nipples
- Baby blankets
- Books for small children
- Home safety items and first aid kits

Hillcrest: Open Gym - On Sunday, February 25 3:00-4:30 PM, 5th-8th graders can participate in activities including: basketball, volleyball, matball, dodgeball, etc. under the direction of Mitchell Drey (Hillcrest Academy Girls Basketball Coach). Please bring a water bottle and wear running shoes. Please sign up at hillcrestravens.org/5-8events

Skating Party - On Thursday, February 29 6:30-8:30 PM, 5th-8th graders are invited to join the Hillcrest Academy Y-Co (student body government) in an evening of skating at the Wellman Skating Rink! We'll provide skates, cookies and 1 ticket for a drink. Please bring money for additional snacks & drinks from the concession stand. Sorry, no water bottles allowed. Parents will need to pay for themselves if they stay. Please sign up at hillcrestravens.org/5-8events.

MCC: MCC partner Team Brownsville welcomes your gently used winter coats and jackets! Team Brownsville seeks to share God's love by welcoming asylum seekers, including providing them with warm coats. It's as easy as collecting your gently used coats and jackets, boxing them up and shipping (up to) 70 lb./box to Team Brownsville – just follow the instructions on the poster on the north bulletin board. Spring clean your closets and help Team Brownsville prepare for next winter! Have questions? Please email the MCC Central States Immigration Team at centralstates@mcc.org and either Abraham Diaz Alonso or Becky Teiwes, will respond.

Interested in working with MCC, or know someone who is? MCC is hiring a Community Engagement Coordinator! The Community Engagement Coordinator, in North Newton, KS connects with local churches,

individuals, and partners to educate on MCC material resources, programs, and events. Apply at the following link: mccglobal.my.site.com/MCCJobs/s/va or find the job and other openings at mcc.org/careers.

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton is critically low on inventory: An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: *new* infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes); bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); wide-toothed combs; laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); shampoo (20 oz min); fingernail clippers (good quality); and hand towels (dark colored). Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: men's T-shirts (sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color); men's underwear (sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color); men's crew socks; lotion (12 oz min); and adult backpacks. 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.

MCC for YOUTH | Feb. 23: MCC High School Essay Contest - Are you a youth who attends a Mennonite high school or an Anabaptist church? This is your opportunity to express your views in essay format on critical issues facing U.S. society. Submissions are due Feb. 23, 2024, and may be in English or Spanish. The grand prize is \$1000! Find out more about the high school essay contest. mcc.org/events/high-school-essay-contest Submit essays to centralstates@mcc.org.

MCC Young Adult Peace Camp in Black Forest, Colorado - March 10-15: Join us for an incredible week of hands-on peacebuilding training in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado Springs! MCC's Peacebuilders Training is a learning experience for young adults hungry to connect with other young adults; root themselves in intentional, theological reflection; and apply that to the real-world work of peace and justice in their communities. Find out more and register for the Peace Camp. mcc.org/get-involved/peace-camps

Iowa Peace Network: Feel free to register and join these weekly recurring Zoom meetings:

- *Praying for Peace with Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP):* CMEP Invites you to join them in praying for peace in Israel and Palestine, Wednesdays 11:30AM-12PM CST. cmepe.org/wednesday-prayer/
- *Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Weekly Briefing:* CMEP is holding a weekly briefing of current news regarding the Hamas and Israel war, Thursdays 9-9:30 AM CST. cmepe.org/thursday-briefing/

Subscribe to **PeaceMail** to receive Mennonite Church USA's blogs, together with news and resources in one weekly email. Subscribe to PeaceMail here: mennoniteusa.org/PeaceMailSubscribe

MCUSA Jonathan Kuttub, international human rights attorney and Mennonite Church USA 2023 Bring the Peace Legacy Peacemaker honoree, describes how his work as a human rights lawyer relates to peace and justice. Read more and watch the interview here: mennoniteusa.org/kuttub-btp

Beryl Jantzi, director of stewardship education for Everence, a ministry partner of Mennonite Church USA, shares congregational stewardship resources in his recent Menno Snapshots blog. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/new-year-stewardship

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Church USA denominational minister for Peace and Justice, led a half-day faculty training on restorative discipline at Lititz Area Mennonite School in Pennsylvania, on January 15, 2024. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/peaceable-schools

Learn more about Safe Church, Mennonite Church USA's newly formed abuse prevention ministry here: mennoniteusa.org/safechurch View the PDF here: mennoniteusa.org/safe-church-resources

Mennonite Action: a grassroots movement, united more than 800 Mennonites representing 250 congregations across the U.S. and Canada in a mobilizing call for peace. The "Call to Action" served as a resounding demand for a ceasefire, an end to the U.S.- and Western-funded occupation of Palestine, and a push for lasting peace. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/mennonite-action

Mom Café: Join us the third Tuesday evening of every month from 6-7:30pm at Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church in Mount Pleasant. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tamara Zechin at 319-217-2456. Hope to see you there!

Parkview: Parkview Home is looking for either a volunteer or perhaps even a contract for services for light yard work in 2024. We are seeking someone to perform light-duty yard work for Spring, Summer and possibly the Fall of 2024. This much-needed position would entail light yard work such as weed pulling, trimming hedges and bushes, watering and just an overall finishing touch for our yards on Parkview campus.