

### Adult SS Classes

- *Salt & Light* meets in the library
- *If the Church were Christian*: Read or listen to Chapter 8 for discussion this Sunday. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

### MYF

- **Mar. 17** – 6-7:30 PM @Sugar Creek, Bible Study with Matt & Jen Slagel. SWAP forms are due.
- **Mar. 31** – SonRise Service

### JYF

- **Wednesdays** – 6-8 PM @Wayland Mennonite. All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome for food, games and learning about the parables of Jesus!



**This week please remember in prayer** Don, Kathy, Russ, Becky, Eli & Eivan Yoder

**Pray for those dealing with medical issues:** Martha Hernandez (hospice care), Sandy Koehler (Kathy Roth's sister), Cindy Harms, Roni Stowers, Kent McDougal, Sharon Jennings (Brooke Kleese's grandmother), Victor Hartzler (Orpha's brother), Doug Steele (Opal's neighbor), Randy Roth, Carol Long

**Pray for Iglesia Menonita Centro Cristiana**, the Hispanic church plant in Washington, as they witness, preach, and teach the Word.

**CPMC Prayer Request** Pray for your sister churches in the Quad Cities area cluster: Casa de Oracion Emanuel, Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo, Iglesia Menonita Centro Cristiano, Iglesia Torre Fuerte, Templo Alabanza and the El Buen Pastor church plant.

**MMN Prayer Request** Laura Schlabach, who has served with Mennonite Mission Network in Mongolia since 1993, is currently on North American Ministry in the United States. Pray that she will be able to find rest and renewal from the demands of being the only on-site member of a three-person executive director team for JCS International in Mongolia. Pray also for the smooth functioning of the organization in her absence.

### LAST SUNDAY

Offering: Missions \$3,029; General Fund \$650; Home Missions \$500; Conference \$250



Jesus comforts me!

*Drawn by Rafael Barrera & Ethan Perez*

March 10, 2024



**PO Box 146, Wayland, IA 52654**

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

**Website: [sugarcreekmennonitechurch.org](http://sugarcreekmennonitechurch.org)**

**Email address: [sugarcreekmc@gmail.com](mailto:sugarcreekmc@gmail.com)**

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

*Interim Pastor*

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

*Elders*

Lisa Graber: 319-461-0270 ([liscgrab@gmail.com](mailto:liscgrab@gmail.com))

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

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

## March 10, 2024

### *Christ among Us, the Way of Mercy*

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:** Mike & Maria Roth

**Song Leader:** Vi Graber

**Piano/Organ:** Mattias Luitjens

### Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

*Lord, I need you*

Silent Worship – Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer/Lent Theme Sharing

### Praising

*WB 87 Great is the Lord*

*Be still and know*

### Hearing the Word

Scripture Reading: \*John 3:1-21 (p. 71) *(please stand as able)*

Message: Pam Gerig Unruh, “Step into the Light”

Prayer of Confession *(please kneel as able)*

### Responding

*WB 167 For God so loved us*

Offering: Home Missions (3/17 Conference)

Sharing & Prayers

### Sending

Benediction

*WB 119 Praise God from whom*

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

## NEXT SUNDAY

- Pam Gerig Unruh

## SUGAR CREEK NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lent:** 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.

God is always shining God's light towards us. Let us open our hearts to the light so that God's love can flow in and through us to all those we encounter. To embody Christ is to be merciful as God is merciful. This week's symbol is a candle to remind us of God's mercy and grace.

**Baptism/Membership:** Please talk to Pam or and Elder if you have interest in participating in a baptism/membership class.

**Easter Lilies:** Lilies are available for purchase for \$10 each, through TODAY. They will be used for décor on Easter Sunday, and may be taken after the service. Money payable to the church office with checks made out to Sugar Creek Mennonite Church. Please use the signup on the north bulletin board.

**Extension:** If anyone feels led to provide JYF meals for April 17 and 24, please let Lori Miller know: 319-759-1068.

**Fellowship:** Please use the signup link to provide cookies, [signupgenius.com/go/4090E45AEAB2DA0FA7-48304975-sugar](http://signupgenius.com/go/4090E45AEAB2DA0FA7-48304975-sugar) or contact Vi Graber.

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

- **9:00 AM:** Parkview Worship
- Elder Nominations

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20**

- **11:00 AM:** Parkview Devotions

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 21**

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

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

- Palm Sunday

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

- **6:00 PM:** Good Friday service

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

- **10:00 AM:** Easter Sunday, joint service at Wayland Mennonite; no Sunday School.

**MARCH 10, 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](mailto: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.

**Concert:** Bad Angle Events is hosting local vocalist and musicians, Allison Yoder Hershberger with Old Man Band in "An Evening of Music Inspired by Eva Cassidy" on March 16th at 7 p.m. in Celebration Hall on the campus of Hillcrest Academy. More information and tickets are available at [www.badangleevents.org](http://www.badangleevents.org).

**Cradle of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center:** The annual fundraising banquet will be Saturday, April 13 at FCOC. Doors open at 5:30 PM with the program beginning at 6PM. This is a valuable opportunity to learn about the amazing work they are doing in our community for young families, especially with the opening of the new mother's home. Kevan and Tamara will be hosting a table, so please speak with them to reserve your seat

**Crooked Creek Christian Camp:** Summer Camp registration is now open! Visit our website now to see summer camp dates [crookedcreekcamp.org/](http://crookedcreekcamp.org/)

Join us on March 19 at Shepherd's Inn for *Lenten Quiet Day* and soup lunch, featuring devotions connecting the poetry of Mary Oliver and our Lenten journey. Register here: [crookedcreekcamp.org/lenten-quiet-day.html](http://crookedcreekcamp.org/lenten-quiet-day.html)

Check under your couch cushions and clean out your coin purses because April will be *Coins for Camp* month! This year's projects are pool toys, life jackets, and LED lanterns for each cabin. Coins for Camp is one of the ways we begin preparing for summer camp! We appreciate your generosity.

Help give our summer camp cooks a head start by participating in one of our *Summer Camp Prep Days*. Join us May 11, 13, and 14 from 8:30-12:00 to make cookies, chop vegetables, and cook ground beef. Sign up here: [crookedcreekcamp.org/summer-food-prep-days.html](http://crookedcreekcamp.org/summer-food-prep-days.html)

Join us May 4 for *CC Wild Mud Run and Walk*, our annual fundraiser to benefit our Summer Camp Fund. Don't want to run? New this year, we will be adding a walk for those who want to experience nature without the mud and obstacles. A free will donation lunch will be at 11:30 AM. Info & register: [crookedcreekcamp.org/ccw.html](http://crookedcreekcamp.org/ccw.html)

**Crowded Closet:** Crowded Closet Thrift Shop has lots to celebrate! Learn what's new at Crowded Closet in our winter newsletter. Find a copy at your church or visit [tinyurl.com/ClosetNews](http://tinyurl.com/ClosetNews) to view the newsletter online. Join us to shop, donate, and volunteer in 2024 and make a difference in the lives of people locally and globally. To plan a visit, contact Christine Maust Beachy, Volunteer Coordinator [crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com) or 319-337-5924.

**Hillcrest: 6th Grade Visit Days** - Happening on Wednesday, March 20 2:00-3:15 PM, current 5th graders are invited to come visit our 6th grade classes. They'll have an opportunity to interact with our current 6th graders and learn what it's like to attend Hillcrest Academy. This is for students only, but parents are welcome to hang out with Rebecca and have a cup of coffee while you wait. Please sign up at [hillcrestravens.org/5-8events](http://hillcrestravens.org/5-8events).

*A Seussified Pride & Prejudice* - The greatest romance in all of English literature gets a wacky, rhyming makeover. This whimsical retelling is something Dr. Seuss might come up with if he had his way with the time-tested Jane Austen classic. The Hillcrest Academy spring drama production will be presented in Celebration Hall on Friday, March 22 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, March 23 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. All tickets are \$5, general admission tickets and can be purchased at the door or by calling the school office (319-656-2073). Doors will open half an hour before each show.

Check out the March issue of our e-newsletter, *The Bridge*: [hillcrestravens.org/alumni/thebridge/](http://hillcrestravens.org/alumni/thebridge/)

**MCC:** 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); laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); shampoo (20 oz min) and spiral notebooks (70 sheets). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto: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).

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](mailto: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](http://mccglobal.my.site.com/MCCJobs/s/va) or find the job and other openings at [mcc.org/careers](http://mcc.org/careers).

**Iowa Mennonite Historical Society:** When our Amish ancestors first arrived in Johnson county in 1846 and following they came to a land that was largely covered with trees and undeveloped. With hard work they cleared trees and began farming. As the years passed new technology also became available and was rapidly adopted. Our local historian Michael Zahs will describe how the early settlers developed the land and developed ways of producing food for their survival and for marketing. All are invited to hear Michael Zahs at Kalona Mennonite on March 25 at 7 pm, hosted by the Mennonite Historical Society. There will be refreshments.

**Iowa Peace Network:** The annual Palm Sunday Procession and Prayer Service for Peace will be held on Sunday, March 24th. People are invited to gather at 2:30 PM, at the parking lot of Corinthian Baptist Church, 814 School Street, in Des Moines. The Procession, led by two donkeys will start at 3:00PM and proceed to St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 6th Ave., where the service will begin at 3:30 PM. Please join us!

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/](http://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/](http://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](http://mennoniteusa.org/PeaceMailSubscribe)

**MCUSA** In honor of Women's History Month, the MC USA Archives has compiled a Mennonite Women's History timeline. Explore the rich history with this engaging resource: [mennoniteusa.org/women's-history-timeline](http://mennoniteusa.org/women's-history-timeline)

The Women in Leadership ministry of MC USA is releasing season three of its popular podcast, "Holding It (,) Together." Bonita Rockingham of the Women in Leadership steering committee hosts the podcast, which is created by women for women. Learn more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/wil-podcast-season](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/wil-podcast-season)

As part of MC USA's "I choose to be Mennonite because ..." series, Marlene Kropf, a spiritual director, and retreat leader, shares that she was born and raised a Mennonite, but after moving to an area without any Mennonite churches, she had to be creative in how she continued to worship. Read her story here: [mennoniteusa.org/why-menno-kropf](http://mennoniteusa.org/why-menno-kropf)

Laura Pauls-Thomas, communications director of Mennonite Central Committee's East Coast region and member of the Creation Care Committee at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, shares about the successful Bike Bus program at her church. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: [mennoniteusa.org/creation-care-commuting](http://mennoniteusa.org/creation-care-commuting)

**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](http://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 Home:** Parkview would like to extend an invitation to anyone with Piano playing ability to come in and play for the Residents. We have both an Organ and Piano adjacent to our dining room. We would love to have a noon meal-time piano playing session, once in a while, for the Residents enjoyment. Anything is possible and would be very welcome at Parkview Home. Please have anyone interested to call: 319-256-3525 and ask for Jerilyn Winga. Thank you.