

Adult SS Classes

- *Salt & Light* meets in the library
- *If the Church were Christian*: Read or listen to Chapter 9 for discussion this Sunday. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

MYF

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

JYF

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



This week please remember in prayer Dave & Nancy Eichelberger, Clarence Unternahrer and Jean Roth

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

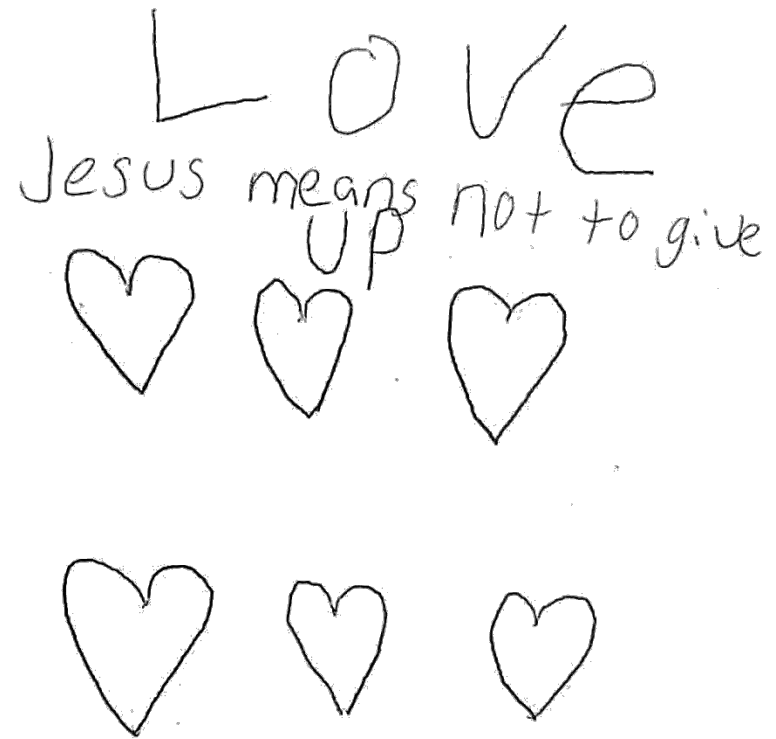
Pray for the leaders and youth involved in JYF and MYF. Pray for God to bless the leaders with wisdom, understanding, and love for the youth they lead. Pray for God to bless the youth with willing hearts and the chance to be examples to others.

CPMC Prayer Request Pray for the faculty, staff and students at Freeman Academy and Hillcrest Academy.

MMN Prayer Request Today, youth from northern Indiana are gathering to hear about service options that Mennonite Mission Network is offering them to grow in their spiritual lives and test career directions. Pray for the youth as they plan for their next steps. Pray also for Eric Frey Martin, as he leads the event and as he makes connections in Mennonite high schools and colleges.

LAST SUNDAY

Offering: Home Missions \$5,698; General Fund \$2,490; Cemetery Fund \$260; Conference \$30



Drawn by Anitha Barrera

March 17, 2024



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March 17, 2024

Christ among Us, the New Covenant

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: Nathan Luitjens

Piano/Organ: Tamara Zechin

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Worship – Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lord, I need you

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer/Lent Theme Sharing

Praising

*Special Music: "Peace," Elyssa Graber, Morgan Meyer
and Mei Leichy*

Jesus, Be the Center

Oceans

There's Nothing Worth More

Hearing the Word

Children's Story: Sidney Garrett

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (OT, p. 570); Psalm 51:1-
13 (OT p. 404); *John 12:20-33 (NT p. 81) *(please stand as able)*

Message: Pam Gerig Unruh, "The Bridge"

Prayer of Confession *(please kneel as able)*

Responding

Create in me a Clean Heart

Offering: Conference (3/24 Home Missions)

Sharing & Prayers

Sending

Benediction

Thy Word is a Lamp

Thank you to Gary & Maretta Conrad for serving as ushers today.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Passion Story Readings, Communion & Foot Washing

SUGAR CREEK NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Lent: The tables in the foyer and prayer room have Lent prayer guides for focused prayer time on the theme for each week.

This week's symbol is a growing plant. To have Christ within us, we must die to ourselves. We must throw off all the external things that get in our way and look within ourselves. For a seed to produce anything, it has to die. Then, and only then, will it bear much fruit. We are like that seed. Patiently and lovingly, God waits for us to surrender. When we surrender, then we can grow.

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

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

Fellowship: Please sign up to provide cookies, or contact Vi: signupgenius.com/go/4090E45AEAB2DA0FA7-48304975-sugar

Mennonite Women: All are invited to join in our MCC Relief Kit Project for March and April. You are welcome to contribute items or money toward this much-needed project. It takes about \$50 for all items in each kit. See the complete list on the foyer table.

Pastor's Hours: Pam will be out of the office March 21-24, attending Constituency Leaders Council. CLC is made up of conference and constituent group leaders who worship and pray together, encourage faithfulness, ...process concerns and discern direction on issues of faith and life in Mennonite Church USA.

TODAY

- **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

MARCH 17, 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 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/

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

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

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

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 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 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.

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/

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. 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.

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.

Iowa Mennonite Historical Society: Enjoy some soup and homemade desserts on *Friday, March 22nd* from 11-1 or 5-7:30 pm at the Kalona Historical Welcome Center. Choices are chili, cheesy potato, or cheesy broccoli. Your free will donation will help support both the Kalona and Mennonite Historical Societies. Take out is also an option.

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. cmep.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. cmep.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 MC USA signed a letter to Congress, along with 62 faith-based organizations, asking for strengthened funding for Victims of Crime Act grants. Read the letter here: mennoniteusa.org/news/letter-funding-victims

On Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT on Zoom, join Nancy Kauffmann, MC USA's interim denominational minister for Church Safety and Marlene Bogard, former minister of Christian Formation for Western District conference, former executive director of Mennonite Women USA, and current interim pastor at Salem Mennonite Church, to learn more about safe protection policy guidelines during an informational webinar. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/registraiton-safechurch-march25 View the slide here: mennoniteusa.org/safe-church-protection-policy-webinar

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA's denominational minister for Peace and Justice, calls attention to the destructive nature of capital punishment and advocates for the abolishment of the death penalty in her Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/capital-punishment

In celebration of the 499th birthday of Anabaptism, John Roth, project director of MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 initiative, reports on the development of the Anabaptist Community Bible, which is slated to be ready for readers on the 500th birthday of Anabaptism. Read more in his Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/making-anabaptist-bible

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 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.