

SHARON NEWSLETTER

September - October
2025



HEBREWS 10:24-25

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” –

Walter says it so well,



Comparing Christmas and Thanksgiving

Although Christmas and Thanksgiving are distinct in their traditions and meanings, both holidays are woven together by a common theme of gratitude and celebration.

Thanksgiving arrives with the crisp air of autumn and tables overflowing with seasonal abundance. This holiday serves as an invitation to pause and reflect, appreciating the harvest and strengthening bonds with family and community. During this time, gratitude fills our hearts, mirroring the gentle fall of leaves that blanket the ground.

Christmas, in contrast, is marked by sparkling lights and cheerful carols that ignite a spirit of generosity and kindness. It is a season dedicated to giving and receiving, celebrating the birth of hope and the promise of renewal. Christmas encourages us to seek warmth in companionship, to exchange meaningful gifts, and to embrace the wonder and solace found in the magic of the season.

Together, Thanksgiving and Christmas create a rich tapestry of gratitude that unites us all. Whether we are thankful for the bounty of the harvest or the gift of love and togetherness, these holidays remind us of life's blessings and encourage us to celebrate them with those we cherish most.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Heritage Service
1st Sunday @1:30pm

Quilting and Crafting
Tuesdays @9:30am
Thursdays @5:30pm

Women's Prayer Breakfast
2nd Saturday @8:00am

Men's Prayer Breakfast
4th Saturday @7:00am

Bible Study
Wednesday's 6:00 pm

Food Pantry Delivery
3rd Saturday @9:00am

Hispanic Thanksgiving
November 30th



Sharon Mennonite Church Memorial Garden & Cemetery Columbarium Dedication

When I was asked by Pastor Walter to give a brief history of the Columbarium for the September 21st, 2025, dedication and internment of ash remains for Lida, Alvin & Edna Kauffman, I started going through my notes. The following timeline defines the story that unfolded.

The journey to establish an area and mechanism to respectfully intern the cremated ashes of loved one at Sharon Mennonite Church began in 2010 when the Kauffman family introduced the idea to church leadership.

2010 - The idea of a Memorial Garden was conceived with an endowment from the Kauffman family to fund the initial cost.

2011 - Members voted to approve the location and a Memorial Garden committee was created.

2013 - The Memorial Garden & Cemetery Committee was adopted into the Sharon Mennonite Church Constitution.

2018 - The Memorial Garden & Cemetery Committee made a formal presentation to the Church Council. All funding for them was voluntary contributions outside of offerings for the church. At the Annual Members Meeting the Policies for Cremation burial at SMC was presented and approved by the members. Three options were made available for the internment of ashes with the 3rd option placing urns in the niche of a Columbarium.

2019 - Research was conducted for design & cost. The committee reviewed all options and contractor proposals were received. A final Contractor & design were selected & approved at Members meeting.

2020 - Covid delayed initiating construction and shipping cost skyrocketed. The Contractor asked to delay construction until 2021.

2022-24 - Fund raising continued. By 2023 we had raised enough funds to pay for the pouring of a concrete foundation to support the weight of the Columbarium.

2023 - Concrete base poured to support the Columbarium. Fund raising continued and we collected half of the needed funds to complete the project.

2024 - Contractor states the original Columbarium design selected was having structural issues and was being eliminated as an option. A new design was selected and approved. The balance of the funds needed was donated by people wishing to have a niche themselves and by people just wanting to support the project.

2024 - Authorization was given, contract was signed and down payment submitted.

2025 - Columbarium arrived and was installed on August 15, 2025

September 21, 2025 almost one year to the date of the memorial for Edna Kauffman, the Columbarium was dedicated by Pastor Walter, with a large number of church members, guest and Kauffman Family member in attendance. The urns containing the ashes of Alvin, Edna and Lida Kauffman were interned by Sue and Mark Kauffman, the surviving children of Alvin and Edna.

It was with heartfelt joy that we celebrated the realization of a dream and desire to honor and remember our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Memorial Garden & Cemetery Committee

Ken Sims, Chairperson





Remember should you have any news to share send to my email. ckopec@columbus.rr.com