

Adults Sunday School

- Discussion Class: Salt & Light – Session 6, “A New Story”

MYF

- 1/12: Bible Study, Sugar Creek MYF Room, 6-7:30 PM
- 1/26: Bible Study, 6-7:30 PM



This week please remember in prayer Kevan,
Tamara & Kevan Zechin

Pray for those dealing with medical issues: Gerhard Luitjens (Nathan’s dad), Pauline Wyse, Rod Roth, Jeri Yoder, Dineal Armenta (Roni’s sister), Sheri Reeder Bachman, Stephen Gill (Tamara’s dad), Kathy Roth, Opal Reschly, the Creamer Family

To better provide care for those in the hospital, please contact a Pastor or an Elder if you or a family member are (or will be) hospitalized.



The oil lamp is lit every service as a reminder to pray for peace and for the people of our world who are caught in war and violence.

CPMC Prayer Request Together we give thanks for the pastors and lay leaders who have so faithfully served congregations in Central Plains Mennonite Conference in this past year. We give thanks to God for providing able shepherds to lead our congregations.

MMN Prayer Request Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Nigeria Mennonite Church and the Nigeria Anabaptist Peace Center, as they work for peaceful communities in their multi-cultural context, where Muslim-Christian relations are often challenging.

LAST SUNDAY

Offering: Home Missions \$3,080; General Fund \$500; Missions \$250; Conference \$250

12/22 Offering: Home Missions \$1,618; General Fund \$550



Together ON THE *Journey*

FROM WHOM DO WE LEARN?

January 5, 2025

We welcome all to this place
for worship of God and for Christian fellowship.
Let us worship God in spirit and truth,
reaching out to one another in Christ's love.

9:15 AM: Sunday School
10:10 AM: Fellowship Time
10:30 AM: Christmas Program
Live Stream: <https://tinyurl.com/SCMLiveStream>
<facebook.com/sugarcreekmennonitechurch>

Prelude/Offertory: Mattias Luitjens

Worship Leader: Lori Miller

Song Leader: Heather & Brian Herschberger

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Advent Lighting: Jeremy & Jami Miller Family

Praising

WB 366 God of grace and God of glory

WB 215 What child is this

Hearing the Word

Come and See

Children's Story: Jen Slagel

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52 (p. 45)

Sharing Stories: Abbey Shelman, "From Whom Do We Learn?"

Responding

STJ 14 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song

Offering: Education (1/12 Home Missions)

Sharing & Prayers

Sending

Benediction

STJ 54 Longing for Light (v. 5)

Thank you to Sheldon & Lori Miller for serving as ushers today.

NEXT SUNDAY

- Corben Boshart

SUGAR CREEK NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

CPMC Ecuador Service & Learning Tour: Keiran and Tristan Luitjens will be traveling to Ecuador February 28 – March 9. This is a great opportunity for them. The conference has a grant available that will cover ~\$500 of the ~\$1600 needed per person for the trip. We invite you to pray for these individuals as they leave on the trip, to keep them in your prayers as they travel and to consider a donation to help cover their costs.

Contact Information Books: The 2024-2025 Contact Books are in mailboxes. Extra copies are available in the church office.

Fellowship: Please sign up to provide cookies for fellowship time using the link, or contact Mary Jo Richard.

<signupgenius.com/go/4090E45AEAB2DA0FA7-50902927-sugar>

JYF: Another season of JYF is around the corner, and once again, there'll be a few changes to start 2025. For the immediate future, Pastor Josh will be stepping back from attending the Wednesday night meetings, but will still be helping with organizing the events. If you have a desire or calling to encourage a deeper walk with Jesus for the WACO JH kids, please contact Pastor Joshua Wenger at Eicher Emmanuel Mennonite. If you aren't available to spend the evening with the JYF but still want to help, meal donations are always welcome and needed for our weekly gatherings. Please keep the volunteers and kids in your prayers throughout the coming 2025 year. Weekly meetings will start at again the end of January!

Winterfest: *For grades 6-8:* Join us for Winterfest 2025 at Crooked Creek Christian Camp, January 10-12, 2025! A Friday through Sunday packed with fun, food, faith and fellowship! "Glimpses of God in our Midst" is the theme and this year we will hear from a variety of people in the community who will share stories of a time in their life when they have seen a glimpse of God! For more info: <crookedcreekcamp.org/winterfest.html>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

- **11:30 AM:** Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Hall
- **7:00 PM:** Church Council, MYF Room

JANUARY 5, 2025
AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crowded Closet: *Winter is warm and inviting at Crowded Closet Thrift Shop!* There are new openings for seasonal short-term volunteers at Crowded Closet while some volunteers travel for the winter. Connect for a season of service at Crowded Closet! Openings available with fabric, watches, books, greeting cards, adult clothing, shoes, housewares, and more! For more information, contact the team at 319-337-5924, ext 12 or visit www.crowdedcloset.org/volunteer1.

New milestone for Crowded Closet! With great excitement and immense gratitude, we announce that Crowded Closet achieved \$2 million in sales the end of November! Our amazing staff, dedicated volunteers, generous donors and supportive customers have committed themselves faithfully to supporting this ministry. As Crowded Closet has grown, we've embraced change to assure a healthy, organized and efficient operation. We recognize we could not have realized this achievement without the commitment and daily collaboration of each person. It has taken a lot of work to change and grow and this milestone proves it is working! Our collaborative efforts make this achievement possible. Reaching this level of sales reinforces the financial foundation of the organization, ensuring Crowded Closet will be around to share love and compassion in the name of Christ, through Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and local helping agencies, for another 50 years. We have hope and confirmation that the future of Crowded Closet is bright!

Hillcrest: Happy New Year! January's issue of *The Bridge*: mailchi.mp/6489eeef1f74/the-bridge-january.

Open Gym - On January 19 3:00 - 4:30 PM, 4th-8th graders will participate in activities including: basketball, volleyball, matball, dodgeball, etc. Beau Risley (our PE teacher) will head up these events. Please bring a water bottle and wear clean running shoes. Sign up at hillcrestravens.org/4-8events to join the fun!

Visit Day - See what it's like to be a student at Hillcrest! On Monday, January 20 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM, prospective students in 6th -11th grade are welcome to visit Hillcrest Academy for the day. 6th-8th graders will shadow a student a grade above them and 9th-11th will follow a student in their grade. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up at hillcrestravens.org/4-8events by January 16. Incoming 6th graders will have a special visit day in the spring.

Open House - On Thursday, January 23 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, prospective students and families can enjoy school tours at 7:00 and 7:30 PM, or come and go as they please. Meet our amazing middle and high school teachers and chat with the administration about the ESA, 504s, or any other school-related questions. Grab a treat to eat at any time. It's a wonderful chance to experience life as a Raven! Please RSVP at hillcrestravens.org/4-8events.

MCC: *MCC Borderlands Peace Camp, Jan. 19-25, 2025* Young adults, ages 18-30, are invited to join MCC in El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in January! This MCC Peace Camp will explore topics of peace and justice through the lens of migration, including the Biblical mandate of hospitality. Find out more and register by January 5 at mcc.org/borderlands-peace-camp.

Serving And Learning Together (SALT) applications now open for 2025! Each year, MCC offers 80+ unique opportunities to serve with our local partners working for relief, development and peace around the world. Explore the numerous possibilities that match your passions, skills, and experience. If you're between the ages of 18-30, the SALT program might be the epic adventure you've been waiting for. Check it out at mcc.org/salt!

MCUSA: Registration for Mennonite Church USA's Follow Jesus '25 convention will open Jan. 6, 2025, for early-bird pricing. The denomination's biennial faith formation gathering will take place at Koury Convention Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/registration-jan6 Register here: convention.mennoniteusa.org/

Join MC USA's Climate Justice Coordinator Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler in imagining a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and our planet by participating in an online book study of the compelling and timely book, "So We and Our Children May Live" by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. Drawing from Scripture, science, Indigenous wisdom, and personal stories, the authors invite us to open our hearts and our culture to deep, Spirit-led transformation. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-book-study

In the wake of the 2024 presidential election, Michael Danner considers what it means to live and interact with the government as Anabaptist followers of Jesus. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/every-4-years

MMN: Mennonite Mission Network invites you to join a Just Peace Pilgrimage this spring. Embark on one of these life-changing learning experiences:

- *United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage* — Explore the history, significance, and ongoing implications of the civil rights movement in the United States. About: mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/united-states-civil-rights-pilgrimage/ (Unique opportunity – Young adults are invited to join Glen Guyton, MC USA executive director, for an enlightening journey. To foster dialog and understanding you are invited to join this pilgrimage with a partner of a different race.)
- *Christ at the Borders (Calais, France)* — Thousands of people migrate to Calais in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United Kingdom to find a better life. Meet those walking alongside the vulnerable who search for a peaceful home and the travelers themselves. About: mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/christ-at-the-borders-in-calais-france/
- *Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (Yakima, Washington)* — Led by Sarah Augustine. Become better acquainted with Indigenous Peoples, their connection to the land upon which we live, and the consequences of settler colonial history. About: mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/solidarity-with-indigenous-peoples-pilgrimage/

For more information and to sign up, visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace or contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net.