

Adults Sunday School

Winter Salt & Light: Living God's Abundant Life
Session 1, "I Am the Bread of Life," John 6:25-40

MYF

- **TODAY** – Bible Study, 6-7:30 PM
- **12/14** – Christmas Party, last meeting until after Christmas!

JYF

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered your time, food, or funds and we look forward to another season starting January 2026!



Remember in prayer this week: Steve & Heather Freyenberger and Clinton, Sidney & Lee Garrett

Pray for those dealing with medical issues: Cindy Freyenberger Harms, Jane Miller, Carmen Martinez (Maria's sister), Keith Zehr (pancreatic cancer), Dineal

Armenta (Roni's sister), Lois Klopfenstein, Opal Reschly, Pauline Wyse

CPMC Prayer Request We pray for our sister and brother congregations across MC USA, each in their own unique ministry contexts. Help each of us to be faithful followers of Jesus, wherever we are.

MMN Prayer Request Joseph and Rachel Givens and their two sons, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network, are on the front lines of ministry to people fleeing persecution and death. Pray that the Givens will receive the spiritual and financial resources they need to continue sharing Christ's love through food and shelter at the Maria Skobtsova House, in Calais, France.

LAST SUNDAY

Offering will be reported next week.



December 7, 2025

The Season of Advent – Be Amazed!

Look at the nations and see!

Be astonished! Be astounded!

For work is being done in your days
that you would not believe if you were told.

~Habakkuk 1:5 NRSVue

9:15 AM: Sunday School

10:10 AM: Fellowship Time

10:30 AM: Worship Service

Livestream: <https://tinyurl.com/SCMLiveStream>
facebook.com/sugarcreekmennonitechurch

Prelude/Offertory: Kylie & Ayla Miller

Worship Leaders: Mike & Maria Roth

Song Leader: Dana Oswald

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Introduction

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Praising

WB 178 Come though long-expected Jesus

WB 176 Comfort, comfort, O my people

Hearing the Word

Children's Story: Connie Freyenberger, Daniel 3:1, 8-30

Advent Candlelighting Litany

There is More Love Somewhere (v. 2 & 3)

Message: Pam Gerig Unruh, "Be Amazed: But Even If"

Responding

WB 172 O come, O come, Immanuel (v. 1, 2, 6)

Offering: Parkview (12/14 Home Missions)

Baby Dedications: Elsie Lou Leichty & Leo Scott Shelman

Sharing & Prayers

Sending

Benediction

STJ 73 The Lord lift you up

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

NEXT SUNDAY

- Christmas Program

SUGAR CREEK NEWS

Christmas Box: WACO Elementary PTO has a box in the foyer for donations of new items to be used at their Santa Shop, where students are able to purchase presents for their family members. There is a list of suggested items on the box. Please have donations to the box by Monday, December 8. Thank you!

Fellowship: Please see the signup to provide cookies for fellowship time, or contact Lori Miller:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E45AEAB2DA0FA7-50902927-sugar#/>

MCC Christmas Giving: This Christmas season, we are partnering with MCC to make a difference for families around the world. Through MCC Christmas giving, you can honor the values and pastimes of your loved ones. At the same time, you'll be choosing gifts that share treasured resources in communities where they're needed. Learn more through the posters and ornaments we've hung in the foyer or visit mcc.org/share-joy!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

- **9:00 AM:** Parkview Worship
- **4:00 PM:** Christmas Program Play Practice, Sanctuary
- **5:00 PM:** Adult Choir Practice, Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

- **6:00 PM:** Elders Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **6:00 PM:** Game Night, Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and snacks to share!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **9:15 AM:** Fellowship Time, no Sunday School
- **10:00 AM:** Joint Christmas Program with Wayland Mennonite, at Sugar Creek

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- **11:30 AM:** Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend!
- **7:00 PM:** Church Council, MYF Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **6:00 PM:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 7, 2025
AREA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Concert: Bad Angle Events is bringing back Authentic Unlimited for a Christmas concert. They were recently named the 2025 Bluegrass Vocal Group of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association. Come enjoy their rich harmonies and skillful instrumentation, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Celebration Hall on the campus of Hillcrest Academy. Tickets available at BadAngleEvents.org

CCCC: T-Shirts - Our new t-shirt designs by Erin Ramer make great Christmas presents for \$25 each! The Heron pays homage to "Hank the Heron," a beloved fixture around the pond, available in green or citrus. The Wildflowers t-shirt celebrates *Wetland Way* and the prairie at Crooked Creek, available in berry and navy. Order here: crookedcreekcamp.org/CCCC-t-shirts

Casseroles - Let us help you make your Christmas a bit easier this year! We're offering two kinds of take and bake breakfast casseroles, a hashbrown casserole and a cranberry french toast casserole. We will prepare and freeze the casseroles, all you need to do is pick up and bake them. Pricing and order form is on our website: <https://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/take-and-bake.html> Orders are due by December 8. Pick up dates will be December 15 and 16. Thanks for your support of Crooked Creek in this way!

Hillcrest: Christmas Concert - The Hillcrest Academy Christmas Concert is on Sun, Dec 14 at 3:00 PM. Join us in Celebration Hall for a festive evening of Christmas music as our middle and high school students perform beloved Christmas classics and fresh new arrangements that will delight audiences of all ages.

Alumni Night & Midnight Madness - The annual Alumni Night event will be on Fri, Dec 19 with JV girls starting at 4:00 PM. Prizes will be given away throughout the varsity games (approximately 6:00 PM), along with alumni and student activities during halftime of the varsity games, including our popular 'Putt For Dough' halftime contest sponsored by Imagine Therapy Solutions. And if you're looking for some exercise after a big Christmas meal or just wanting to catch up with some former basketball teammates, join us Christmas night in Hillcrest Union for the 35th annual Midnight Madness. Pickup games will begin around 10:00 PM.

EARLY BIRD Coffee - Start the holiday season right with a warm cup of Early Bird Coffee! This smooth, medium roast developed alongside Ambrosia Coffee Roasters, is available in 12oz bags (whole bean or ground) and makes an effortless and thoughtful Christmas present. Pair it with our classic Early Bird diner mug for the ultimate gift set. Place your order now at hillcrestravens.org/earlybirdcoffee.

Iowa MCC Meat Canning Event: Volunteers needed! December 8-9, 2025, City of Kalona Maintenance Building, 717A Avenue. Our goal is to raise \$38,000 to process 13,500 lbs. into 9,000 cans of meat. Please note that we will need volunteers for three days (setup is Saturday afternoon, canning Monday & Tuesday). Sign up today! signupgenius.com/go/30E044DAEAC28ABF58-59717906-2025 or contact Sylvan Schlabach 319-461-3417. Please send your contribution to: Iowa Mennonite MCC Relief, PO Box 234, Kalona, IA 52247

MCC: Across the U.S.–Mexico borderlands — and in communities far beyond them — people of courage and compassion are responding daily to the realities of migration. MCC believes that listening to these stories helps us live more deeply into our values of peace, hospitality, and justice. Join us for Borderlands & Beyond Monthly Charlas, a new conversation series led by the MCC U.S. Immigration Network featuring MCC partners, community leaders, and borderlands practitioners who will share their work, struggles, insights, and hopes. Each *charla* provides a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and explore how we can participate in faithful advocacy and accompaniment. Find out more and register for the Zoom link: mcc.org/events/borderlands-and-beyond-monthly-charlas-mcc.

MCC's high school essay contest is now open! The annual MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries essay contest highlights the perspectives of youth on significant public policy issues and promotes the involvement of young people in faithful witness to government authorities. The contest is open to Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools within the United States, including Puerto Rico. Regional prizes will be awarded, with the top three essays being submitted to the national competition. Regional top prize is \$200 and the national contest grand prize is \$1000. Contest topics, rules and resources can be found at mcc.org/events/high-school-essay-contest. The deadline for submitting entries is February 27, 2026. Essays should be submitted to centralstates@mcc.org, questions can be directed to beckyteiwes@mcc.org.

MCUSA: Advent is underway, and MC USA invites you to deepen your worship at home with our 2025 Advent at Home guide. This year's theme, "Be Amazed," follows MennoMedia's Leader magazine and offers weekly

reflections and practices for individuals, families and households of all ages. The guide is free to all MC USA congregations and is available now as a downloadable PDF.

mennoniteusa.org/advent-at-home-2025/

The MC USA Executive Board recently shared a letter to all MC USA constituents regarding a recent decision by Mennonite World Conference. The letter expresses the Executive Board's deep concern and reaffirms MC USA's ongoing commitment to unity and peacemaking within the global Anabaptist community. Please read it here in English <https://bit.ly/3JUKeGT>.

Mennonite Church USA invites you to a 90-minute webinar on navigating pastoral transitions led by Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership, on Mon., Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. PST/7 p.m. EST. This session will offer guidance for congregations navigating or anticipating a pastoral change, with practical tools for discernment and visioning. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3XisPLk>

There's still time to join The Great Menno Give! MC USA staff, Mennonite Mission Network, and MennoMedia are coming together during this season of giving for a special initiative: The Great Menno Give. We invite you to join with others across our church family in a collective act of generosity that empowers mission, education and faith formation. Please give here: <https://bit.ly/4ohMber>

Mennonite Church USA is seeking a Human Resources/Finance Assistant (.5 FTE) to support a wide range of HR and financial functions for the MC USA Executive Board. Experience and knowledge in accounting are preferred, with a minimum of a two-year Business degree or equivalent experience. MC USA is committed to diversity among staff and welcomes people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. The application deadline is January 5, 2026. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/employment>

Big changes are coming to the health coverage market in 2026. Are you ready? Watch MC USA's recorded webinar, "Navigating Change: Health Coverage in 2026," about what's ahead and how it could affect your premiums. The first half is a broad overview of market shifts in 2026 and the second half focuses on The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers. View it here: <http://bit.ly/4qv8jV5>

MMN: Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications now for August 2026–July 2027. Adults 20+ are invited to serve for one year (renewable up to three) alongside nonprofits tackling poverty, immigration, education, health, and more. You'll live intentionally with other MVSers in a unit house, be supported by a local Mennonite church, and join a worldwide movement for peace and justice.

Ready for a year that could change everything? Visit MennoniteMission.net/MVS to explore placements and apply today!