

## ON THE JOURNEY

*It seems everywhere we look there is turmoil and conflict --- in our church, in our government, in our communities, etc. Even professional football is caught up in hot political debate. Probably this has always been true, but the moment in time in which we live always grabs our attention and seems the most important. How do we cope and make our decisions in this atmosphere?*

*When I was in 9th grade, I had a teacher that always emphasized seeking an authoritative source when we had a question that needed answering. So he wouldn't answer our questions but directed us to our textbooks to find an answer. Someone has said that who we are is determined by who we choose as our authorities. Typically, in the beginning of our lives, it's our parents. As we develop and are exposed to many more "authorities" our lives become more complicated. We must recognize that in the midst of all these "authorities" is our Self. Can we recognize Self among all the other influences in our lives such as tradition, logic, religion, and so on? I am convinced that in most conflicts there is always a large amount of selfishness involved. Can we yield our own ideas even when we KNOW we are right? At the end of the day it is God the Creator who is right and the rest of us must find the real extent of our own importance. Maybe that person sitting next to us, also one of God's creatures, is right this time. Submitted by Dale Schlabach*

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 9/27</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:00 pm	Outreach Commission
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	6:45 pm	Visitation Team Meeting
<b>Sun 10/1</b>	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 10/2</b>	6:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 10/3</b>	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 10/4</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
<b>Thurs 10/5</b>	6:30 pm	Board
<b>Fri 10/6</b>	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
<b>Sat 10/7</b>	8:00 am	Habitat Build
<b>Sun 10/8</b>	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 10/9</b>		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 10/10</b>	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 10/11</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal

- **All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.**

### September/October Birthdays

Arlene	Schrock	27
Patty (Ron)	Yoder	27
Fanny	Weirich	28
Carolyn	Miller	30
Carol	Outman	01
Kyle	Walther	01
Edna	Hochstetler	04
Annie	Jones	06
Jamon	Christner	08
Viola	Miller	11
Patti	Keller	14
Karen	Pletcher	15
Betty	Graber	17
Katie	Kauffman	17
Jerry	Christner	18
Gerri	Beachy	19
Ez	Ropp	19
Anne	Yoder	19
Paul	Yoder	22
Garrett	Kozlowski	24

#### **Administrative Assistant Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm**

(Kent's daily schedule varies; you may want to call ahead.)

**Closed Friday.**

Ida	Herschberger	28
Kelby	Christner	31

## WORSHIP

**Looking Ahead:** Scripture is full of sacred stories outlining God's pursuit of right relationship with humanity. But the ultimate pursuit occurred when God sent Jesus into the world to make a path for us to experience life and salvation forever. We will celebrate this World Communion Sunday by taking part in the Lord's Supper together.

**Background scriptures:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Matthew 26; Galatians 3:23-29; Philippians 2:1-13

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Dave Graber  
Next Sunday: Jill Miller

### Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber  
Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

**There will be a short meeting** tonight at 6:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary for anyone involved in the Visitation Ministry here at FMC. Please bring any questions or comments you may have to that meeting. Thanks, Jean Shriner

## ADMINISTRATION

### Stewardship Report for September 24:

Money Given to Budget \$4,635.00  
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76  
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$18,552.00  
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$23,443.04

**The 16-17 Annual Treasurer's Report** was put in your mailbox. There are extra copies on the shelf beneath the mailboxes.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Community Life Commission** welcomed Denise Johnson and Gerald Kauffman to our commission. Jean Shriner has done a great job getting visitation groups together and will be meeting with them soon. We had the opportunity to help out 3 families this month from the Compassion Fund. We are in need of a second wheel chair for the church if anyone has one they do not need or know of one that is available.

**This Sunday** the Compassion fund baskets will be at the back of the sanctuary. Please come with your offerings. This fund helps those within the congregation when financial difficulties arise.

**Fannie Bontrager** is now living at Millers Merry Manor in LaGrange, Room 24.

**We would like to thank** the congregation for all the prayers, cards, and food given to us during the recent passing of Stan's dad. Thanks for being so caring. Stan and Jean Shriner

**You are invited** to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutch Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 11 at 5:30 PM at the Shipshewana Event Center. All donations support The Community Health Clinic and you need to RSVP by October 20. To purchase a ticket call 260-593-0108 or email: [info@indianachc.org](mailto:info@indianachc.org).

**Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN)** is excited to invite you to the annual Circles of Love Fundraising Banquet on October 13, 2017. The evening features a delicious fall meal, stories of four congregations nurturing inclusive faith communities, and the opportunity to help build ADN's network and vital advocacy for the full inclusion of people touched by disability. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm and will be hosted at Prairie Street Mennonite Church (1316 Prairie Street, Elkhart IN, 46516). Tickets are complementary, but reservations are required. A free will offering will be collected to support Anabaptist Disabilities Network. Please RSVP no later than October 5th. Email [adnet@ADNetOnline.org](mailto:adnet@ADNetOnline.org), or leave a message at 574-343-1362, or register on our Facebook event page (search for Circles of Love Banquet). Your support is important to ADN. We hope to see you there!

**Calling all quilters!** Gather with a community of other quilters who share your passion and interest at the MCC Quilting Retreat at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Michigan, on November 3-5. Come alone or with a group, with skills to share or interest in learning, with a project for an MCC

auction or a project of your own. More information at [mcc.org/get-involved/events/quilting-retreat](http://mcc.org/get-involved/events/quilting-retreat).

**Join us for a Comforter Bash!** Make plans to join us on October 20 and 21 for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen. People of all ages are invited to knot comforters at Pleasant View Mennonite Church (58529 County Road 23). For more information about the event visit [mcc.org/comforter-bash](http://mcc.org/comforter-bash) or contact Carol Honderich at 574-536-9062. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

**MCC Alumni & Friends Gathering - note change in location:** As alumni or interested friends of Mennonite Central Committee, you are warmly invited to join us for an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 13, at Waterford Mennonite Church, 65975 State Road 15, in Goshen. Special guest speaker will be Cesar Flores, current MCC Area Director for Central America and Haiti. Please RSVP at 574-534-4133 or to [img@mcc.org](mailto:img@mcc.org).

**Elkhart County Right to Life** is sponsoring the annual Life Chain to take place on Sunday, October 1, from 2:00-3:00 pm. Two locations: in Elkhart on SR33 in front of Concord Intermediate School and in Goshen at the Courthouse on Main Street. Participants will stand on sidewalks holding Life Chain signs (signs will be provided at both locations). Call 574-295-7163 if you have any questions.

## DISCIPLING

**Visio Divina: Fridays, September 15 & 29 and October 13 & 20, 9:00 - 11:00am:** A series of four retreats offering an innovative practice of small group spiritual direction based on art work done by participants or on pictures of paintings. No training in art is necessary to participate; the goal is not production, but rather understanding and discernment. Facilitated by Sylvie Gudin Cost: \$120 for all 4 sessions. Visit [www.pathwaysretreat.org](http://www.pathwaysretreat.org) for more information.

**AMBS online short course:** Understanding Anabaptist approaches to Scripture: Oct. 25 – Dec. 12, 2017. The early Anabaptists' approaches to Scripture were both similar to and different from those of Catholics and other Protestants. Loren Johns, Ph.D., will lead this interactive online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course on understanding these approaches in light of today. Cost: \$200 before Oct. 4; \$250 after. CEUs available. [www.ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/short-courses](http://www.ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/short-courses).

**The Indiana Friends of Meserete Kristos College** invite you to enjoy an Ethiopian meal at Berkey Ave. Mennonite Church on Monday, October 9, at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$12.50 per person to be paid at the door. The event will serve as a fundraiser to help with student scholarships. Cash and checks will be accepted. You will hear updates about the college from Carl Hansen and Tilahun Beyene, overseers of the MKC Link. Please RSVP to Peter Shetler (574-849-5116 or [pdshetler@bethanycs.net](mailto:pdshetler@bethanycs.net)) by Monday, Oct. 2.

**John McCutcheon Concert:** Internationally-renowned folksinger John McCutcheon will be in concert at Bethany Christian Schools at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017. Reserved-seat tickets are \$18 (\$20 at the door). Student price is \$10. To reserve seats online see [bethanycs.net/mccutcheon\\_171105](http://bethanycs.net/mccutcheon_171105).

**Ted & Company Theaterworks** return to Goshen to present "Discovery: A Comic Lament" at Goshen College on Friday, Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. in the Goshen College Umble Center. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door or online at [goshen.edu/tickets](http://goshen.edu/tickets). Starring Ted Swartz and 1994 GC graduate Michelle Milne, this latest production weaves through time and geography, from Europeans "discovering" the New World to the Kansas wheat fields and pipelines of the present, offering both comic and challenging glimpses into the absurdity of our oppression of Indigenous Peoples and the land we live on. This play is written by 2011 GC alumna Alison

Brookins, and directed by 2012 GC graduate Phil Weaver-Stoesz.

**Mennonite Men's retreat.** Men, consider doing this retreat together with your men's group or using this to start a men's group in your congregation. The retreat will focus on Making Peace with Conflict at Camp Friedenswald October 13-15. This will be led by Steve Thomas, U.S. Coordinator for Mennonite Men. Steve has worked with conflict for over 30 years as a Mennonite pastor, martial arts instructor, peace educator and adjunct professor at Goshen College. For more information go to: [mennonitemen.org/joinmen](http://mennonitemen.org/joinmen).

## OUTREACH

**First Mennonite Women's** project for October is RETA. They need the following: clothes (size 0-6x), household soaps & cleaners, baby wipes, adult hygiene products (shampoo, deodorant, wash, etc.).

**Holdeman Mennonite Church** invites you to a Haystack Fundraiser Supper on Sept. 30th from 4 -7 pm. All proceeds will go to Mennonite Disaster Service to provide help for the hurricane victims. Donations will be accepted.

**The Habitat Build** for the Kulish family will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board if you would like to participate – at least 14 volunteers are needed. There is also a sign-up sheet if you want to help with providing a meal and/or snack.

**October** is FMC's month to provide volunteers for the Food Pantry. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you are interested in volunteering.

**The 2017 MDC Goldenrod Auction** will be October 6 at the Shipshewana Auction Barn. The fun begins at 4:00 p.m. with an Amish haystack meal, a bake sale and the silent auction. The live auction begins at 4:30. Items for sale include comforters and quilts, handcrafted furniture, and much, much more. For more information, go to [MDCGoldenrod.org/auction](http://MDCGoldenrod.org/auction), visit the MDC Goldenrod Facebook page or call 574-533-9720.

**Thank you** to all the amazing children and adults at First Mennonite for your energy and enthusiasm in collecting \$562.96 for My Coins Count this year. Your collection, along with the special 50th Anniversary push for matches from local businesses helped raise over \$210,000 to support water and other projects through My Coins Count, Your funds help build handwashing stations to allow girls to attend school in Uganda, irrigate crops for farmers in India, provide water catchment systems to water vegetable gardens in Honduras and Guatemala, and pipe water into poor people's homes in Egypt. Your support offers more than just life-giving water, it offers hope to families struggling with challenging circumstances. Thank you for your generosity and creativity in sharing the love of Christ around the world through Mennonite Central Committee and My Coins Count. - Les Gustafson-Zook, MyCC Coordinator, Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale.

**Amigo Centre is turning 60!** We invite you to come to our anniversary celebration October 13-15. The morning of Saturday the 14th we will have our 2nd annual 5k trail race. The afternoon of the 14th will be filled with activities for families. The weekend will culminate in a chili supper and benefit auction. Obviously we can't have a celebration without cake and ice cream. To register visit our website [amigocentre.org/celebrate-amigo](http://amigocentre.org/celebrate-amigo) or call the office at 269-651-2811.