

## ON THE JOURNEY

### “Giving the Gift of Prayer”

One of the best ways to love others is to pray for them. Jesus is our ultimate example in this. The New Testament tells us about Jesus praying for others on many occasions, and even shows us that He continues to come to the Father on our behalf. Romans 8:34 says that He “is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us”. Even after showing such selfless love at the cross, the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ continues to express His care for us by praying for us at this very moment. All around us are people who need us to follow Jesus’ example and love them with our prayers, inviting God’s help and intervention in their lives. We can ask God to help us pray for them, and He will! May our loving Lord strengthen us to generously give the gift of our prayers for others today. (This devotional is from “Our Daily Bread”) Submitted by Carolyn Miller

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 3/14</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
<b>Thurs 3/15</b>	6:30 pm	Board
<b>Sun 3/18</b>	9:00 am	Kent Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 3/19</b>	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 3/20</b>	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
<b>Wed 3/21</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Sun 3/25</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 3/26</b>		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 3/27</b>	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 3/28</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:00 pm	Outreach Commission
		<b>No Wed. Evening Meal</b>

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

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

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

**Closed Friday**

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

### March Birthdays

Ruby Bontreger – 15  
 Kelly Blough – 19  
 Tim Keller – 20  
 Jake Schwartz – 23  
 Linda Miller – 25  
 Bernie Miller 28

### WORSHIP

**Focus statement:** In the new covenant there are no betweens and no go-betweens. We no longer have need of a go-between mediator; however, like the disciples, we may serve as go-betweens by pointing people directly to Christ. The promise is extended beyond the direct descendants; drawing all people to a relationship between Me (God) and You (the people), God’s promise and God’s love grow in our hearts.

**Background scriptures:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

Next Sunday: Cheryl Miller

### Welcome Center

This Sunday: Karen Pletcher

Next Sunday: Sam & Verna Weirich

**As announced last Sunday,** March 11, the church board is recommending to the congregation that Phil Yoder be affirmed to serve FMC as a minister with gifts of preaching and teaching on a part time basis. This coming Sunday, March 18, an affirmation ballot will be distributed with the options of "to affirm" or "not

affirm". Please be in prayer for Phil and FMC as we seek God's direction and purpose for FMC during this time of transition. If you have any questions, please talk with any board member. Absentee ballots are on the shelf outside of the office window.  
Brad Miller, Church Board Chair

**Maunder Thursday** is March 29. Please gather for a light supper at 6 PM. We will observe communion and feet-washing after the meal. Also, an offering basket will be out for the Compassion Fund. This fund is used to help members within our congregation.

**Easter Sunday** is April 1. Easter carry-in breakfast will be at 9:00 with worship to follow at 10:00, and no Sunday School.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Stewardship Report for March 11:

Money Given to Budget \$6,921.00  
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76  
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$158,187.20  
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$164,101.28

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report** is attached to the newsletter. You will also find copies on the lower shelf beneath the mailboxes.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**CLC** is in need of a person to prepare and serve coffee on Sunday mornings starting in April. It is for the second Sunday of the month. This will run through September of this year. If you are able to do this please contact a member of CLC; Verna Weirich, Denise Johnson, Janelle Walter, Gerald Kauffman or Patty (Ron) Yoder.

**Please join Michiana Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MMEDA)** for our March Business Tour of Aluminum Trailer Company (ATC) in Nappanee -- Saturday, March 17, 2018, at 8:30am. Our morning will begin with a hearty Amish buffet breakfast at Mullet's Dining in Nappanee. Then we will travel just a few miles down the road to tour Aluminum Trailer Company's new 100,000 square foot, state-of-the-art, LEAN manufacturing facility. This is a local business tour you won't want to miss! Please RSVP by noon on Tuesday, March 13, to [info@michianameda.org](mailto:info@michianameda.org) or

574-355-3607. Cost is \$5 for students, \$15 for Michiana MEDA members, and \$20 for others, payable at the door (cash or check only).

**The Hesston College Bel Canto Singers**, under the direction of Dr. Russell Adrian, will be making a stop in Goshen on Thursday, March 22, as part of their spring break tour. Everyone is welcome to join the events connected to their visit, including the 10:30 a.m. recital at Greencroft Communities Auditorium, 1721 Greencroft Blvd., in Goshen. That evening, they will present a full concert at 7 p.m., at Waterford Mennonite Church in Goshen followed by a reception with a college update and entertainment by Bel student group, Sadie and the Prowlers.

**A Bird Walk Series**, facilitated by Annie Aguirre, will take place at Pathways Retreat (309 1/2 Hackett Rd, Goshen): Sundays, March 18, April 8 & 15 at 4:00pm. Come for one or all of the walks happening during the spring migrations season. There is no registration; a donation of \$5-10 per walk is appreciated. See [www.pathwaysretreat.org](http://www.pathwaysretreat.org) for more information.

## DISCIPLING

**Please join** about 100 Goshen College international students and their friends for the annual International Coffeehouse dinner and show on Saturday, March 24. As always, the fabulous student-prepared dinner (5:15 p.m.) will offer 13 international dishes and the family-friendly show (7:30 p.m.) will feature many student-performed songs, dances and more from around the world. It's always a great event and a portion of the funds raised will go to international relief agencies. Tickets are now on sale at the college's Box Office (located in the Music Center) or online at [www.goshen.edu/tickets](http://www.goshen.edu/tickets). Thanks for supporting Goshen College's vision of international friendship and learning!

**On Wednesday, March 28**, Michael Mears, English actor and playwright, will present "This Evil Thing: Voices of Conscience in WWI," a riveting one-person dramatic performance that tells the story of conscientious objectors in Great Britain during World

War I. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

**Online short course:** Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 11 – May 22. In this online AMBS short course, Betty Pries will introduce Anabaptist conflict transformation techniques for leading in the midst of difference and disagreement — drawing from biblical, theological and practical sources. Cost: \$200 before March 21; \$250 after. [ambs.edu/shortcourses](http://ambs.edu/shortcourses)

## OUTREACH

**First Mennonite Women's** next sewing project is New Infant Care Kits. Contents (**NEW** items only, sizes between 3-12 months, no diapers): 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material); 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves); 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred); 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins; 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper); 1 pair of socks; 1 cap. Aldine Wyse will have devotions at the next meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2018:** Whether you're newly interested in effective advocacy from a Christ-centered perspective or you're an experienced advocate wanting to network and explore issues, join MCC at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days near Washington DC on April 20-23. The event will focus on the up-rootedness of our world, exploring ways to seek change and advance hope through prayer, worship, advocacy, training and networking. MCC Great Lakes is sending a 12-passenger van to the event and has spots available. To secure your spot or for more information, contact Susan Mark Landis at [SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com](mailto:SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com). For more information on the gathering, visit [advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org).

**The Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) Board of Directors** seeks a visionary leader to be the ADN public face to constituents, supporters, and congregations. Proven faith-based fundraising and constituent cultivation ability required. A heart for inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in the life of the church is a must. The ability to regularly connect with regional congregations, supporters, and develop ADN volunteer networks nationwide. See [ADNetOnline.org/About/Pages/Staff-openings](http://ADNetOnline.org/About/Pages/Staff-openings) for more

information, or contact Anabaptist Disabilities Network at 574-343-1362.

**Last year MCC Great Lakes** partnered with Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) in Chicago to provide immigration detainee kits for folks coming out of the detention center. Thanks to your generosity we were able to reach our goal of 100 kits. Looking forward, MCC continues to receive more requests for relief kits to distribute around the world than we are able to fulfill. Please consider putting relief kits together. A new list of kit contents is available online at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits). Thank you for partnering with MCC to share God's love and compassion in this tangible way.

**MCC Borderlands Learning Tour:** Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes welcomes you to join us on a learning tour designed to bring awareness to the issues caused by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. border. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues. The learning tour will take place on May 23-27 in Arizona and will include crossing the border into Mexico. Attendees will also have the option to participate in the Migrant Trail walk following the tour. For more information, including a tentative schedule and online registration, visit [mcc.org/borderlands-tour](http://mcc.org/borderlands-tour) or call Jorge Vielman at (574) 534-4133.

**MCC Vietnam Storytelling Event:** Join Mennonite Central Committee for stories of Vietnam at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 15, at Prairie Street Mennonite Church, 1316 Prairie Street, in Elkhart. Special guest speakers will be Doug Hostetter, current director of the MCC United Nations Office, and Thien Tran, Vietnamese intern in the MCC U.N. office. In light of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, Doug will share from his first-hand experiences in Vietnam as a conscientious objector with MCC and his subsequent work. Thien will also share about growing up after the war and the legacy it left behind.

## Trivia

Flamingos turn pink from eating shrimp.

