

LIFE @ FIRST

Our mission is to extend grace, build peace, and share love within and beyond our faith community.

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MARCH 21, 2018

ON THE JOURNEY

ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude...

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...

Submitted By: Charles Hartzler

CALENDAR		
Wed 3/21	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Sun 3/25	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 3/26		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 3/27	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 3/28	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:00 pm	Outreach Commission
		No Wed. Evening Meal
Thurs 3/29	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Meal/Svc.
Fri 3/30	12:00 pm	Community Good Friday Service @ St. Paul's
Sun 4/1	9:00 am	Carry-In Breakfast
	10:00 am	Kent Preaching/No S.S.
Mon 4/2	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 4/3	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 4/4	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
		No Wed. Evening Meal

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

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

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

Closed Friday

March Birthdays

Jake Schwartz – 23

Linda Miller – 25

Bernie Miller 28

WORSHIP

Focus statement: Phil Yoder will be preaching this Sunday. The sermon title is "A Covenant for the Aeons".

Background scriptures: Matthew 26:26-28

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Cheryl Miller

Next Sunday: Dave Graber

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Sam & Verna Weirich

Next Sunday: Shari Graber

Maundy 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.

The Community Good Friday Service will be held on March 30 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at noon.

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.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for March 18:

Money Given to Budget \$5,763.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$163,950.20

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$169,962.04

Administration Commission had our February meeting through email. Topics were registered but no discussion or decisions were made. Our average attendance is the same as last year at this time (103). We are behind in our budget. We have information to discuss about our flat roof, A/C installation at the food pantry, signage discussion and maintenance of our technology.

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 note to make a change in your pictorial. Dorothy Miller's address should be White Pigeon, MI 49099 (not Three Rivers).

The Hesston College Bel Canto Singers, under the direction of Dr. Russell Adrian, will be making a stop in Goshen tomorrow 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.

April 11th: Kent & Jill will be in charge of the Wednesday Evening Meal with help from the MYF. All monies will go toward the youth.

DISCIPLING

Please join about 100 Goshen College international students and their friends for the annual International Coffeehouse dinner and show on Saturday. 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. 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.

Preschool: Our preschool families hosted the food pantry during February. We had a great turn-out of volunteers. The classes studied community helpers and took a field trip to Rulli's, where they were given free pizza. The month of March brings us a local high school student, Cassie Solis, who is helping in the classroom. There are also Parent/Teacher conferences on March 15. There will be Easter parties the end of March. We discussed our spring fundraiser and will begin plans for the Spring Carnival on May 6.

From Discipling Commission: The congregation's visit to Menno Hof on Sunday, January 21st was quite a success! 74 people enjoyed the tour and 72 returned to the church for lunch afterward. Thanks go out to Jerry Beasley and the FMC volunteers that made the tours possible, as well as to the Community Life Commission for the soup luncheon that was served upon our return to the church.

Stations of the Cross and Resurrection. Follow the footsteps of Jesus on his way to the cross at Pathways Retreat, 309 ½ Hackett Road, Goshen, March 25-31. The traditional 14 Stations of the Cross are designed and handcrafted of colorful mosaic by local artist and teacher, John Nafziger. Then, on Sunday, April 1 through the 50 days of Easter, seven Stations of the Resurrection will mark the risen Christ's appearances from dawn of the first Easter through the ascension. These stations are ceramic tiles made from watercolor paintings by local artist Sylvie Gudin. In addition to the artwork, scripture and reflections accompany each station. These walks through the woods appeal to all ages and are available during daylight hours. Call or text staff at 574-333-1822 or 574-202-2864 for use of a golf cart. There is no cost, although donations are gratefully accepted. See pathwaysretreat.org for photos and directions.

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 12th.

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 or call Jorge Vielman at (574) 534-4133.

MCC Vietnam Storytelling Events: You have three opportunities to join Mennonite Central Committee for stories of Vietnam with special guest speakers 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.

- Tuesday, April 10 at 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.: Young Adult Gathering at Anna's Bread (212 W. Washington St. #2, Goshen) \$5 suggested donation for hors d'oeuvres.
- Friday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m.: Friends of MCC International Potluck at East Goshen Mennonite Church (17861 State Rd. 4, Goshen) Bring a favorite dish to share!
- Sunday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.: MCC Stories of Vietnam at Prairie Street Mennonite Church (1316 Prairie Street, Elkhart) First-hand reflections 50 years after the war.



