

ON THE JOURNEY

For a long time I have been searching for answers. Then, after our Spring Business meeting, my mind kicked into high gear. Immediately I heard that some members would be looking for another church. "Their" church wasn't a safe or comfortable place for them and their families (with the vote on variance). I thought of our outreach ministries, the preschool and food pantry, and how this decision would affect them. I went back to some notes I made from a sermon on April 8 that was titled, "The Way Forward." My notes said our normal response to change and turbulence (the unknown) is to resist and flee. We were encouraged to embrace change and continue as Jesus calls us to love others. The words on my heart for months have been "grace," "community," and "purpose." My daily inspirational quote on May 19 was "The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion." Max Lucado had a devotional that said, "Over the centuries the Church has done enough to make any critical person want to leave it. Its history of violent crusades, programs, power struggles, oppression, excommunications, executions, manipulation of people and ideas, and constantly recurring divisions is there for everyone to see and be appalled by.

Can we believe that this is the same Church that carries in its center the Word of God and the sacraments of God's healing love? Can we trust that in the midst of all its human brokenness the Church presents the broken body of Christ to the world as food for eternal life? Can we acknowledge that where sin is abundant grace is superabundant, and that where promises are broken over and over again God's promise stands unshaken? To believe is to answer yes to these questions."

Dean Miller's Journey article last week included this sentence, "the enemy would love to cause great divisions at this time in their churches and families." I don't pretend to have answers about the future, our future. I don't want good people to leave...again. So, how do we live together? Even as we don't agree on issues and how we see church....how do we live together?

John 17:21 New International Version (NIV) *"that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

Submitted by Robin Tahara Miller

CALENDAR

Fri 6/1	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat 6/2	All Day	Wedding
Sun 6/3	9:00 am	Phil Preaching/Nominations for Church Board
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 6/4	5:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	6:00 pm	Worship Commission
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 6/5	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 6/6	6:45 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
Thurs 6/7	6:30 pm	Board
Fri 6/8	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
Sun 6/10	10:00 am	Outdoor Service/Mike Brouillette Preaching/No S.S./Carry-in Meal
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 6/11		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 6/12	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice

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

May/June Birthdays

Dave Graber – 31
 Noah Klotz – 31
 Janelle Walther – 31
 Cristina Klotz – 9
 Betty Miller – 9
 Elnora Yoder – 10
 Kathy Troyer – 12
 Viv Schlabach – 13
 Sheldon McClain – 16
 Grant Miller – 19
 Mason Schrock – 19
 Kris Rheinheimer – 21
 Doris Hershberger – 23
 Katie Hochstedler - 23
 Tom Kurtz – 24
 Leona Yoder – 28
 Dean Miller – 30

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Closed Friday

WORSHIP

Focus statement: Satan convinced Eve and Adam that they could disobey God's commands, and that there would be no negative consequences; that in fact, the results would be positive, that they would be like God. Nothing could be further from the truth. All disobedience of God and to His Word has negative consequences, and generally, those consequences are more comprehensive and more far reaching than anyone could have imagined. Jesus said, "The Devil... is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

Background scriptures: Genesis 2-3, Ezekiel 28:13-17, Ephesians 6:10-12

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Dave Graber

Next Sunday: Ward & Pam Bingaman

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Shari Graber

Next Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Looking ahead: The annual outdoor Worship Service will be Sunday, June 10, @ FMC, 10:00 a.m. We will not have Sunday School that day. We will have a carry-in meal following the service.

Additional NOTICE – the Food Pantry folks, in addition to EXTENDED MINISTRIES group, are being invited to our outdoor service and carry-in lunch. We don't know how many will come, but there could be as many as 30 from just the EXTEND group. This is a chance for us to reach out to others. We are not asking them to bring food, but to be our guests. Please plan on bringing some extra food that Sunday so we can share our bounty with others. Mike Brouillette, leader of EXTEND will be sharing the message with us. It's such an exciting time – hope you can come! If it rains, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

SGDC (spiritual gifts discernment committee) will on Sunday morning distribute the nominations for church board. There on absentee forms on the shelf outside the office window if you aren't going to be here Sunday. On Sunday morning, **June 17**, the ballots will be completed. Patti Miller and Dale Schlabach will be completing their three year terms on the board at the end of August, 2018. Please prayerfully consider this whole process, and continue to pray for the work that our board has at hand.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for May 27:

Money Given to Budget \$4,918.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$221,162.20

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$228,569.64

You will find the minutes to last week's Spring Congregational Meeting attached to the newsletter. There also are copies on the shelf beneath the mailboxes.

COMMUNITY LIFE

DISCIPLING

Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship: Sept. 27–29, 2018, at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. Imagine and embody alternative ways of relating to the land that cultivate shalom among human beings, the rest of creation and God. This event will weave together worship, theology, biblical study and praxis. Keynote speakers: Valerie Bridgeman, Karena Gore and Randy Woodley. ambs.edu/rootedandgrounded

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women: The next sewing project is collecting used sheets to be torn into strips for bandages as well as MCC relief kits. Contents needed for the kits: 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapper), shampoo (1 or 2 bottles totaling more than 20 oz.), 4 large bars laundry soap (such as Fels, Naptha, Sunlight, or Zote brands), 4 adult-sized toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging), 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors, approx. 29 in x 60 in), 2 wide-toothed combs (6-8 in), 1 nail clipper (good quality), 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40 assorted), sanitary pads (**THIN**, 1 or 2 packages, minimum 28 pads total). Mary Weaver will have devotions at the June 14 meeting.

Come hear about the work of the Colombian Mennonite Church and Colombia's path to peace. Jenny Neme is the director of the Christian Center for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action (JUSTAPAZ) in Bogotá, Colombia, one of MCC's largest partners in Colombia. As a member of the Colombian Mennonite Church, Jenny is a leading peacebuilder on the national stage in

Colombia and has decades of experience working for peace from a faith perspective. All are welcome to hear Jenny speak at East Goshen Mennonite Church (17861 State Rd 4 in Goshen) on Thursday, May 31 at 7:00 p.m.

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/Staff-openings for more information, or contact Anabaptist Disabilities Network at 574-343-1362.”