

## ON THE JOURNEY

Sometimes this journey through life can be so difficult that we're simply overwhelmed, and it seems there's no end to the darkness. During such a time in our own family's life, my wife emerged one morning from her quiet time with a new lesson learned. "I think God wants us not to forget in the light what we're learning in this darkness."

Paul writes this same thought to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 1), after describing the terrible difficulties he and his team endured in Asia. Paul wants the Corinthians to understand how God can redeem even our darkest moments. We're comforted, he says, so we may learn how to comfort others (v.4). Paul and his team were learning things from God during their trials that they could use to comfort and advise the Corinthians when they faced similar difficulties. And God does that for us as well, if we're willing to listen. He will redeem our trials by teaching us how to use what we've learned in them to minister to others.

Are you in the darkness now? Be encouraged by Paul's words and experience. Trust that God is right now directing your steps and that He's also stamping His truths on your heart so you can share them with others who are in similar circumstances. You've been there before, and you know the way home.

Submitted by Carolyn Miller from a devotional written by Randy Kilgore

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 9/12</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Prayer & Meditation
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Thurs 9/13</b>	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
<b>Sat 9/15</b>	12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>Sun 9/16</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 9/17</b>	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 9/18</b>	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
<b>Wed 9/19</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Prayer & Meditation
	7:00 pm	Fall Business Meeting
		Music Practice
<b>Sun 9/23</b>	9:00 am	Eugene Bontrager Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 9/24</b>		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Wed 9/26</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	5:30 pm	Outreach Commission
	6:00 pm	Prayer & Meditation
	7:00 pm	Music Practice

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

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

### September Birthdays

Kerry Frye – 12  
 Dora Graber – 12  
 Lydia Frey – 13  
 Chris Wingard – 13  
 Nancy Bontreger – 15  
 Brian Mullet – 15  
 Al Miller – 19  
 Steve Bontrager – 20  
 Jean Shriner – 22  
 Connie Beachy – 24  
 Kris Bontrager – 26  
 Arlene Schrock – 27  
 Patty (Ron) Yoder – 27  
 Fanny Weirich – 28  
 Carolyn Miller – 30

### WORSHIP

**Focus statement:** How important is the church, anyway? With so many people leaving the church, and so many churches closing, one could easily get the idea that the church is not really very important. That might be some people's opinion, and no doubt it is, but it certainly is not God's opinion. God formed the church and placed the church in the world. And God did so for a reason. God has some very specific purposes for the church in the world. The more important question is, "Is the church fulfilling her purpose for which God placed her in the world today?" This Sunday, we want to look at why God put the church in the world, and that will give us a clue as to how important the church really is.

**Background scriptures:** Matthew 16:13-19, Ephesians 1-3

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer  
Next Sunday: Janelle Walther

### Welcome Center

This Sunday: Karen Pletcher  
Next Sunday: Verna Weirich

**Worship Commission** is looking for more Worship Leaders! If you would be willing, or have a suggestion of someone who might be willing, please contact Ruth Beasley. You can email, text, or slip a note in her mailbox. We are wanting to find those who are willing to try....you don't have to have previous experience, and you don't have to do a perfect job (mistakes are acceptable – this is your church family, who cares about you). We are just asking for you to discern about helping in this way. We are asking for willing workers. Thanks!

## ADMINISTRATION

### Stewardship Report for September 9:

Money Given to Budget \$3,912.00  
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$  
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$7,742.00  
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$

**Jean Shriner** will be gone on vacation starting September 4 for two or three weeks. Other than during church office hours, please call Sonya Miller with anything you would like put through the church prayer chain. Her phone number is 574-538-7295.

**The Board** welcomed new members Kent Birky and Linda Young. We worked on the agenda for the Fall Business Meeting. The Board recommended that The Food Pantry have their own budget, and to include paying their utilities and one-half of the phone and snow removal bills. We talked to Phil Yoder about current staff positions. Also discussed the next steps concerning our Church affiliation. The Board is functioning with five members. We are short one member. If anyone feels led to serve on the Board, please contact Gifts Discernment.

**Fall Business Meeting**, September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM.  
Items to be discussed and voted on: The selling of the 2 Lawrence Street properties, the sign for the CR 16

property, and the quotes for the roof of the church. Quotes will be in your mailbox by Sunday for you to look at before the business meeting.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**There are still slots** available to volunteer to mow the lawn at Pleasant Oaks. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

**Elkhart County Right to Life** is sponsoring the annual Life Chain to take place on Sunday afternoon, October 7, from 2:00-3:00 pm. Two locations: Elkhart-US 33 (South Main St.) on the sidewalk in front of Concord Intermediate School and in Goshen at the Courthouse (3<sup>rd</sup> Street side) on the sidewalk. Participants will hold Pro-Life signs, which are provided at both locations.

## DISCIPLING

**Music on the Lawn:** Bethany Christian High School's band, orchestra, and choir will perform their annual Music on the Lawn concert on Friday, Sept. 14. A fundraiser dinner will be served prior to the concert (5:00 dinner, 6:15 concert). BBQ pulled pork sandwiches (vegetarian/gluten free option available), chips, veggies/dip, fruit, and Rise'n Roll pie—all for \$7! Funds raised will help defray expenses for music festivals and trips. Ask any Bethany musician or contact Stacey Farran for tickets ([safarran@bethanycs.net](mailto:safarran@bethanycs.net)) by Tuesday, Sept. 4. Meal and concert will be held in the Friendship Garden (weather permitting), so bring your lawn chair and come ready to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and music!

**Preschool has started!** Our students are excited and happy to be back at school. We will begin our fundraiser with Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Alumni Nights at Bethany:** Bethany Christian Schools alumni and their family will receive free admission to the following fall athletic events: volleyball (Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m.), and boys soccer (Friday, Sept. 22 at 5 p.m.).

**Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology** (noncredit): Sept. 12 – Oct. 23. This online AMBS short course taught by Jamie Pitts, Ph.D., covers the birth and development of 16th-century Anabaptist movements and looks at various interpretations of the meaning of “Anabaptism” today. Cost: \$250. [ambs.edu/shortcourses](http://ambs.edu/shortcourses)

## OUTREACH

**The 51st Annual Mennonite Relief Sale** will be September 21 & 22. We're now selling baked goods on Friday evening, so by Saturday morning we have a minimal selection remaining. Please encourage your congregation to do more baking!

Baking checklist:

- Ensure rolls and pies are completely baked, and double-bag all noodles.
- Please return all unused containers, so we'll know how many to order for next year.
- List your church's name and all ingredients on the label.
- Remind your volunteers to bring in their fresh produce by Friday noon.
- New this year: NO margarine as ingredient this year.

If you have questions or suggestions concerning a food project, please contact Anna Miller at (574) 538-7726 or by email at [millergaryok@msn.com](mailto:millergaryok@msn.com). Also, though we are small we can be an outreach to our community and the world. You have all been actively giving to the “My Coins Count” fund. Though we are no longer taking change from “change for a dollar fund” we still are accepting change in the vase at the welcome center.

There are many other ways you can be involved, which includes volunteering in several ways:

Working at the Sausage and Onion booth - sign up at the church (Elnora Yoder in charge)

Contributing and volunteering your time in the “garage sale” area, sign up at the church (Phil Yoder in charge)

Donating Crafts (Should be delivered directly to the Community Building just inside the main gate)

Children’s Auction items

Quilts or blankets

Food (See above)

Or a monetary gift

**First Mennonite Women:** The sewing is collecting the following products for the Middlebury Boys & Girls Club between now and September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in blessing them by placing your donations in the box in the foyer. Kleenex, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, cleaning products, and duct tape. Dora Graber will have devotions tomorrow.

**The Relief Sale Sausage & Onion Booth** sign up form is in the hallway. We also will need help with onion prep on Thursday, September 20, 4:00 - at the church. Please sign up to work at the relief sale on Friday or Saturday. Thanks so much for your help!

**Join us for a Comforter Bash!** Make plans to join us on November 9 and 10 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.

**Please join Michiana Mennonite Economic Development Associates** (MMEDA) for our September event -- “Living Values: stories of faith and family business,” featuring Dave Hawkins and friends. The event will take place Thursday, September 27, 6:30 pm at the Everence Corporate Office (1110 N Main Street, Goshen). Please RSVP by noon on Friday, September 21, 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).

**Have you thought about who is under your carbon footprint?** Join The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as they bring partners from El Salvador, Zimbabwe, and Nepal to share firsthand accounts of the shifting climate and its effects on individual communities. On Tuesday, September 25, from 7:30-9:00 pm Zacarías Arcio Bernabé Martínez, Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube, and Durga Sunchiuri will share

personal testimonies and accounts of their work in their home countries at College Mennonite Church (1900 S Main Street in Goshen). For more information, please contact Bekah York (bekahyork@mcc.org) or the MCC Great Lakes office at 574-534-4133.

**MCC's response to flooding in India:** The worst monsoon flooding in a century has damaged roads, homes and sources of income for hundreds of thousands of people in the Kerala state of India. As displaced people are returning to their homes, Mennonite Central Committee is working with Gilgal Mission Trust in India to provide tarps, food baskets, cooking utensils, and cleaning and hygiene items. Donations to support the response can be given online at [mcc.org/india-flooding](http://mcc.org/india-flooding); by phone at 888-563-4676; or by mail to MCC U.S., 21 S. 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501.