

ON THE JOURNEY

CALENDAR

| | | |
|------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Wed 1/9 | 9:00 am | Moms In Prayer |
| | 6:00 pm | Discovery Bible Study |
| | 7:00 pm | Music Practice |
| Thur 1/10 | 9:00 am | First Mennonite Women |
| Sun 1/13 | 9:00 am | Phil Preaching |
| | 6:00 pm | MYF |
| Mon 1/14 | | Health Department |
| | 6:00 pm | Ladies Exercise |
| Tues 1/15 | 6:00 pm | Community Life Commission |
| Wed 1/16 | 9:00 am | Moms In Prayer |
| | 6:00 pm | Discovery Bible Study |
| | 6:30 pm | Administration Commission |
| | 7:00 pm | Music Practice |
| Sat 1/19 | 4:00 pm | Fellowship Hall Reserved |
| Sun 1/20 | 9:00 am | Dave Hathaway Preaching |
| | 6:00 pm | MYF |
| Mon 1/21 | 6:00 pm | Ladies Exercise |
| Wed 1/23 | 9:00 am | Moms In Prayer |
| | 5:30 pm | Outreach Commission |
| | 6:00 pm | Discovery Bible Study |
| | 7:00 pm | Music Practice |

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Closed Friday

Phil Yoder Office Hours:

Monday 12:00-4:00 PM,

Wed. 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, Thursday 1:00-6:00 PM

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

January Birthdays

Grace Rheinheimer – 11

Charles Hartzler – 14

Sam Weirich – 15

Linda Young – 16

Mary Weaver – 17

Gene Bender – 18

Marlene Yoder – 18

Ann (Herb) Yoder – 19

Katie Walther – 24

Jeri McClain – 24

Keith Thomas – 25

Allison Hostetler – 29

Louise Sellers - 30

WORSHIP

Focus statement: Pastors, every church has one, or wishes it had one. Pastors are important to churches, and often define the reputation of a church. It is hard to imagine a church without a pastor. What churches look for in a pastor can be very different. Some want a CEO, an administrator, someone to run the church and take care of the business of the church. Some want an entertaining speaker. Pastors are often expected to be a counselor, a good speaker, a healer, and an administrator. Sometimes, churches have unrealistic expectations of their pastors. So, what is a pastor really supposed to do, and what should be the priorities of a pastor?

Background scriptures: Ezekiel 34, Acts 6:1-4, Ephesians 4:11-13

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Ward & Pam Bingaman

Next Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Carolyn Miller

Next Sunday: Karen Pletcher

Worship Commission would like to thank ALL who helped during the Advent Season! Thanks to Phil, who created the materials, many who did Readings, Candle Lighting, played character roles, provided Music, put up the beautiful Visuals, did Worship Leading, worked the Sound Booth, helped with Communion. Thanks to Ed Outman who built the stable, Java Class for hosting

Christmas Eve Service, Twila for special ornaments on the foyer tree, and to all of the congregation who attended and engaged in our observances. It took many to make Advent season meaningful! We are grateful to each and every one who took part! **Also**, there has been concern expressed by some regarding greeting each other by shaking hands at the beginning of Worship Service, as this is flu season. As we feel many find this enjoyable and meaningful, we would like to continue this opportunity to greet one another with a hand shake. However, we would encourage anyone who would prefer not to, to feel free to just greet verbally. We encourage all to be respectful and understanding of those who choose this approach. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for January 6:

Money Given to Budget \$4,561.00
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$108,780.90
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$105,739.75

From the Board: This Sunday, January 13 we will be asking classes to use their Sunday School time and discuss their thoughts on Lancaster Mennonite Conference and Evana. There were papers that were placed in your boxes on January 6 that were provided by these two groups to share their information with us. Jon Troyer, Keith Weaver and Dale Stoltzfus talked with us in November about their conferences. To begin further follow-up we would like each class to share some of the Pro's and Con's that they gleaned from these two meetings and the material that was given to us. As our next steps, we will be having someone that has joined LMC and joined Evana come and share their journeys with us. We would like to know what questions you may have for these persons as well. We will be asking each class to take notes which we will gather at the end of the Sunday School hour on the 13th. Jim and Sharon Wyse will be meeting with our congregational members in Florida at a later date. If you will be unable to attend any of these meetings but do have some questions please send them to the church office: info@firstmennonite.net.

COMMUNITY LIFE

The 8th Annual Elkhart County Rally and Prayer Walk for Life is on Saturday at the Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart at 12:00 noon. The program will include emcee Jeff Fater, RETA Men's Coaching Manager and keynote speaker Ramona Trvino. The Rally will include testimonies from those who have experienced abortion and will be followed by a short pray walk to RETA and the Women's care Center in Elkhart. Go to www.elkhart4life.org for more information.

Let's celebrate Charles Hartzler's 60th birthday with a card shower! His birthday is Monday, January 14th.

The 2019 FMC Women's Retreat will be held at Hunter Lake again this year. It will be Friday, February 8 5:00 pm -Saturday, February 9 after supper sometime. Friday night will be an evening of fun, games and conversation. There are beds available if you wish to spend the night. If you do spend the night and could bring a sleeping bag/blankets and your pillow it would be appreciated. On Saturday we will have 3 interactive sessions focusing on the book 'Traveling Light: The Promise of Psalm 23. Releasing the Burdens you were never intended to bear.' In the three sessions we will be having on Saturday we will be covering from this book Chapter 3 (Psalm 23:1), Chapter 6 (Psalm 23:2) and Chapter 15 (Psalm 23:5). You do not need to purchase the book as I will be giving out guides for the retreat the week prior to the retreat. (It is a very interesting and helpful book and can be purchased on line if you wish.) The suggested cost is \$25/person for Friday and Saturday and \$20/person if only Saturday. We will be having pizza for dinner Friday evening and a brunch and dinner on Saturday that will be furnished. Also, all beverages will be furnished. Please bring snacks to share (remember we had a lot of them last year. 😊) A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. FMC women and their guests, if they wish are invited to attend.

DISCIPLING

Please join Michiana Mennonite Economic

Development Associates (MMEDA) for our first dinner program event of 2019 -- "Goshen College Study Service Term: 50 years of Transformational Global Citizenship." The event will take place Thursday, January 17, 6:30pm in the College Mennonite Church Koinonia Room (1900 S Main Street, Goshen, IN 46526). Professors Jan Bender Shetler and Duane Stoltzfus will share the history of the SST program, the goals and outcomes, and ideas about the future of SST. You'll also hear from former SST participants Jose Ortiz (current student) and Joe Christophel (a member of the very first SST group) about their SST experience and how it has impacted them. A Jamaican-inspired meal will be catered by the College Mennonite kitchen staff. Please RSVP by noon on FRIDAY, January 11, to 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 (now accepting credit cards!).

Hear Chicago-based La Caccina vocal ensemble with guests GC Women's World Music Choir on Saturday, Jan.19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Goshen College Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$6 seniors/students, and can be purchased online at goshen.edu/tickets or at the GC Box Office. GC faculty/staff/students free with ID. La Caccina is professional women's vocal ensemble and non-profit arts organization, founded in 2011 by three friends who shared a passion for choral music. Their expressive, emotional singing highlights the versatility of the treble voice and brings musical excellence, integrity and honesty to every performance.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Jan. 19, for the first annual Michiana Regional Seed Swap from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Goshen High School. Join fellow gardeners, growers and plant enthusiasts to exchange seeds, compare and discuss varieties and more. This event is hosted by Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center and is free and open to the public. Participants are not required to bring seeds to the event, but if you save seeds, please bring them along!

Seeds will be available through sales, swaps and for FREE thanks to donations.

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's next project is collecting items for The Window. Items needed are: coats (new or used), hats, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear.

Join the local group heading to Washington, DC to learn how to be better advocates by attending 2019 Ecumenical Advocacy Days! Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World will take place on Friday, April 5 – Monday, April 8 in Washington, D.C. We gather at a time in which people of faith and conscience are again called to stand in the prophetic stream of those who have come before us, those who were not afraid to stir up #GoodTrouble for the sake of God's kingdom. Scripture foundations are John 5:1-9 and Isaiah 43:1-9. Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Our goal, through worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness, is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. Learn more at advocacydays.org/2019-troubling-the-waters/ Contact susanmarklandis@gmail.com for more information and to inquire about possible partial scholarships.

MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) location in West Virginia is in the process of moving from Elkhorn to Kimball. Help is needed to make the final renovations possible so staff can move in time for the upcoming season. Volunteers are needed over the next three months, particularly people with specific skills such as electric, HVAC, plumbing and carpentry. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact AppalachiaElkhornLC@mcc.org or 606-633-5065.

