

ON THE JOURNEY

Our Journey

I have four brothers, and when we get together, inevitably, during the course of our conversations, one will say something like this, "Last week, I drove to Cleveland in two hours and twenty minutes." Then another one will chime in, "That's nothing, the last time I went to Cleveland, I drove it in two hours and ten minutes." And the bragging begins about how fast we can get to a destination. I have a brother who has a corvette with a personalized license plate that reads, "ETAB4U" (estimated time of arrival, before you). I always throw a wrench in the spokes" by saying something like this, "Well, the last time I went to Cleveland, I drove it in six hours and forty-three minutes, but along the way I stopped at an ice cream stand, two coffee shops, helped a lady with a flat tire, and then took the scenic route through Cuyahoga National Park." And that usually ends the conversation, and we move on to something else. I am actually trying to make an important point by making a statement like that. Life is not simply about reaching our destination, it is also about the journey. It is about how we get to our destination and the things we do along the way that makes the journey worthwhile.

This is a mistake many Christians make about the Christian life. They think becoming a Christian is only about going to heaven when we die. And for sure, ending up in heaven is paramount! But our journey through life, our journey on the way to heaven is just as important, and perhaps even more so. Jesus had far more to say about the journey, about how we are to live life on this earth, than he did about where we end up. The majority of the Bible is about entering into a relationship with God and learning to walk with God through life. God cares about how we get to our eternal destination.

Yes, we can rush to get to our destination, but, oh my, the things we miss along the way if we are always in a rush. Life is much more enjoyable if we can slow down, take some scenic detours, and pay attention to the little treasures we find along the way. Certainly, it is a tragedy beyond comprehension to miss heaven. But perhaps, it may be an equally great tragedy to miss what God intends for us on our journey through life getting there.

Submitted by Pastor Phil Yoder

CALENDAR

Wed 9/4	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Music Practice
	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
Thurs 9/5	6:30 pm	Board
Fri 9/6	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
Sun 9/8	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 9/9		Health Department
	5:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
	6:30 pm	Worship Commission
Tues 9/10	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
Wed 9/11	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Music Practice
Thurs 9/12	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women

Sat 9/14	AM-2:00	Fellowship Hall Reserved
Sun 9/15	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 9/16	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 9/17	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
Wed 9/18	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Music Practice
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	7:00 pm	Fall Business Meeting

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.**

September Birthdays

Mary Ropp – 4
 Chris Miller – 7
 Dave (Jan) Yoder – 7
 Nicole Frye – 8
 Al Kauffman – 9
 Jim Pletcher – 10
 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
 Carolyn Miller - 30

WORSHIP

Focus statement: Many people today think faith and belief are the same thing and use the terms interchangeably. They certainly have a very close relationship. Belief is an essential ingredient in faith, but it is only one ingredient. Faith is multi-dimensional and is much broader than just believing. In our culture today, faith has been reduced to believing some things about God. But Biblical Faith is a comprehensive new orientation to all of life in which God is the King, God's will is done, and people of faith live in a new way.

Background scriptures: Hebrews 11:8-16

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Ward and Pam Bingaman
 Next Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

Welcome Center

This Sunday: Carolyn Miller
 Next Sunday: Karen Pletcher

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for September 1:

Money Given to Budget \$6,177.00
 Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$
 Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$6,177.00
 Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$

The Fall Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18. Commission reports will be given for the past year. The meeting for Commission Chairs/Board Member will be on Wednesday, October 2.

On Sunday voting will take place to affirm Board positions and Commission positions. Absentee ballots are on the ledge outside of the church office window.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Please change Virginia Hershberger's address to:

1325 Greencroft Dr.
 Apt. 364
 Goshen, IN 46526

Wilbur and Fannie Schlabach welcome visits. Please call before going to see them.

Menno-Hof Hymn Sing at the Farmstead Inn Pavilion (just south of Menno-Hof), Sunday, September 8, 5 pm. Come and enjoy a cappella singing of familiar hymns! Everyone is invited to stay for ice cream and pretzels following the hymn sing. Chairs and hymn books will be provided.

The Goshen Community Chorale will begin rehearsing for its upcoming 2019-20 season on Tuesday evening, September 10th, at College Mennonite Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m. For this fall the Chorale will be preparing a program of English cathedral music, to be performed with organ and brass, which will take place at the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen on Sunday evening, November 24th. The Chorale welcomes new members who have a background in choral singing and who wish to commit themselves to regular attendance at rehearsals and to learning challenging repertoire. Interested persons should contact the music director, William Mateer, at (574) 533-2562 or mateers@aol.com.

DISCIPLING

Alumni Reunions at Bethany: Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen will be hosting class reunions and activities for its alumni and their families on Saturday, Sept. 28. The following graduating classes will hold their reunions Saturday: 1959, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014. Reunion classes will meet Saturday afternoon at Bethany for visiting and a catered dinner. Alumni interested in attending should register by Sept. 17. Registration and details available at bethanycs.net/reunions.

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. 20. 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 \$8! Funds raised will help defray expenses for music festivals and trips. Ask any Bethany musician or contact Stacey Farran for tickets (safarran@bethanycs.net) by Tuesday, Sept. 10. Meal and concert will be held in the Friendship Garden (weather permitting). Come ready to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and music!

AMBS Anabaptist Short Course Bundle: Four online courses to deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought and witness. Noncredit courses last six weeks each, with no grades and no papers! CEUs available. Register online for \$995 total: ambs.edu/shortcourses

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's next project is contributing to the Relief Sale.