



Mennonite Church
Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

May 2016
Issue Vol. 46 No. 4



Teach me, Lord, to wait

I am learning how to be a better waiter. No, I don't mean that I seek to serve tables at a restaurant. What I mean is that I am inclined to be quite impatient, so I am trying to improve my ability to wait. When I have to wait for something, I find myself getting antsy, wanting to move on to the next thing that will give me instant gratification. Perhaps that's why I buy starter plants for my garden instead of seeds. Incidentally, my great-grandfather ran a seed business in Pennsylvania in the 70's when someone told him that he should consider selling starter plants as well. "Are you crazy?" was his response. "Nobody is going to want to pay more for starter plants when they can buy perfectly good seeds!" Now that business is busy every spring selling more starter plants than they can keep on the shelves. It seems that Great-Grandpa didn't see the coming changes to our ability to wait.

While I'm not sure I want to admit it, one explanation for my inability to wait is that I am uncomfortable being still, by myself. When there is nothing to do but wait, each human will come face to face with "me, myself, and I." This can be a scary proposition for those of us that don't have very good self-image, or who define ourselves by what we do and who we know. Henri Nouwen claims that central to this problem is our fear of loneliness. We have trouble waiting because we begin to feel lonely, so

...we panic when there is nothing or nobody left to distract us. When we have no project to finish, no friend to visit, no book to read, no television to watch or no record to play, and when we are left all alone by ourselves we are brought so close to the revelation of our basic human aloneness and are so afraid of experiencing an all-pervasive sense of loneliness that we will do anything to get busy again...

(Nouwen, *Reaching Out*, pg. 6)

Thank God for smartphones, right?!

Nouwen's solution to the problem is that we do the hard work of moving from loneliness to "solitude." This is hard, prayerful work in which we absorb the words of the scriptures:

*I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be **strengthened in your inner being** with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may **dwell in your hearts** through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love...so that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.** (Ephesians 3:16,17,19b. Emphases mine.)*

What would it be like to experience peaceful solitude in our waiting, instead of loneliness? How would it change us to primarily define ourselves as God's children, filled with Christ?

I think we can apply these concepts to our church family as well, especially in this time of pastoral transition. Anxiety can elevate the longer this process goes on, partly because churches can think they are defined by who their pastors are. We can feel aimless and a bit lonely when we are waiting for a new pastor. Pastoral transitions will be always be a reality, as Eden knows very well. My hope is that instead of defining our church as one without a Lead Pastor, we can always be defined as one filled with the Holy Spirit, following Jesus. Paul addresses this identity crisis in the Corinthian church as each faction identifies themselves by their preferred leader. Paul corrects them by reminding them that only Christ was crucified for them, so their identities should be solely found in Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:11-15).

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There's more →

What would it look like if we took this time to find solitude in the waiting? How would we grow as a congregation if we found our identity in Jesus? How amazing would it be for a “peace church” to find inner peace, connecting deeply with ourselves and one another as those “filled with the fullness of God?” May we wait in solitude. In our waiting may we “watch and pray” for God’s Spirit to move, and may we sing the words of Isaiah 40:31:

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Teach me, Lord, teach me, Lord, to wait.



Eden Leadership Team

The Eden Leadership Team met Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Present were: Bret Gillmore, JoLene Kaufman, Pastor Lee Suderman, Keith Albrecht, Pastor Derek King, Morgan Kaufman, Jean Regier, Carol Zerger, Brenda Dalke, Marcy Schrag, Kyle Neufeld, and Perry Krehbiel. Absent were: Jay Goering and Jerry Schrag.

Bret called the meeting to order and lit the candle to remind us of the Holy Spirit’s presence.

Devotions by Pastor Lee: He read from a book called *Setting the Agenda: Meditations for the Mennonite Organization*. I Corinthians 2: 6 and 7 also verse 13 was the scripture to go along with this. He led in prayer.

The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer report: In Jay’s absence, Perry handed out the financial report.

Revenue is: \$98,966.68

Expenses are: \$120,404.31

Difference is (\$21,437.63)

Deacon Commission: At the last meeting, (April 7), the majority of meeting was spent on confidential care and concerns. Possible future discussions: Rainbow response and interpreting sexuality. After the meeting, Gail Graber gave an hour course on care and concern and visitation to 3 Deacons and 3 visitation team members. The next meeting is May 4.

Education/Discipleship Commission: Children’s Day is June 5. The plans are to have it outside. June 12 a summer elective led by Pastor Derek will begin. It is titled *Why we do what we do? Church practices*. They are organizing a committee to plan retreat weekend at Camp Mennoscah. They are also working on safe sanctuary.

Peace/Witness Commission: The commission was busy with tee shirts. They have ordered 20 more and will have some not spoken for. They will also give them to people who go into voluntary service. May 1 is Popcorn and Pop with PET. They got an email from the city of people who have recently moved to town. They will go visit them personally with some bread or cookies. They want to make up a pamphlet listing all the churches and businesses in town. They are going to make the Eden mugs available to the congregation.

Trustee Commission: The Trustees have completed and are working on the following: All exterior control joints at the church will be re-caulked along with around the monument at Hopefield.

A fix for the settling foundation at the N side of the E front entry doors is scheduled for May 16.

A leaking valve in the church mechanical room has been replaced.

The men’s bathroom faucet at the church office has been replaced.

Insurance policy information was provided to the Christian Ed Commission for them to implement a Safe Sanctuary Policy Proposal.

Stewardship Commission: They met April 4, 2016.

They discussed educational opportunities for our congregation to discuss stewardship. Everence has resources we may use and we would like to hear a message on Stewardship from our Pastors. They would like to review our missions giving this year. They may use a survey to determine where people want to give. A question for ELT: Who is responsible for replacing Endowment Committee members? We determined by the Stewardship By-laws that the church council, now ELT, should replace that person.

Pastor Derek: Holy Week went well. Giving was about half, and the walk was good. There was a good response for the service at Pine Village. Next year we will probably do something more traditional. Pastor Derek had his ordination interview on Friday. They approved Derek for the next step. The Associated Churches met last Monday, and Eden had a good representation. A volunteer committee was formed.

These are some options.

1. Associated Churches restructuring - more robust group
2. Associate Churches dissolve. Churches would become more independent. They will bring info to July meeting and at the end of the year bring some direction. The groups they started are standing on their own. Maybe Associated Churches should just let them grow.

Pastor Lee:

He met with SCRT last night. He gave them his schedule through May 22. May 9 & 10 he is going to Pennsylvania for a Board meeting. He will be going to California for his granddaughter’s graduation. June 26 WDC would like

ELT minutes continued

to have a service of closure. A pastoral candidate would take priority to any schedule. He will be attending a Pine Village board meeting Monday night, April 25. There was a letter sent from a person complaining about certain services not being offered. Pine Village has taken a position and wants support from Lead Pastors.

Search Committee: No one present

Interim Pastors - Next step: Bret has not called the Conference Minister about filling Pastor Lee's absence.

Perry made motion, Carol seconded that Bret ask Heidi Regier Kreider to get some ideas for another Interim Pastor. Motion Carried. We need to be very clear about what kind of Interim we want, Supply or Intentional.

Vision/Mission Statement: Morgan moved and Jean seconded that ELT affirm the proposed Mission and Vision Statement. Motion carried unanimously. (See the revised Mission and Vision statement in the right hand column of this page.

Pastor Derek's ordination: will be on a Sunday afternoon. (June 12 was approved by Heidi Regier Kreider at WDC). Refreshments will be served after the service.

New Business:

The Worship Commission received an email from the Chaplain at Pine Village. They would like to have each church conduct a Worship Service there. If approved the Worship Commission would have to coordinate that with the Education/Discipleship Commission. **Brenda moved and Carol seconded that we coordinate a Worship service at Pine Village. Motion carried unanimously.**

Becky Koller sent a reminder about the One Call Now system training. Kyle, Bret, Education/Discipleship and Becky Clark should be the ones to take the training.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. Kyle will have Devotions at the next meeting.

JoLene Kaufman, secretary



During the summer the Eden choirs are given a much needed break. If you are a musician, either vocal or instrumental and would be willing to share your gift of music please contact Cheri A. Kaufman at 620-345-8457 or lcmrkaufman@mtelco.net. Openings begin **May 8** and are available through August. Please give sharing your gift of music prayerful consideration.



The Eden Leadership Team (ELT) would like to thank the congregation for all the input regarding the Vision Statement over the last several months. Based on the feedback from the church, the Vision Statement has been restructured to become two statements, a vision and a mission. This allows for one to be a simple statement (hopefully memorable) that simply states "who we are and what we do," while the other statement can paint a more thorough vision of what could happen when we live that mission to its fullest. The ELT has unanimously approved the following Proposed Mission and Vision for Eden Mennonite Church:

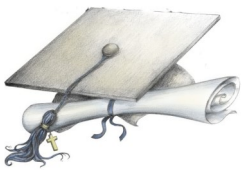
Mission: To be a community that follows Jesus in all we do and say.

Vision: A people transformed by the Holy Spirit in worship and service, so that through us, God's grace, love, and peace are made known to the world.

The ELT asks that the congregation allow this to settle in your minds and hearts over the next several weeks and offer feedback as you feel led. We would like to approve these statements as the Mission and Vision of Eden by our June 16 meeting, so please offer feedback to an ELT member before then.

Members of the Eden Leadership Team are:
Bret Gillmore, Kyle Neufeld, JoLene Kaufman, Jay Goering, Brenda Dalke, Marcella Schrag, Carol Zerger, Perry Krehbiel, Morgan Kaufman, Jerry Schrag, Bill Zerger, and Jean Regier.

Let us know



If you or someone in your family is graduating from 8th grade, high school, college, tech school, or an advanced degree, please let us know, (620-345-8320 or email us at edenoffice@edenmenmennonite.org) by **May 10**. We will print the names in the June *Eden Echoes* and graduates will be recognized during the May 15 worship service. Please don't assume we know. No names will be printed without hearing from you.

The offering the this quarter in the Junior Sunday school department is for the Moundridge Food Pantry. We invite adults to give to this project too by bringing non-perishable food to worship. The kids will collect the food when the ushers take the offering. We will do this each week through the first Sunday in June. Adults, if you would rather give money to this project, after worship please give your cash or check to one of the children to take to Sunday school. Make the check to Eden with food pantry in the memo line.



Popcorn and Pop for PET

Please join us on Sunday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about the Personal Energy Transportation (PET) project. Kirby and Christine Goering will share information about PET. There will be popcorn, pop and fun involved. The event will take place in the Eden fellowship hall. See you there!

**Why we do what we do:
A theology of "churchy" things.
Sunday School Elective,
June-August, 2016**



**What: Elective Sunday School Class
When: Summer Quarter, beginning June 12
Where: Choir Room, 131
For Whom: Any interested Adult**

Why exactly do we take communion? Why do we baptize people? Do you recall learning about these things, but can't seem to remember now? Pastor Derek would like to explore these topics (and more) in an elective Sunday school class this summer. The purpose of this class will be for participants to deepen their understanding of church practices and to be challenged to live out their faith in robust ways.

The class will explore the historical understandings of certain church practices. We will compare and contrast Catholic and Anabaptist teachings, while also sharing out of our own experiences of these practices. The topics explored will include Baptism, Communion, Church, Worship, Funerals, Weddings, and others. These classes may not necessarily connect with one another, so come to all, or just those topics that interest you.

Taking up the cross



"That's her cross to bear," it's said of someone's hardship or inconvenience. The challenge might be as serious as poverty or as trivial as crabby neighbors. However, when Jesus called people to "take up their cross,"

he didn't mean it that way. Nor was he referring to anyone imposing suffering on another.

When Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24) and parallels), he spoke of a radical new way to engage a society that more often called people to take up swords and fight for self-preservation. He called people to peace, not violence — and from being self focused to following him.

That is also Jesus' call today. The cross isn't a euphemism that lets us dismiss someone's suffering. We don't appoint someone else to bear it. When we choose the cross, we do so for ourselves in response to Jesus' invitation that, one way or another, ultimately leads through death to new life.

SMCHA Offers Scholarships

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association is again offering scholarships in the amount of \$500 to students who are preparing for the ministry or other full-time Christian service. Part-time students may be awarded \$250 scholarships. Individuals serving in long-term voluntary service are also eligible. Scholarships are for the 2016-2017 school year. The application deadline is July 1, 2016. Applicants must have membership in one of the six Swiss-Volhynian churches in Kansas or in one of the two in South Dakota, or be of Swiss-Volhynian descent.

Applicants may submit a letter of application to Roger Juhnke, Swiss Mennonite Scholarship Committee, 328 Lakeshore Dr., Newton, KS 67114. The application should include a letter from the applicant's pastor or congregation. The applicant must be enrolled or accepted in an accredited Mennonite institution of higher education or in a Mennonite-related voluntary service position. Those attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will be given preference.

For further information call Roger Juhnke at 316-283-0452, Helen Nachtigal at 316-283-8077, or Kerwin Graber at 605-660-3382, or consult our website at www.swissmennonite.org.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting MCC through contributions given for the 5K Run/Walk on April 9. It was a beautiful day for a walk! The oldest participant was 81 and the youngest was 3 years.
Greg, Elaine and Denise Krehbiel

We give a heartfelt Thank You to this church. Thank you for all the calls, cards, visits and concerns. Also to Pastors Derek and Lee for their visits. There is no way to express what all of you mean to us. It is so comforting to have a church family that cares so much. We are very blessed.
Bob and JoLene Kaufman

We want to thank you for the generous monetary gift towards our Literacy Litters the Community project. We are excited to begin putting together the Literacy Book Bags and having them available for children to check-out. Thank you for partnering with us for a project that will benefit the community.
Sincerely,
Moundridge Public Library Board and Staff

Thank you for your generous contribution to PET Kansas. Your gift helps us give the Gift of Mobility to the millions in the world in need of our special wheelchair. Every dollar raised gives the Gift of Hope for those who cannot walk. With help from Health and Mobility Charities, PET wheelchairs have been sent to more than 100 Countries around the world.
Again, thank you so much for your support to this ministry of caring.
Christine Goering

Thank you for supporting Moundridge High School's After Prom Party. Your donation helped make it a success. We had a great time! Thanks.
Colton,
MHS Senior

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 48th Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale a huge success! The preliminary total for the 2016 Sale is \$559,743.25! The selling prices for the quilts are listed under the [Quilts Gallery](#).

You are all invited to celebrate this success at the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail, Newton. The meal is \$15 a plate and you will pay at the door. Please RSVP to Josh and Emily Regier by May 16. Or, contact Barb Reeves at 620-543-6863 or bj.reeves@live.com. Put April 7 and 8 on your calendar for the 2017 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale.



Graphic/multimedia designer. Mennonite Church USA's Executive Board staff is seeking a 0.75 to 1.0 FTE Graphic/multimedia designer. Location: Elkhart, Indiana; Newton, KS; or dispersed. The person in this role will serve as the primary graphic designer and videographer on the majority of Mennonite Church USA communication projects and initiatives; ensure the consistent use of the denomination's visual identity guidelines; and work on various convention-related design projects. As an integral part of the Communications Team, the person in this role will work with the team on long-term vision, messaging and communications strategy. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in communication, graphic design or art, and be proficient in Adobe Creative Suite. At least five years of experience as a graphic or multimedia designer would be a plus. For a complete job description, see www.mennoniteusa.org/jobs. To apply, send a cover letter, resume, three to five design project samples and contact information for three references to: Janie Beck Kreider, director of communications, at janiebk@mennoniteusa.org

Invitation to Share



The "invitation to share" project for the month of May is Sewing Kits.

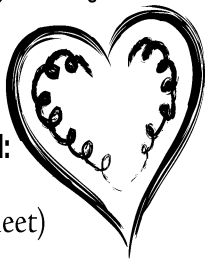
- 1 metric tape measure
- 2 spools white thread/2 spools black thread (300 yards each)
- 1 thimble, (medium size)
- 1 pr. dressmaker scissors, (good quality)
- 1 pkg. needles, (approx. 25)
- 1 pkg. straight pins, (approx. 100)
- 1 pkg. hooks and eyes, (approx. 12)
- 1 pkg. sew on snaps, (approx. 20-25)
- 10 assorted safety pins.

Place contents in 11" x 16" double drawstring bag.

If you would like to support this project you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line. Please mail checks to the church office, P.O. Box 406, Moundridge, KS 67107.

A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!

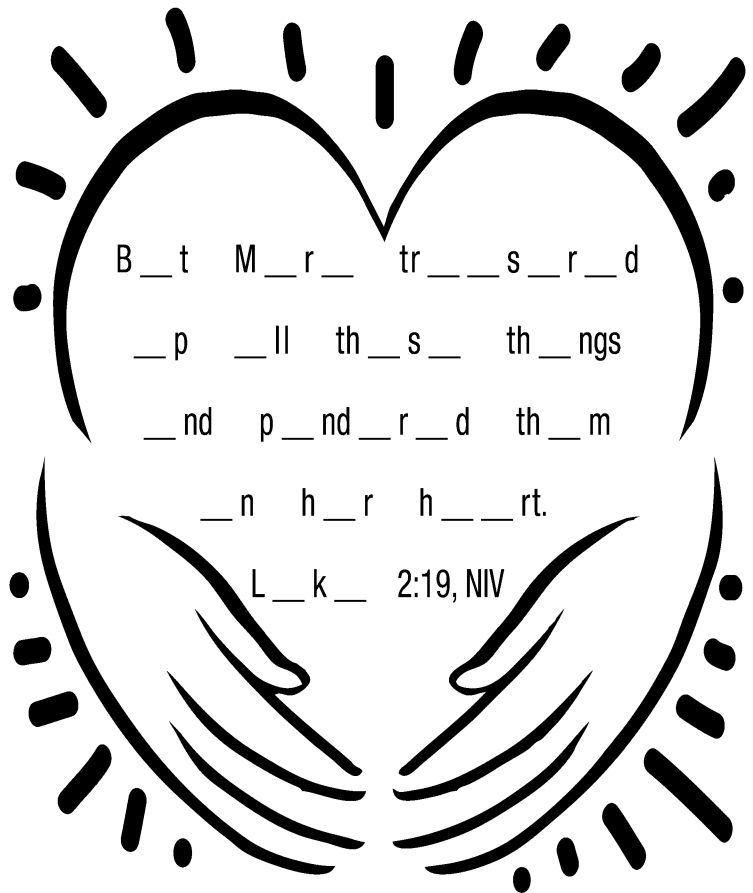


A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

A E I O U Y



Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

May Birthdays

<p>1- Sandra Flickner Eugene H. Goering Robyn Roberson Bernice Zerger</p> <p>2- Jared Gillmore Jordan Nice (Karen) David Montelongo (Jason Miller & Melanie Krehbiel)</p> <p>3- Ailene Goering Stuart Kaufman Ethan Rose (Leslie Earlston)</p> <p>5- Harvey Graber Jason Miller Marilyn Preheim Conner Stucky Angela White (Chester & Ruth)</p> <p>6- Teresa Birky Curby Goering Darren Graber Travis Graber Brandon Kaufman Janice Yoder</p> <p>7- Bret Toews</p> <p>9- Marlene Krehbiel Jeff Thiesen</p> <p>10- Ayden Fleming (Matt & Rashelle Schrag)</p> <p>11- Jacob Ewy (Brenda) Brian Stucky</p> <p>13- Shelby Graber Angela Preheim Gale Schrag Brandon Schrag</p> <p>14- Natalie Anderson (Neal & Cindy) Kali Graber Lakynn Stucky (Clinton & Angie) Luke Stucky Duane Wedel</p> <p>15- Taryn Temple</p>	<p>16- Keelan Graber (Zach and Kali) Sylvia Vogt</p> <p>17- Carol Stucky Matthew Stucky Dana Tolle</p> <p>18- Jonathan Budd Teresa Graber Elsie Kaufman</p> <p>20- Molly Flickner Michelle Graber (Nick & Chris) Dawn Schrag Donald Wedel</p> <p>21- Curtis Goering Jeff Koller Sadie Newmark (Jason & Shelese)</p> <p>23- Michael L. Krehbiel Zoe Vontz (Nicholas & Lori) LaDonna Wedel</p> <p>24- Grant Stucky (Morris & Diana) Mariah Wedel (Ross)</p> <p>25- Matt Begnoche Jerry Lankford Elizabeth Schrag Avery Schrag (Matt & Rashelle) Marjean Stucky</p> <p>26- Rene Kaufman</p> <p>27- Adelayd Polo Goering (Patricia Goering & Said Polo) Roger Regehr</p> <p>28- Jerrod Dalke Justin Dalke Jeff Flickinger</p> <p>29- Patsy Klassen Matthew Schrag</p> <p>30- Mark E. Stucky</p> <p>31- Patsy Lankford Silas Preheim (Trent & Angela) Susan Schrag</p>
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May Anniversaries



<p>1- Chester & Ruth White</p> <p>2- Roger & Terra Regehr David & Hillery Schrag</p> <p>3- Tom & Jamie Mulder</p> <p>7- E. Fred & Beverly Goering</p> <p>9- Myron & Monica Flickner</p> <p>12- Steve & Linda Graber Kyle & Robin Schrag</p> <p>13- Mark & Torinda Graber</p> <p>14- Arlo & Geneva Flickner</p> <p>17- Tim & Amber Stucky</p> <p>20- Chris & Tori Starks</p> <p>21- Ronnie & Pam Schrag</p> <p>23- Michael & Greta Koehn Phil & Sharon McCowen Brian & Amy Schrag</p>	<p>23- Ross & Christy Shirack Kenneth L. & Barbara Stucky</p> <p>24- Tony & Karen Janzen Leslie & Joy Thiessen</p> <p>25- David & Teresa Birky</p> <p>27- David & Joyce Anderson</p> <p>28- Ian & Shayna Smith</p> <p>29- Larry G. & Sarah Goering Milo & Anne Schrag Tony & Leslie Schrag Norman & Nadine Wedel</p> <p>31- Troy & Suzanne Miller Derek & Shannon Schrag</p>
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If there has been an omission or mistaken date please notify the church office.

Up-Coming Events

- May 1:** Choir Finale during the worship service
6:00 p.m. Popcorn and pop for PET evening
- May 2:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
- May 3:** Mary Martha Circle all day meeting
- May 9:** 7:30 p.m. Children's Day planning mtg. at church office
8:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.
- May 15:** Graduate Recognition at Eden
- May 19:** 7:00 p.m. Eden Leadership Team meets at Eden
Noon - All items for the June *Echoes* due in the church office
- May 30:** Memorial Day, Eden Church Office closed
- June 1:** 7:00 p.m. Practice for Children's day at church
- June 5:** 10:00 a.m. Children's Day at Eden
- June 7:** Mary Martha Circle mtg.
- June 27:** 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission mtg.
- July 9 & 10:** Eden Retreat weekend at Camp Mennoscah
- July 11-15:** Associated Churches Vacation Bible School

May 2016						
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June 2016						
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