



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

March 2018
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*From the
Pastor*



Into the Desert

Going to a desert area has not been on the top spots of places for our family vacations over the years. However, when our children were in elementary school, we camped in southern Arizona at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. This spot was on the way to the west coast, our destination for this trip. When we arrived at the campground in the early evening in June we were warned by the park naturalist to stay on the paved roads and walkways and to always wear closed shoes for in the desert areas there were scorpions and snakes. It was too hot for a campfire so we headed to bed and were up at dawn to head on for as soon as the sun rose the heat was intense. Our sojourn in this desert place was short for the desert environment did not seem to offer us a reason to stay.

So when Dennis suggested a few years ago that he would like to go to Death Valley, I did not jump at the chance to plan that trip. Yet he persisted and started researching the best time to visit, places to stay and things to do. He was encouraged to discover a couple who made Death Valley their annual vacation destination each spring and told of the refreshment they found there. My curiosity was piqued and I finally agreed that Dennis could plan the trip for us. We made our sojourn to Death Valley last March. The beauty of the valley was amazing with the multi-colored rock valley walls with snow-covered mountains in the distance. As we hiked on the valley floor in the early morning we discovered the intricate formations of salt crystals that spread for miles. This desert area indeed offered a place of wonder and beauty.

Into the desert is where we find Jesus in our first gospel reading in Mark as we begin this season of Lent. At the outset of his public ministry, led by the Spirit, Jesus went into the wilderness. Jesus had just been baptized by John, just been Holy-Spirit-descended upon, just been named Son and Beloved, seemingly ready for his work in preaching and teaching. Instead he goes in the opposite direction into the desert for forty days. We don't know how exactly Jesus spent these days but we do know when these days were over he was clear about his identity and his mission and began to proclaim and live the good news of the reign of God.

Lent, this 40-day period in the Christian calendar, is our way of figuratively going into the desert. To step back and create space for times of prayer and reflection. To take time to repent, to renew our commitments to God's ways, and to empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice. Lent offers us the invitation to let go of something in order to devote ourselves to finding something more valuable. Many people choose to give up something for Lent, to learn to live without a particular food or practice, to interrupt their usual routine, in order to free themselves for something new and renewing for life. Some people choose to begin a new spiritual practice such as establishing a renewed time for prayer, reflection on scripture, or journaling. On this Lenten journey I share with you a prayer from Ted Loder's book *Guerrillas of Grace*.

*Catch me in my aimless scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:
hold my heart to the beat of your grace
and create in me a resting place,
a kneeling place,
a tip-toe place.*

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In our worship times during Lent, we are focusing on the theme, *Between Me & You*, exploring what it means to live in covenant with God, with each and with all of creation. In covenants, promises are made and broken, expanded and reimagined. It will be a time to ponder the ways God's covenant with us as God's people provide insight into the nature of our relationships with God and with each other and the world around us. May we be renewed and refreshed in our covenants together.

Pastor Dianne



The Eden Leadership Team (ELT) met January 18 at the Eden Church Office.

Present were: Becky Koller, Mark Stucky, Jerry Lankford, Teresa Graber, Austin Goering, Marcia Goering, Jay

Goering, Glen Goering, Dianne Schmidt, Derek King, Kyle Neufeld, Larry Kaufman, Cheri Kaufman, and Candy Unrau

Pastor Derek led with Scripture from Romans 8:9-17 in Lectio Divina format and led in prayer. A candle was lit to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Kyle Neufeld called the meeting to order. Eden's Mission and Vision statements were read.

Approval of minutes from last ELT meeting was not done and there were no objections.

Treasurer's report: Austin Goering reported that there is \$14,000 that is not covered for the renovation of the Eden Church office project. Donations to the budget were \$10,000 less than last year, and were \$13,000 less than actual expenses. Expenses were \$11,000 less than were budgeted. Total—behind \$27,000.

Stewardship Commission: Teresa Graber brought up concern about the position of treasurer. The new Constitution says that the Treasurer shall be a two year term. To clarify this and make the position more effective for training of new personnel, there was discussion about longer terms with overlap between the incoming and outgoing treasurer. A new proposal will be discussed and voted on later in the meeting with the Constitution discussion.

Peace/Witness Commission: Mark Stucky reported that they are working on Peace Sunday, which will be May 6 or May 13. The St. Francis Migration Ministries has adopted the refugee program. The committee is looking forward to our congregation participating in more baby showers for refugee families.

Deacon Commission: Glen Goering reported that Gail Graber has agreed to be the Deacon Chair. Pastor Dianne is coordinating/guiding the deacons in their visitation ministry. The deacons are looking forward to emphasis in spiritual growth in their meetings.

Worship Commission: Cheri Kaufman reported that they are working on ways to be intentional in celebration and worship. They are making plans for Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. The Bethel College choir will be in our church March 4 and they are planning to have a hymn sing during the Sunday school hour. A pot luck meal is planned for that day. There was also discussion about Emergency response protocols for medical emergencies, Tornado, Fire, Active shooter, etc.

Trustee Commission: Larry Kaufman reported that an air conditioner compressor at church needs to be replaced. March 31, 2018 will be a church work day and they are lining up projects for that. They are making plans for pest control service. The church office renovation is nearly finished! There was discussion on how to raise the remaining \$14,000 to pay off this project.

Leadership Retreat Recap: The retreat was held at the church on Saturday, January 27. Derek shared about opportunities to replace somethings with other things that have more energy as we are goal setting. He talked about goals not just about something to do, but something to be—(attitude). If we are led by the Spirit, we will be full of life.

Pastors report: Derek reported that he attended a seminar in Virginia with other pastors and leaders. He reports mutual work with 1st Church of Christian, West Zion, and United Methodist on the upcoming Holy Week services. Services will be held at the Methodist church and Derek will be speaking. In April after Easter there will be a pulpit triad exchange with 1st Mennonite and West Zion with Pastors Laura, Brad, and Derek rotating at the 3 churches. Dianne reported that she will be going to a seminar in Elkhart the end of February.

Pastor Review: Kyle reported that Pastor Derek's review will be during Sunday school on February 18. There will be 3 established questions that will be discussed in small groups of 5 or 6 with a leader and a recorder of responses. He has a need for 20 volunteers. The leaders/recorders will have their own opportunity to review the pastor.

Constitution Plan: Kyle shared that the Eden Church Constitution has been revised to reflect and align the Constitution to how we are currently functioning. It was

There's more →→

approved November 27, 2017. A motion was made to amend the position description for the Treasurer as follows: "Treasurer (four year term with a maximum of one term.) The treasurer position will be filled every three years with an overlap of one year for training and transition purposes. During the first year, the individual will be considered Treasurer in Training. During years two through four, the individual will be considered Treasurer. During the fourth year, the Treasurer will be required to train the incoming Treasurer in Training. Upon completion of the four year term, the outgoing Treasurer will serve as emergency backup to the current Treasurer for the next two years." Motion passed by show of hands—consensus all in favor.

Year in Review: Kyle reported plans for reflective, celebrative meeting which will include small group opportunities for conversation. There will be a brief financial overview, vote on the Constitution update, group sharing. The potluck meal around tables will be the opportunity for discussion on questions. The meeting will then move to the sanctuary.

Next meeting: February 19, 2018 at 7 pm at church office (then March 12, April 9, May 14)

Meeting was adjourned.
Candace Unrau, Secretary



Service Adventure Albuquerque is going strong with four participants and two unit leaders, Bob and Sondra Tolle. The participants work at a title 1 program through Albuquerque Public Schools, The ReStore for Habitat for Humanity, A Montessori School, and Jeanne's Child Development Center. These work places give participants a sense for the daily life of work and trying to schedule in the worship time, learning components, cleaning, and exercise. Their cooking skills are ever improving and the joy shared in the community living experience has been a highlight this year. The plan is to travel to Texas at the end of March with all five unit houses and assist MDS cleanup after Hurricane Harvey. Please keep us in your prayers. Blessings! Bob and Sondra Tolle

Consider sharing your gift of music



The worship commission is looking for persons to share their gift of music during worship starting the first Sunday in May. The music may be vocal or instrumental, an individual or a group. Usually two numbers are shared. Contact Cheri Kaufman soon at 620-345-8457 or lcmrkauf@mtelco.net if you or someone you know is interested.



Bethel College Choir Concert Choir to be at Eden

The Bethel College Concert Choir will share their gift of music during worship at Eden on March 4 with Peter Goerzen sharing the Message. Following the worship service we will have a Hymn Sing during the Sunday school hour. The congregation and choir members will sit and sing together. We will share a potluck meal with the choir members following Sunday school. Please plan to join us and invite your friends! (Remember to bring extra food so there is enough for all the choir members and other guests.)



Invitation to Share

The invitation to share project for the month of March is Health Kits:

- 1 toothbrush, (adult size, leave in wrapper)
 - 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (6 oz. leave in box)
 - 1 bar soap,
 - 1 fingernail clipper,
 - 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color)
- Place contents in a fabric double drawstring bag, 11" x 16".

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



Bob and Sondra Tolle would like to thank the Eden congregation for their support given during the holiday season.

Thank you for the many deeds of kindness: prayers, hugs, cards, food, visits, phone calls, text messages, and Memorial contributions during Howard's hospitalizations and passing. Thank you to Pastors Dianne and Derek for their visits and prayers. We truly are blessed to be a part of Eden Church.
The Howard Knight family

We would like to thank the congregation for the support shown to us. The donation was so welcomed and appreciated. We continue to serve not only our community but surrounding communities also. Our donations are many and mostly good. Our clothing racks are full thanks to the many donation we receive. In 2017, we had 9,496 shoppers, 57,558 items taken out of our shop and 850 thirty-gallon garbage bags of clothing sent to MCC.
Thanks again for your support,
Angels' Attic

Thank you for your recent donation toward the kitchen renovations! We are excited to keep you updated on our progress this spring (via Facebook, our newsletter, and website), and can't wait to have you use the completed facility when you come out for our 2018 retreat! Because of your generosity, this space will be a place of fellowship and preparation of delicious meals for many years to come!
Blessings,
Michael Unruh
Executive Director
Camp Mennoscah

Dear Friends at Eden Mennonite Church,

Thank you so much for your prayers and acts of kindness during the recent passing of my dear wife, Terri, who died at home on the morning of January 1, 2018 after a seven year journey with cancer. Terri would have been 67 years old on January 28. She brought a bright, lively, and compassionate presence to the human family. She loved deeply and was loved deeply. She rests now within the Source of Love and in the presence of the Eternal One.

A memorial service was held at the Austin (Texas) Mennonite Church on January 27, 2018. It was a meaningful time of celebrating Terri's life and saying good bye as we gathered with family and friends. I was very moved when Jeff and Becky Koller and Wayne and Kathy Ensz showed up for the service.

What a surprise! I appreciated their presence so much and I appreciated the effort it took for them to make the long trek from Kansas.

I also received a number of cards from the Eden congregation and Moundridge community. Especially meaningful were those who wrote about Terri's work at Memorial Home where she worked as a CNA/CMA giving compassionate care to various residents.

After taking off for the month of January, I am back to full-time duties as pastor at the Austin Mennonite Church. I enjoy having our three children (Ezel, Emma, Anya) living here in Austin. They have been a great support and source of comfort. We are doing okay but continue to feel the loss. It will take time.

Thank you again for the ways you offered love and support. You helped us on a difficult journey. God's blessings to you.
Lee Lever



Associated Ministries of Moundridge will hold their Holy Week services at the United Methodist Church on March 25 and 26 at 7:00 p.m. The speaker for the services will be Pastor Derek King. On Monday his focus will be *Naming Fear* with Mark 14:3-9, and Psalm 6 as his Scripture. On Monday his Scripture will be John 12:1-8 and Matthew 16:24-26 with his focus being *Embracing Fear*. Eden's Worship Band will lead the music on Monday evening.

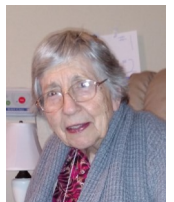
On Maundy Thursday a meal and service will take place at Eden at 6:30 p.m. Foot washing will be available to those who want to take part.

Good Friday First Mennonite Church of Christian will have the Stations of the Cross. Watch the bulletin for times and other details.

On Easter Sunday, a Sunrise service will take place at 7:00 a.m. Location to be announced later. Watch the bulletin for details. All are invited.



Irma Schrag (86) passed away at Schowalter Villa on Sunday, February 18. Memorial and burial services were held at Eden on Wednesday, February 21. We extend our sympathies to her sons James and wife Diane, Ron and wife Pam and all of her extended family.



Kathy Goering Reid to speak at SMCHA annual meeting

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) will hold its annual business meeting March 11, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie, 1718 West Pretty Prairie Rd, Pretty Prairie, KS. In addition to the business meeting the speaker will be Rev. Kathryn Goering Reid.



Rev. Kathryn (Kathy) Goering Reid is currently the Executive Director of the Family Abuse Center in Waco, Texas. The Family Abuse Center's purpose is to eliminate domestic violence and to prevent abuse through education and prevention activities. Kathy came to this position in July of 2009. The programs of the Center include a 64 bed emergency shelter, prevention programs working with families with small children, legal advocacy, a supportive living program and a permanent housing program.

Kathy has more than thirty years of experience working in the religious community to prevent child abuse and domestic violence.

Kathy is the daughter of Oswald H. and Elaine Wedel Goering. In particular, her grandparents (Edward & Katie Wedel, Henry and Mary Goering) were inspiration and extremely important in the formation of her values and faith. While Kathy's family was Mennonite, her father moved to Illinois when she was in second grade and the family started attending the local Church of the Brethren. She graduated from Manchester College with a BA in English and taught more than 7 years in the public school system in the Chicago suburbs and in Atlanta, Georgia. First ordained in Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren in the late 1980s, Kathy began her ministry as first Director of Christian Education and later as Associate Pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church, Berkeley, CA.

In 1990, she was ordained in the Mennonite Church. For 12 years, she was a church planter in Austin, Texas (Austin Mennonite Church). At the same time, she served as the Executive Director of the Texas Homeless Network. The Texas Homeless Network built coalitions across the state and provided resources and technical assistance to homeless service providers. In 2004, she blended her passion for the caring ministries in the church with her skill in administrative and management work to become the Executive Director of the Association of Brethren Caregivers, Elgin, Illinois,

until the 2008 merger of that organization with the General Board of the Church of the Brethren. For nearly a year, she was Associate General Secretary of Ministry & Program of the Church of the Brethren supervising nearly 100 employees and overseeing a nearly five million dollar budget. The ministries under supervision included: Office of Ministry, Congregational Life, Brethren Service Center, Global Mission Partnership, Brethren Press & Communications and the Caring Ministries.

Kathy is the author of several books including: *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: A Religious Education Curriculum for Children Ages 5-8*, United Church Press, 1992; *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: A Religious Education Curriculum for Children Ages 9-12*, United Church Press, 1989, co-authored with Rev. Marie Fortune; *Uncovering Racism*, Brethren Press, Co-Author with Dr. Stephen B. Reid, 1999; *Children Together: Broadly Graded Religious Education Curriculum for Children on Issues of Gender*, United Church Press, Co-Author with Ken Hawkey, 2000.

Kathy is married to Dr. Stephen Reid, Professor of Christian Scriptures at George Truett Seminary, Baylor University, Waco, Texas. They have four children living all over the country. They also have five grandchildren.

The SMCHA membership is encouraged to attend and the public is welcome to this annual business meeting. Reservations are NOT required. Refreshments will be served.



Piano to be given away

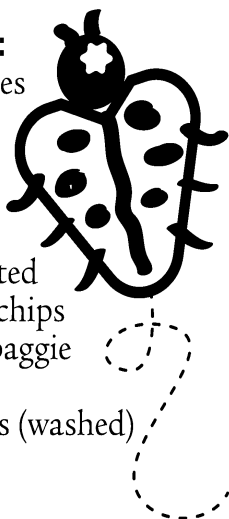
The above pictured piano is available for free to anyone who needs one. The piano is an upright Monarch. It does need tuning, and there is one key in the upper register that sticks, but this could be fixed by a piano tuner. A few of the key edges are slightly chipped, but this does not impact playing the piano. The wood finish of the piano is in very good condition and the piano comes with a nice bench for storing music covered with a padded fabric. For more information contact Carol Ward at mcward83@yahoo.com.

FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

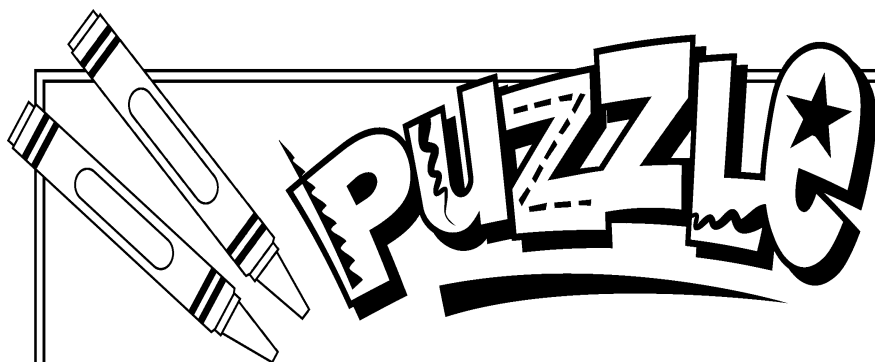
What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and "spots" on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry "head" by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



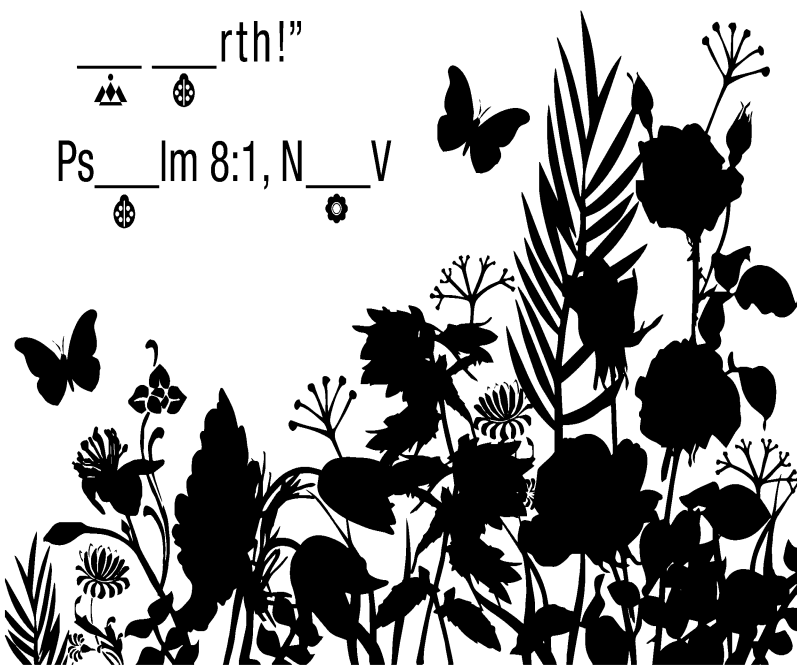
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

"L__RD, __r L__rd, h__w
 m__j__st__c __s y__r
 n__m__n__ll th__
 __rth!"
 Ps__lm 8:1, N__V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
 Psalm 8:1, NIV



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1- May Juhnke
Terri Neufeld
David Schrag
Michael Stucky | 16- James Neufeld
Jeff Snyder |
| 2- Virginia Kaufman
Joshua Zerger (Greg & Jackie)
Tillie Zerger | 17- Gary Schrag |
| 3- Anton Klassen | 18- Zachary Graber
Karen Kaufman
Shelly Krehbiel |
| 4- Clarence Goering
Cory Graber
Carol Lichti
Douglas Waltner | 19- Patty Clark |
| 5- Lonnie E. Schrag
Marika Stucky
Dianne Schmidt
Dennis Wedel | 20- Matthew Thiesen |
| 6- Grant McGinness (Paul & Claudia)
Glenna Schrag
Wanita Schrag | 21- Daniel Graber
Elaina Graber (Nathan & Krista)
Nathaniel Graber
Sawyer Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Marcy Schrag |
| 7- Claudia McGinness | 22- Alexa Hoffmann (Phil & Kristy)
Herb Stucky, Jr.
John Elmer Stucky |
| 8- Waneta Goering | 23- Whitney Fast |
| 9- Matt Harmon
Emily Knight
Venita Patchin
Gail Stucky | 24- Jake Krehbiel |
| 10- Steven W. Schrag
Sara Hocking | 25- Ashton Goering (Blair & Kelly)
Robert K. Stucky
Erika Zahn |
| 11- Doug Stucky | 26- Marcia Hiebert
Lynn Kaufman
Sandra Koontz
Cole Stucky |
| 12- Janice Graber
Marge Kaufman | 27- Zachary Roberson (Steve & Robyn)
Taylor Sechrist
Delbert Stucky
Wes Stucky |
| 13- Roland Kaufman
Jessica Neufeld
Brian Schrag
Boston Smith (Ian & Shayna)
Erland Wayne Waltner
Addison Westfall (Jacob & Tonya) | 28- Larry D. Goering
Patricia Mead |
| 14- Ren Flickinger | 29- Lachlan Goering (Patrick & Jennifer)
Marvin J. Goering
Morgan Kaufman
Clinton Krehbiel |
| 15- Kathy Flickinger
Ty Unrau | 31- Dylan Juhnke (Vaughn & Dee)
Richard L. Stucky
Elliot Thompson (Chris & Kristeen) |



If there has been an omission or mistaken date please notify the church office.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- Derrick & Laura Law
Alan & Tina Waltner | 20- Robert & DeLonna Barnett |
| 2- Merlin & Lisa Goering
Jake & Sandra Krehbiel
Morris & Diana Stucky | 21- Perry & Betty Kaufman
Paul & Sherri Marsh
Russell & Lynelle Stucky |
| 7- Paul & Claudia McGinness | 24- Duane & Carol Stucky |
| 8- Duane & LaDonna Wedel | 27- Wayne & Laurie Schrag |
| 16- Dick & Kaylene Gehring | 28- Todd & Sandy Arnold |
| 19- Daniel & Annette Knoll | 29- Keith & Connie Schrag |
| | 30- Larry & Betty Krehbiel |
| | 31- Orville & Mary Ann Waltner |

Up-Coming Events

- Mar 4:** Bethel College Choir at Eden
Hymn Sing during Sunday school
Potluck meal served at noon
- Mar 6:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg. at church office
7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.
- Mar 12:** 7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at church office
- Mar 13:** 7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg. at church office
- Mar 14:** Last Wednesday night meal followed by a service project
- Mar 25:** Palm Sunday
7:00 p.m. Holy Week Service at United Methodist Church
- Mar 26:** 7:00 p.m. Holy Week Service at United Methodist Church
- Mar 29:** 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday supper/service at Eden
- Mar 30:** Stations of the Cross at First Mennonite of Christian/Mdge.
- April 1:** 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
Easter Worship



- 6:00 p.m. Meal served in fellowship hall
6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages
7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus weeks before singing on Sunday

February 2018						
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March 2018						
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Address Services Requested