



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

November 2018
Issue Vol. 50 No. 9



Forming Faith

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In my office I have a container of sand, a special kind of sand that clings together acting somewhat like clay without drying out. My grandsons and other children who visit me like to play with it. They can form it to look like mountains, pat it flat, dig holes in it, make impressions with their hands, or create a variety of patterns. The sand can be molded and formed into whatever each particular creator has in mind.

What about us, how are our lives formed into what our creator had in mind? We are all being formed by something or into something in the course of daily living. We are being formed in many different ways by the world around us, by what we see and hear on the news, by the people we hang out with, by the ways we choose to spend our time. Whether we make intentional choices or not, we are being formed. Formation is not something that can be avoided--it is inherent to every human being.

For each of us as followers of Jesus, pursuing our own faith formation takes time and intentionality. In a world of "instant" and "immediate," we must choose a different path. Meaningful formation can't be "microwave" or "drive-thru" formation. It takes time to form faith, to carefully discern the essentials of Christian faith and practice, and to sharpen the skills and habits of mastery in the way of Jesus. I see many ways that individuals in our congregation are being intentional in fostering and growing in their faith. There are many who are seeking personal formation through active participation in Sunday school, finding support in a discipleship group, sharing food with someone in need, or trying out new spiritual practices. Being formed as disciples of Jesus is a continual task.

However, faith formation is not a solo act. We are called to live and grow in faith through our shared life in this congregation. Throughout the biblical story, we see God choosing and guiding a community of people. We acknowledge that God continues to be actively present, through the ongoing power of the Holy Spirit, gathering, calling, and sending us as God's people to be a part of the reign of God. We see in our vision statement, that this is also our calling "to be a community that follows Jesus in all we say and do." So, we are not only being formed as individuals but we are being formed into a community with a vision "that through **us** God's grace, love, and peace are made known to the world."

In a recent issue of *Leader* magazine (a publication for leaders in Anabaptist churches) there were several ideas given from a variety of congregations of ways their congregations are working at faith formation. I was inspired by the creativity and intentionality that showed forth in these ideas.

- I noticed examples for ways to "disrupt" routine and habits that helped a congregation gain new perspectives, including worship outdoors or a community musical worship time.
- There were other activities that needed to be practiced and repeated to bring forth fruit. One congregation makes it a practice to help each other discover their gifts and then provide opportunity for their use. Another congregation has a yearly retreat to discern together how God might be calling them and from that choose a theme to focus on throughout the year.

There's more →→→→→

- A variety of small group ideas were offered which provide opportunity for deepening faith in closer connections to one another. Examples were given of a prayer shawl knitting group, a “Spirit Feast” (a gathering around a meal with a time of deeper sharing), and a prayer group focused on the needs of their community.

Faith formation is the ongoing work for each one of us and for our community life together. May we look for new ways (or deepen current practices) to sustain and foster faith formation as a community of Jesus followers.

Pastor Dianne



The Eden Leadership Team met October 8 at the Eden Church office.

Present were: Glen Goering, Jay Goering, Jim Dalke, Teresa Graber, Marcia Goering, Jerry Lankford, Austin Goering, Pastor

Dianne Schmidt, Pastor Derek King, Jean Regier, Becky Koller, Connie Schrag, Kyle Neufeld, Cheri Kaufman, and Candy Unrau

Kyle lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit and read Scripture from Isaiah 55:6-11 in Lectio Divina format. He led the group in prayer.

Kyle read Eden’s Vision Statement and Mission Statement.

Minutes from the 9/10/18 ELT meeting were approved as revised and submitted.

Budget report—Austin Goering: Income to date—\$283,000, which is \$12,000 more than last year at this time. Expenses to date \$345,000. He expects \$25,000 to be transferred from the Capital Building Fund to be used toward the expenses of the recent air conditioning repair. Last year at this time, we had \$43,000 more in expenses than income at this point. Our budgeted amount at this time is \$371,000.

Commission Reports

Education and Discipleship—Marcia Goering: They have a planned meeting for tomorrow. Nothing new to report.

Peace and Witness—Jean Regier: There are two immigrant babies coming soon and the Eden congregation will be asked to support them with shower gifts. The two showers will be mid November and early December.

Stewardship—Teresa Graber: The Trustees have contacted their committee for approval to request money from the Capital Building Fund to be transferred to pay for the air conditioning repairs for the church. Kyle will visit with the trustees about bringing this request for a congregational vote. The Stewardship commission is also beginning work on the budget for next year. Teresa would appreciate if the various commissions would review their current budgets and let her know if they would like to make any changes for the coming year. They would like to have the final budget ready by November 12, for the November 26 deadline.

Deacon Commission—Glen: Nothing to report at this time. They will be meeting the end of the month

Worship Commission—Cheri: There has been a request for volunteers to assist people at the west entrance to get

inside while their driver parks the car.

The three Mennonite congregations in Moundridge will have a joint mission Sunday on November 25, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. There will not be a combined choir for this service.

The Faith Forum topic regarding Christmas decorations was suggested at the request of the Worship Commission. They are planning to simplify the Christmas décor without making drastic changes to the traditions of the congregation. They will present the changes to the congregation and expect the changes to be helpful and not distracting.

Trustees—Cheri for Larry Kaufman: The roof of the church office has been completed. Bill Zerger is working on repair to window sashes at the church. The trustees have made suggestions to the SCRT for additions to the job description for the custodians.

Pastor Derek: Pastor Derek attended a seminar at Valley Hope which he found helpful and has increased his understanding of the mission of Valley Hope and the impact of faith on recovery from addictions. The presence of Valley Hope in our community is a tremendous opportunity for witness.

FEWZ youth group meetings are happening on Sunday evenings rather than Wednesday evenings due to several students having conflicts with attending on Wednesdays.

Pastor Dianne: She reports that Wednesday evening activities have good energy and participation.

New Business

Pastor Derek submitted a proposal requesting sabbatical leave for 3 months, June through August, 2019. He has already met with the SCRT members and they support this. This request is in line with Mennonite Church USA guidelines and is encouraged by WDC leadership. There was discussion by the ELT members and the request was approved by consensus. The discussion continued regarding communication, coverage, and compensation concerns during the sabbatical. The ELT executive committee and SCRT will continue to meet to discuss the details, and more will be presented to the congregation in the coming months.

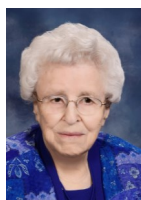
Pastor Dianne shared details of a delegate assembly planned 11/26/18 to provide input on the proposed merger between The Mennonite and the Mennonite World Review publications. Eden can have 4 delegates that can participate in the assembly via on-line connection.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting of the ELT will be November 12, 2018 at 7pm at the Eden Church Office.



Mary R. Graber (90) passed away on October 10, 2018.. Funeral services were held at West Zion on Wednesday, October 16. We extend our sympathy to Mary's friends and family.



Hilda Schrag (101) passed away on Thursday, October 25. Services were held at Eden on Monday, October 29. We extend our sympathy to Marcy (Robert) Schrag, and Lonnie (Jean) Schrag, Charlotte (Eugene) Jahn and all of Hilda's extended family.

Michael Graber (62) passed away on Saturday, October 27. Services were held at Eden on November 1. We extend our sympathy to his mother Meroe Graber, his sister Janice (Joe) Yoder and all of his extended family.



Mission Sunday will be a joint Worship and Sunday school with West Zion and First Mennonite joining us at Eden. Our speaker for the morning will be Byron Pellecer, associate conference minister for Western District Conference. In this role, Byron supports congregations and pastors in Texas. He also works with the Church Planting Commission to nurture emerging congregations and sister church partnerships, and advocates for intercultural transformation, undoing racism, and Hispanic ministries across WDC. Byron will preach in the worship service and will lead the adult Sunday school time sharing stories about his work with Hispanic churches and ministries.



Christmas Gathering for all Camp Mennoscah volunteers!

Put it on your calendar, wonderful counselors and program directors and cooks and nurses and staffers! We're gathering on December 15 at 2:30pm for conversation, cookies, games and great fun. Bring your family.



Invitation to Share

The invitation to share project for the month of November is a cash offering.

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 P.O. Box 406, or take it to the Eden Church Office at 109 E. Hirschler, Moundridge, KS 67107.



MennoMedia needs your help to make the new *Voices Together* hymnal a reality by Fall 2020. Before any copies of *Voices Together* are sold, MennoMedia will invest more than \$700,000. Everence and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. have issued a matching grant challenge of up to \$100,000 to help MennoMedia in this final fundraising effort. Help ensure that *Voices Together* will be affordably priced for congregations. Make a gift today and have it doubled! Every voice matters. Every dollar counts. Give at VoicesTogetherHymnal.org or email Steve Carpenter at SteveC@MennoMedia.org for more information. Gifts of \$500 or more entitle the giver to a tribute line in the hymnal.

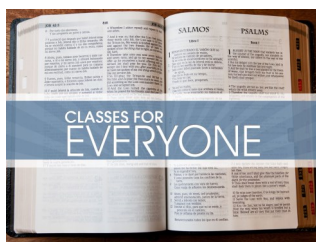
A Loaded Conversation: an invitation to talk about guns



Guns are part of our lives, whether or not we own or use them. With encouragement and input from pastors and others in the church, MCC U.S. has created this resource to help congregations stay at the table to address the topic of guns. This print resource includes a conversation guide, ways to engage, Bible studies and worship resources. Download the resource and find more ways to engage on the topic at mcc.org/loaded-conversations.



Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, has 150-200 metal chairs they are getting rid of, if you are interested, contact Mike Schmidt at (316) 648-2570 for more details.



Take a seminary course this spring!

Check out Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's (AMBS) online, hybrid and campus courses, which include Global Anabaptist-Mennonite History and Theology; The Corinthian Correspondence; Psalms, God's Shalom and the Church's Witness; Faith Formation and Spirituality: Adults and Seniors; Discerning and Knowing; Theology in Context: Elkhart, Indiana; and more.



Join MCC on an epic trekking journey through Nepal, April 1-19 of 2019

Resilience Nepal - Participants will spend twelve days hiking through Nepal to see how MCC partner organization Shanti Nepal is working with community strengths at the grassroots level to address vulnerabilities to natural disasters and visit KOSHISH to see how they're supporting mental health and rehabilitation for those living with severe trauma and psychosocial distress. MCC is seeking college students, trauma studies researchers and practitioners, mental health professionals, engineers and ANYONE who enjoys hiking and is interested in learning more about what resilience looks like in the context of MCC in Nepal! Contact jordanpenner@mcc.org and check mcc.org/nepal-learning-tour for more information.



Bethel College, North Newton, KS, seeks to hire a Development Officer to lead the strategic execution and management of a comprehensive annual giving program. For more information about the opening, please visit <https://www.bethelks.edu/about/who-we-are/career-opportunities/current-position-openings#development-officer> or contact Megan Kershner at mkershner@bethelks.edu.



Mennonite Central Committee

Service Assignment Openings at MCC's Washington Office

Legislative and Communications Assistant (2 year assignment, starting Jan 2, 2019)

This position will involve working on public policy advocacy (focusing primarily on mass incarceration and needed reforms to the U.S. criminal justice system, with a secondary focus on gun violence) and the MCC Washington office's public communications. Here's the link to the full assignment description: <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/legislative-communications-assistant> *Deadline for receiving letters and resumes is November 9, 2018.*

Internships (3-4 months, starting Jan 14, 2019)

The MCC Washington Office is also offering 2 unpaid, half time (.5FTE) internships a **Domestic Affairs Intern** and an **International Affairs Intern**. To read more about internships in general, click on this link: <http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/internships> These Winter/Spring internships would run from January to April.

Contact heidihuber@mcc.org with questions or for more information.



Join a tour to Germany, France and Switzerland

See the World-Famous Oberammergau Passion Play in Bavaria, Germany in 2020. Join tour host Pastor Weldon

Martens of Grace Hill Mennonite Church on a ten-day tour to Germany, France, and Switzerland for the **Oberammergau Passion Play**, August 15-25, 2020. The *Passion Play* first held in 1634 is held every ten years. We will see the Swiss Alps, the Black Forest, German Castles, and enjoy a Rhine River Cruise. Daily devotions led by Pastor Weldon. The tour is limited to 25 travelers. See the tour brochure and register at www.travelwithweldon.com or contact Pastor Weldon for a brochure or information at weldon.martens@gmail.com or 402-202-9276.



Church Office Renovation Complete! We finally completed the church office renovation. A new roof was put on in the last week of September. Trustees would like to thank everyone who put in their time and effort volunteering at the church office. Also we would like to thank all those who contributed funds to the project. A big thank you to the pastors and secretary for their patience while putting up with noise, dust, and no running water through this process. Thanks again!
Eden Trustees

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service designated for 2018 Hurricane Florence.

You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm.. (Isaiah 25:4)

Your compassionate support is enabling hard-working MDS volunteers to bring hope to those impacted by disaster.

Our prayers are with those impacted by Hurricane Michael along the Gulf Coast. An MDS assessment team will determine where to send volunteers to respond, once it is safe to enter the affected areas. Meanwhile, early response volunteers are mucking out homes and cleaning up from Hurricane Florence. More than 65 volunteers have cleaned up more than 30 properties damaged in Lumberton, NC. Your gift enables MDS volunteers to do this work and help bring disaster survivors home again.

Our response also continues in the communities impacted by last year's hurricanes. Because of support from donors like you, more than 1,500 volunteers have so far cleaned up, repaired or rebuilt more than 600 properties in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. Thank you for making this possible!

With Gratitude,
Kevin King, Executive Director



The Trail of Death

Join a Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 3-13, 2019. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the US military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This AMBS class can be taken for credit or Audit. ambs.edu/trailofdeath



The 40th Annual Community Christmas Carol-Along

All are invited to the Annual Community Christmas Carol-Along at the McPherson Opera House in McPherson. It will be Thursday, December 6th from 6pm-8pm (Come & Go). We will have several featured guests along with caroling and a visit from Santa.



The genius of generosity

Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that "there is a certain genius in generosity." He explains that when we open our hands — figuratively speaking — to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it with tightly clenched fists, God can give us new blessings.

"God cannot pour more into hands that are already clinging tightly to what they hold," says Wellman. Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, God's genius cycle of generosity goes on and on.

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

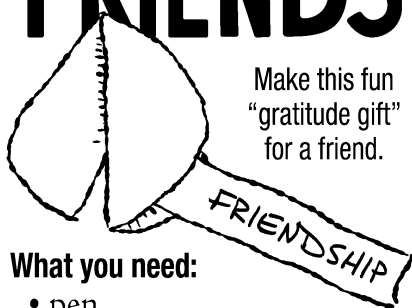
Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

—Author unknown

Fortunate FRIENDS



Make this fun
"gratitude gift"
for a friend.

What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

What you do:

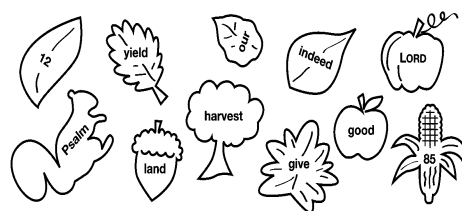
1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.


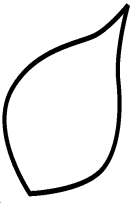
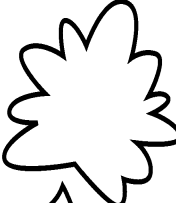




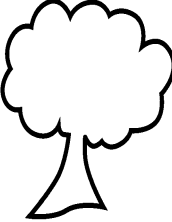
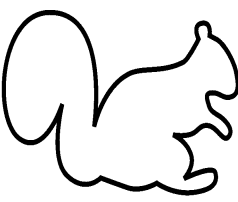
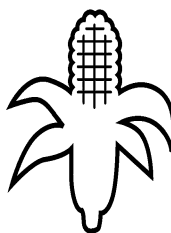


HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.



"The  will  
 what is , and 
 will  its ."
 : , NIV

Answer: "The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 85:12, NIV



- | | |
|---|--|
| 3- Madison Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly)
Harvey Jon Stucky | 18- Bob Kaufman |
| 4- Carla Shilts | 19- Floyd Flickinger |
| 5- Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny)
Allen Bonde | 21- Karsyn Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Walt Neufeld
Robert Tolle |
| 6- Joseph Schrag (Darrell & Bobbi)
Keith Schrag
Russell Stucky | 22- Cecilia Goering |
| 7- Rashell Kaufman
Ashley Schrag (Bruce & Kelly) | 24- Sharon Durst
Daniel Schrag
Leslie Thiessen |
| 8- Kay Burgan
Maynard Krehbiel | 25- Wayne Ensz
Lowell Krehbiel |
| 9- Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce)
Verna M. Goering
Cathy Johnson
Tiffany Stucky
Chase Swanson (Mark & Julie) | 27- Fynn Burge (Rondell & Rachel)
LaVerne Flickinger
Arielle Zerger |
| 10- Trent Preheim | 28- Norma Bevitt
Myron B. Goering |
| 11- Austin Neufeld
Gentry Regier (Josh & Emily)
Kevin Schrag | 29- Cindy Bartell
Verna P. Goering (Virgil)
June Graber
JoLene Kaufman
Kelly Hayes
Lou Ann Lichti
Kevin Stucky |
| 12- June Krehbiel
Crystal Burnett
Jacob D. Schrag
Lynette Alshanski | 30- Doris Flickner
Beth Goering
Daryl Griffin
Merlyn Johnson |
| 14- Evelyn Harms
Alan Neufeld
Pam Mandeem | |
| 15- Trey Unrau | |
| 16- Kelly Stucky | |
| 17- Ron L. Krehbiel | |

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



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1- Leland & Leona Goering
Byron & DeLonna Lehman | 23- Anton & Patsy Klassen
Delbert & Barbara Stucky |
| 2- Glenn & Lynette Suderman | 24- Jerry & Kathy Neufeld |
| 3- Ron & Renetta Stucky | 25- Gary & Jean Regier
Bruce & Pat Stucky |
| 13- Mark & Joyce Vogts | 28- Ron & Nancy Krehbiel |
| 18- Gerry & Wanita Schrag
Tyler & Kristen Stucky | 29- Lonnie & Jean Schrag |

Up-Coming Events

November 4:	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 6:	6:30 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
November 7:	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
November 12:	7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at church office
November 14:	7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors meeting 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
November 18:	Communion will be served during worship
November 21:	Noon – All items for <i>Eden Echoes</i> due in the church office
November 22:	Thanksgiving—Eden Church Office Closed
November 23:	Eden Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving holiday
November 25:	Mission Sunday

November 2018						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	



December 2018						
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Address Services Requested