



EDEN
Mennonite
Church
Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

October 2019
Issue Vol. 51 No. 8



It's a Small World

This summer our family learned about a new board game called *Small World* that has become a favorite for Sarah and I. We ended up playing it a lot, so I had the phrase “small world” on my brain, but not in the typical way we think about the phrase. Instead of marveling at how connected we can all be despite great distances, I had my mind on world domination! That changed on our way home from Virginia.

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We were stopped at a hotel in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, about 80 miles east of St. Louis when a couple approached me while I ate breakfast with the two older girls. I'm used to people complimenting our girls, so I assumed that was going to be the nature of our conversation. Instead, the woman who had politely apologized for interrupting our meal asked, “Are you from Moundridge? And are you a pastor there?”

I tried not to choke on my biscuit as I immediately chuckled and responded, “Yes, that's right. Are you from Moundridge?”

She explained that they are from Moundridge and our girls looked familiar because they regularly drive by our house to visit their adult daughter and often see our girls playing outside. They also recognized me from a wedding not too long ago. The opportunity for this random encounter was that the couple delivers Grasshoppers around the country and were on their way from Moundridge to Orlando, Florida. As the couple left, the man chuckled and appropriately commented, “Small world, huh?”

Of course, me being me, I can't just scratch my head and chuckle at this event and leave it at that. It makes me think more deeply about the nature of the world we live in and wonder about the nature of the world shown to us in the Bible. There are so many ways in which the world of the Bible is so similar to ours as we read about families in conflict (Jacob and Esau), individuals who succeed one day and fail miserably the next day (David), people who name hopes and dreams for themselves, their families, and their homeland (Mary). The characters are often so relatable. And of course, since the Bible is the story of the creator, redeemer, and sustainer God, it is infinitely relevant.

At the same time, the world of the Bible is so much different than our own: Travel was done almost exclusively by foot. Weddings didn't take place because two people loved each other, but because two families came to an economic agreement. The Roman Empire was considered the center of the world, yet represented only 17% of the world's population at the time and the current population of Spain (ranked 30th in the world). So, if the world and especially worldview of the Bible and the people in it is so small and so much different from ours, how does it relate to us now?

Well, the problem, as is typical, is when we look to extremes to help us answer this question. I believe it is unhelpful to assume that since the Bible is God's word, then everything in it always applies to us in a direct clear way. But, I also believe it is just plain wrong to assume that since the worldviews are so different that we can pretty much ignore most of what is written. What I hope we can agree on is that A) the Bible has current and eternal significance for our lives and the whole world **and** B) the Bible comes out of a time different enough from our own that we must carefully discern how to build meaningful bridges between these two contexts.

There's more →→→→→

I invite you to do this together as a congregation in the months of October and November as we explore the Book of Acts. We will look at stories from the early church and listen to the Spirit's messages for us today. The context of the early church is extremely distant from our own, but I hope that with open hearts and minds, we can be drawn closer to that world so we can understand its significance for our world and our church today. May it be so.



The Eden Leadership Team met on Monday, September 9, at the Eden Church Office.

Members present: Jay Goering, Marcia Goering, Keith Albrecht, Pastor Derek King, Ken Stucky, Barbara

Stucky, Austin Goering, Josh Regier, Berni Kaufman, and Candy Unrau.

Jay lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. The group read Eden's Mission and Vision statements in unison.

1. Devotions: Scripture was read from Isaiah 55: 1-3a in Lectio Divina format. Jay led in prayer.

2. Approval of Minutes. The August ELT Minutes were approved as corrected and submitted.

3. Budget report—Austin Goering reported income to date \$273,000, expenses: \$304,000 which leaves a deficit of -\$31,000. Last year at this time our deficit was -\$24,000. The bi-monthly donations to organizations were made at 25%.

4. Commission and Pastoral reports:

A. Deacon Commission: Barbara Stucky reports that the deacons have not met since our last ELT meeting. They plan to meet later this week.

B. Stewardship Commission: Ken Stucky reports that their committee has discussed plans and has worked with Pastor Derek to have a stewardship focus on the last two Sundays in September, 9/22 and 9/29. On September 29, there will be three Sunday School electives to choose from: giving practices, estate planning, and household budgeting.

C. Worship Commission: Berni Kaufman stated that the commission has met and will be looking at their budget to provide information to the Stewardship Commission by November 1st.

D. Trustee Commission: Keith Albrecht reports that the floor in the choir loft has been replaced. The bathroom in the southwest hall is still scheduled to be replaced. The trustees have reviewed custodial

duties with the custodian. The soap dispensers in the men's bathroom are not working and will be replaced by manual ones. It was noted that the kitchen is also in need of a new soap dispenser.

E. Christian Education Commission: They have secured all Junior SS teachers with the exception of one teacher who is needed for the Pre-K- Kindergarten class. Wednesday night teachers have been secured. Only one Wednesday meal group has been secured and Marcia would welcome other classes or groups to volunteer to serve Wednesday evening meals. They meet later this week.

F. Peace and Witness Commission: Mark Stucky was not present, but submitted report that they delivered baby items to Wichita this past Sunday afternoon. The family expressed appreciation for the items that Eden provided. The commission is grateful for the wonderful support from the congregation of this ongoing mission.

G. Pastor Derek: He reports that his sabbatical time was filled with rest, rejuvenation, and family time. He was able to have coffee or lunch with several pastors in Virginia to share ideas for growth. There was a recent funeral for Jake Krehbiel, and Pastor Derek plans to be involved in a memorial service for Brian Davis. The FEWZ youth group will meet on 9/18/19 at Eden. This Saturday, 9/14/19, the WDC Reference Council meets and Derek will be attending a Resource Commission meeting. He also serves on a youth ministry committee in cooperation with South Central Conference. They are working on a joint youth event at the Pumpkin Patch. Pastor Dianne will be back in the church office on Tuesday, 9/10/19. Worship this Sunday, 9/15/19, will be held at Pine Village and we will observe Communion.

5. Wi-Fi update: Jay shared that Gib Burgan has told him that we can increase our internet speed for an increased monthly cost from \$49.99 to \$85.00. There was discussion about how important this upgrade might be for our church. There was a suggestion of surveying the congregation to see what their thoughts are on this matter. The issue was tabled at this time to allow time for gathering more information.

There's more →→→→→

6. Other Business—Jay hasn't received much interest in pursuing a celebration of Eden's 125th anniversary next year. It is also the 100th anniversary of the formation of MCC. There are plans underway for the celebration of MCC's anniversary.

Next meeting will be October 14, 2019 at 7 pm at the Eden Church office.

Candace Unrau, Secretary



Invitation to Share

The project for the month of October is an Offering for Mobility Worldwide (PET).

If you would like to support this project financially 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. Hirscher, Moundridge, KS 67107.



A look at beauty

Remember kaleidoscopes — those tubes you hold up to your eye and point toward the light to see colorful shapes? When the far end of the optical instrument is turned, fragments of material inside an "object cell" shift and mirrors set at angles reflect light through the pieces, forming ever-changing patterns. A multi-hued flower might become sunlight through a round stained-glass window or fireworks on a clear night.

Various materials can be placed in the cell — tiny figures, twisted bits of metal, lace, viscous liquid — but often broken bits of glass are used, to beautiful effect! In fact, David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope in 1817, named it after the Greek word *kalos*, for "beauty."

Everyone feels broken, twisted or shattered at times. But when God's perfect light shines in and through us, reflecting among the fragments of our imperfect lives, we, too, become beautiful. Out of our sinfulness and brokenness shines the beauty of compassion, kindness, perseverance, hope, love — delightful patterns to brighten this hurting world.



Jake Krehbiel (85) passed away on Saturday, August 31 at Pleasant View in Inman.

Services were held at Eden on Saturday, September 7. We extend our sympathy to his daughter Kelly (Ron) Thomas, and son Brian (Colleen) and all of his extended family.

Elsie Kaufman (101) passed away on Tuesday, 24 at Pine Village. Services were held at Eden on Tuesday, October 1. We extend our sympathy to her son Bob (JoLene) and all of her extended family.

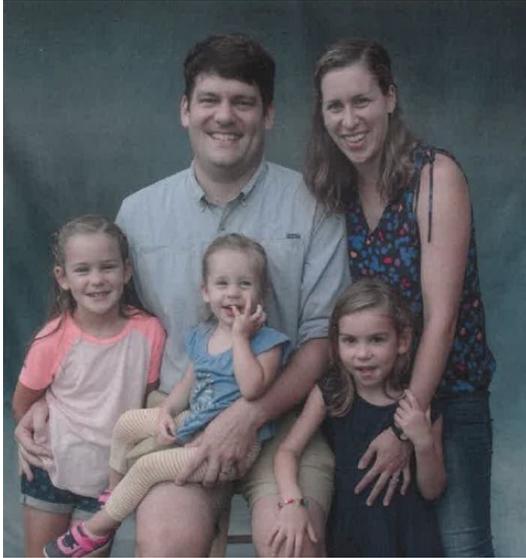


We choose not to print addresses of our members online. If you are looking for an address, please call the church office.

"I must do something" always solves more problems than "Something must be done." —Unknown

New Community Service

As a service of the Moundridge United Methodist Church, we have started a short term, small medical equipment rental program for the Moundridge and surrounding areas. This would involve equipment such as crutches, canes, walkers, shower seats, etc. The program is designed to be of no cost to the renter. We however would like to have the equipment returned in good condition as soon as the individual is done with it. We will clean and disinfect it for the next person. Questions concerning this program should be directed to 620-386-6453 and not the church.



Summary of Pastor Derek's Sabbatical

Most of you know that I spent the summer taking a sabbatical from my role as Pastor at Eden. I am very grateful that the denomination, conference, and this congregation all value this important practice. I am very thankful for those who adjusted their schedules and work to make this happen, especially to Jenny Schrag, Pastor Dianne, Becky Koller, and the ELT for making the plans in advance. I can't thank you all enough for providing such a wonderful opportunity. Here's a brief summary of my time away:

My family and I moved into the basement apartment in my parent's house in Harrisonburg Virginia as soon as we got there and made it our homebase for the duration of the summer. We were able to spend a lot of good family time together as we awaited the

arrival of my sister's first child. Being on the East coast provided us the opportunity to attend three family reunions.

Summer Camp was a big part of the sabbatical as we lived at camp for almost three weeks. Sarah attended her first overnight camp at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in western Pennsylvania. Then, a few weeks later, our whole family went back so I could serve as the Bible teacher for two separate weeks of camp for middle school aged kids. This may seem to some like more pastoral work, but trust me, it was absolutely life-giving and refreshing for me to be in such a Spirit filled place, doing what I love to do.

In addition to being at a summer camp in the woods, we were able to spend considerable time enjoying the outdoors in a lovely landscape. We hiked in National Forests, played in clear mountain streams, and enjoyed a number of the parks and pools available to us. We also took advantage of the opportunity to attend two outdoor music festivals, both headlined by friends of ours.

My professional refreshment required a little more thought because while some pastors thrive with time alone to read and write and be introspective, I typically find those things tiring. So, one of my ways of being refreshed is to have stimulating conversation. So, I arranged to have coffee or lunch with several pastors I knew personally in the area. I simply hoped to hear how things were going for them; how their ministry was filled with the Holy Spirit, or not, and what success or challenges they had experienced. This proved to be a fantastic way for me to be aware of all the different things other churches are going through. It gave me an appreciation of the diversity among Christ's church, but also the common theme of the challenges that exist as humans try their best to live out their faith in different contexts.

I also spent a little time reading on issues and topics that were of interest to me. Some I read completely through, others I am still working on, but all of them proved to be helpful in gaining a broader perspective on a variety of topics. The books I read this summer included:

Emotional Healthy Spirituality by Pete Scazzero

Make All Things New by Caroline Westerhoff

The Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch

Heartland by Sarah Smarsh

Sabbatical gave me time to connect more deeply to my family, opportunity to reflect on my own spirituality and ministry, and a chance to rest and be renewed. All of those things happened, for which I am extremely grateful. Thank You.

Derek King



Thank you again for your continued support after losing our house to fire. We have felt the love and support of our church family and community. We plan to rebuild at that site again. We are overwhelmed by the thoughtful and creative ways you have shown your support. We are so grateful for your help with cleaning up the home site after the fire, moving and replanting flower bulbs that could be saved, supplying Becky with Eden cookbooks and other cookbooks lost in the fire, meals, money, gift cards, clothing, hugs, words of support, and so much more! We ask for your continued prayers as we make decisions.

Sincerely,
Jeff and Becky Koller

To Eden Church, Pastors, Mary Martha, ushers, organist, and everyone who helped with dad's service, thank you. Thank you for the memorial in dad's name, for the cards, the meal, the tender comfort you gave to us. Dad's service was very nice, the meal was wonderful. We know it was a lot of work. We do appreciate everything you did for dad, and for us. Seeing familiar faces sure brought back lots of memories. The stamps, paper plates, etc. was much appreciated. Again, thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Kelly & Ron Thomas
Brian & Colleen Krehbiel.

Thank you for your gift to AMBS. "As a PK (pastor's kid) time two, I never considered I would ever attend seminary—that was my parents' thing. Instead, I chose the route of music and found that through communal music making and hymn singing, I grew closer to God and in my faith. This journey led me to work in a church as a choir director, and I soon discovered this was an environment I wanted to pursue. AMBS was a place that supported a study path that was new territory for me. The Foundations of Worship and Preaching course solidified a continued pursuit of seminary studies and strengthened my call to be a pastor. I learned from this class that I actually enjoyed preaching and learned more about God and Scripture from writing a sermon than I ever had before."

Renee Reimer (MDiv 2019)

Renee completed part of her degree through AMBS's MDiv Connect program while working at Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, KS. In August, she began as an Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, KS.

Thank you for your contribution to MDS.

Because of the generosity of donors like you, MDS volunteers have built or repaired 30 homes on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota over the past three years. Volunteers are responding to strong storms that brought damaging hail and winds, making poor housing conditions worse.

After living in a dilapidated RV trailer since a tornado and softball-sized hail damaged their home in 2015, Ray Briggs and his granddaughter Justice now have a new home built by MDS volunteers.

"We love this place and appreciate all the effort everyone has put in," Ray told us. "They brought blueprints and asked which one do you want? I picked the one where the door didn't face north. I was so happy, I almost cried. We knew it would take a while but we waited patiently."

Before the damage to his home Ray had been taking classes at the college on the reservation, but he stopped during his time living in the trailer. Now that he has a new home, he will begin taking classes again. The reliability of a stable, warm and sturdy home has given him the hope and determination to pursue a better future. We are grateful for how your gifts make this work possible!

With gratitude,
Kevin King
Executive Director

Greetings from Camp Mennoscah!

Over 600 campers were part of our eight youth camps this summer. We are thankful and blessed by the number of people willing to share a week or more of their summer with us. The people listed are those from your congregation who were part of our mighty community of volunteers this summer. Cindy Bartell, Katie and Marla Gillmore, Kristin Kaufman, Emily Knight, Leslie Schrag, Michelle Schrag and Robin Schrag.

Additional volunteers from your church have likely volunteered throughout the year at work days and retreats. All of our volunteers are valuable to our camping ministry as mentors and living examples of a Christian life.

May your own ministries be filled with joy and laughter!

With peace,
The Camp Mennoscah Staff

Thank you so much for your continuing monthly support to STEP MC. It is greatly appreciated.
Brenda Sales
Board Member

HARVEST

Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

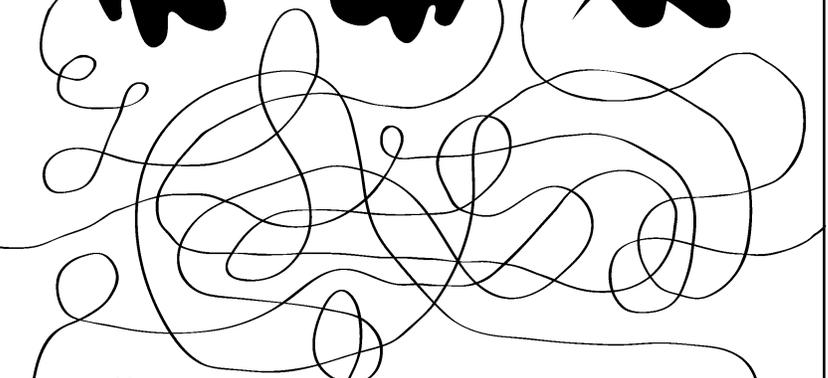
What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.



Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.

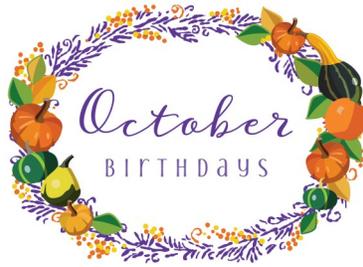


Peacemakers who sow in _____ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _____!
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields



- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1- | Glenn Carey
Brody Graber (Travis & Penny)
David Stucky
Carol Zerger (Mrs. Bill) | 14- | Kip Krehbiel (Jay & Jane)
Michael Waltner |
| 2- | Samantha Doane
Gregory A. Krehbiel (Elaine)
Mason Regier (Josh & Emily) | 16- | Bruce Stucky |
| 3- | Kylee Stucky (Kevin & Gayle) | 17- | Elliana Garcia (Kayla)
Ross Wedel |
| 4- | Annie Wyssmann
Brianna Stucky (Blaine & Teresa) | 21- | Emory Wedel |
| 5- | Brenton Alfaro (Brian & Tenae)
Timothy J. Stucky | 22- | Leona Goering |
| 6- | Rod Gehring
Gail Graber
Hudson Krehbiel (Will Krehbiel)
Jacob Stucky | 23- | Chad Goering
Jerrod Newhouse |
| 7- | Gail Goering
Lillie Krehbiel
Harvey J. Stucky | 25- | Betty Kaufman |
| 8- | Kenneth Goering
Nancy Krehbiel (Mrs. Ron)
Bruce Schrag | 26- | Germaine Bird
Brooke Brite
Wayne Schrag |
| 9- | Rondell Burge | 27- | Barbara Ewy
Tim Goering
Melvin Graber
Wes Krehbiel |
| 10- | Logan Hayes (Mike & Kelly)
Elise Neufeld (Kyle & Sarah) | 28- | Eric Goering
Nelson Goering
Lennon Graber (Nathan & Shelby)
Barbara Stucky (Mrs. Delbert) |
| 13- | Jagger Smith (Ian & Shayna) | 29 | Ellen Stucky |
| | | 30- | Elizabeth Goering
Gladys Schrag |



- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 3- | Rollin & Kay Flickner | 14- | Rondell & Rachel Burge |
| 4- | Matt & Angie Harmon
Bill & Carol Zerger | 15- | Merlyn & Janice Johnson |
| 5- | Nicholas & Lori Vontz | 16- | Dick & Jill Zerger |
| 6- | Greg & Pam Flickner | 24- | Randall & Annette Goering
Richard & Sharon Harris |
| 8- | Chuck & Diane Knight | 25- | Tyron & Victoria Stucky |
| 10- | Kyle & Sarah Neufeld | 28- | Greg & Kathy Perkins |
| 11- | Keith & Mary Albrecht | 30- | Delton & Roberta Ollenburger |

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

Up-Coming Events

- October 1:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
- October 6:** Church rental (afternoon) for anniversary celebration
- October 7:** 6:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg.
- October 14:** 7:00 p.m. ELT meeting
- October 17:** 7:00 p.m. Edu./Disc. Commission mtg.

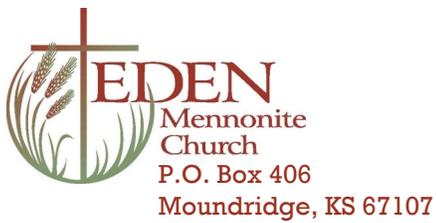
Wednesday Night Choir Schedule

- 7:30 Ladies Chorus
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus (the week before scheduled to sing)

October 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



November 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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