



Mennonite Church
Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

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What are you waiting for?

“I’m in college, I can’t right now...”

This was my refrain, out loud or in my head, for at least four years. It came up in multiple situations: on election day, when I thought about whether or not to tithe, or when I had an urge to be part of a regular church community. In my head, I was building up a lot of debt to be in college (OK, so maybe my parents were helping out, too), so I wasn’t really in a position to be generous with my money or time. I didn’t need to be a faithful Christian or productive member of society just yet. Eventually, I would be at a place where I could fulfill those expectations of a faithful life, just not while in college.

(The interesting thing was that as life went on post-college, there was always a reason to hold back in certain areas. I had lots of college debt, so I didn’t really have to tithe regularly, right? I wasn’t in a good place to be a part of a faith community because of all my questions. God understood my situation, right? Once I was in a stable place in life, then I could be the kind of faithful, productive person I knew I should be.)

At the same time, I was also looking forward to that future time when I knew my life would feel meaningful. I knew my college and post-college life as the transition time before life was “real.” Once I got into real life and I had the things that were prerequisites to a meaningful life, then I would be happy. Once I was debt free, owned my own house, was married, had kids, and the career of my dreams, *then I would be happy and could live a faithful, productive life.*

I was thinking about this stage of my life recently as our Commissions were reading Jeremiah 29:4-7 for their devotional time. In the passage, God communicates with the Israelites who have just been taken from the Promised Land to live in the midst of the land of the evil empire of Babylon, who just defeated them in battle and destroyed their holy places. God’s message is this: “While in Babylon, build houses and get settled there. Plant gardens, raise families, and grow as a people. Also, pray and work for the well-being of the city where you live. If it is healthy and prosperous, you will be healthy and prosperous.”

Imagine how disoriented the people of Israel are at this point. They are probably wondering how in the world God expects them to live a normal, meaningful, faithful life in the midst of living in Babylon. They probably expected to just wait out their time in captivity until they could go home. Yet here God was encouraging them to build houses and plant gardens, things that indicate a commitment to being in one place for a long time. God goes on to promise that the people will return to the land, but that is 70 years later. Until that time, God hopes that the people can make the best of their situation.

As I look back on my college and post-college years, I see examples of people who followed God’s call to live full lives in the midst of Babylon. I had friends that integrated themselves into one church family. They tithed out of what little they had. They volunteered with programs and organizations in the town we lived in. They didn’t wait until everything was just “perfect” before leading faithful, meaningful lives.

It’s very easy for us to say that we will finally be happy when we have the right job, the right house, the right elected officials, etc. We desperately want the world to be just and right, so we ache for it and wait for it. It’s even appropriate for us to pray for it. The Bible often repeats the phrase, “How Long, O Lord?” meaning, “What are you waiting for, God? Make the world right!” We are in good company when we pray for these things.

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There’s more →→→

At the same time, I believe God turns the question back on us and asks, “What are **you** waiting for?” God’s promises are true. The world will be made right. Until that time, things won’t be perfect, but we can still make the best of our circumstances. We can know that God is with us; in the midst of transition, captivity, poor health, etc. Even when the situation isn’t exactly what we want, God affirms that we can build houses, plant gardens, and pray for the health and well-being of all those around us.



The Eden Leadership Team met on Monday, November 11, at the Eden Church Office.

Members present: Jay Goering, Pastor Dianne, Jerry Lankford, Austin Goering,

Josh Regier, Marcia Goering, Becky Koller, Keith Albrecht, Barbara Stucky, Ken Stucky, Pastor Derek, Berni Kaufman, Jerri Kaufman, Connie Schrag 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.

Devotions: Jay read Jeremiah 29:4-7 in Lectio Divina format.

The minutes of the October 14, 2019 ELT meeting were approved as submitted.

Budget report: Austin reported income to date at \$400,000. Expenses to date, \$375,000. Net income of \$25,000. The budgeted expense was \$447,000. The income to date includes the receipt of an estate gift of \$33,000. He reports that we have cut donations to organizations twice this year, but may be able to catch up at the end of the year.

Commission Reports

Peace and Witness—Jerri. She reported that they have begun the back pack challenge and will be collecting items that will be donated through MCC to refugee detainees. Lists of needed items are in the *Eden Echoes* and in the church bulletin. Items will be placed under the church’s Christmas tree. They have started talking about ideas for the Peace Sunday speaker.

Education/Discipleship—Marcia. Their commission will be meeting 11/12/19.

Trustees—Keith reported that the soap dispensers in the men’s bathroom have been replaced, and they have ordered new ones for the women’s bathroom.

Deacons—Barbara reports that they have been working on the Safe Church Policy. They have approved a letter of transfer. Perry and June Krehbiel have agreed to be the bereavement coordinators. Child dedication will be held on 11/24/19. Eden will have Sunday morning services at Pine Village on 1/12/2020.

Stewardship—Ken reports that their commission has been working on the budget proposal to present to the congregation for approval. They are proposing cuts to the budget in the Mission/Outreach/Denomination/Conference segment.

Worship—Berni reported that there has not been any interest in adding more items to the art gallery. Kathy Waltner is coordinating the art gallery and would accept submissions from the congregation. The Elfrieda Dyck quilt will be on display for a limited time next year.

Pastor Dianne: She recently attended a two-and-a-half-day seminar in Wichita at the Kansas Leadership Center. The goal of the training was to learn how to mobilize people in leadership to do difficult work together. She recently passed her senior interview and is on track to graduate in the Spring. Pastor Dianne reports that she is pleased to accept a 3-year term to serve the Eden congregation.

Pastor Derek: The final episode of “Putting Jesus on the Ballot” will be shown at the church office on 11/19/19. The FEWZ youth group is planning to serve a fund raising meal after the combined harvest mission service 11/17/19. Joe Sawatzky will be speaking in the worship service and will speak to the adults during the Sunday school hour. Pastor Derek is pleased to accept the call to serve our congregation for a three-year term.

Estate Gift Policy: Presently there is no written policy or procedure for the receiving of estate gifts. When they come into the office, the church secretary gives them to the Stewardship Commission, and they determine where it is applied. This seems to be a good procedure but it is not written in the Stewardship Commission’s job description. There is a policy that designated memorial gifts can be given as designated. If they are not designated, those memorial gifts go into the Eden Endowment. Jay asked for ELT input on how to clarify these policies and make sure that procedures and job descriptions match. One ELT member shared that the intent of the Endowment fund was to continue the ministry of Eden Church, and that should include funding improvements to the church building. Other ELT members agreed that it may be time to re-evaluate the mission and usage of the Endowment fund. One member suggested that estate gifts be brought to the Stewardship Commission for their recommendation, and then to the ELT for further discernment. Ken will bring an edited version of the job

ELT minutes continued

description of the Stewardship Commission to our next monthly meeting. The issue was tabled at this time.

Approval of the Deacons' Policy on Sexual Abuse Survivors and Sexual Abuse Offenders. The ELT members received copies of the proposed policy. There were a few grammatical edits that were proposed. The new policy was approved by consensus of the ELT, and the deacons were commended for their work on drafting this policy for our congregation. The church is currently utilizing a "Policy to Keep Children and Youth Safe from Abuse." There will be a paragraph added to join the two policies so they complement each other.

Pastor Derek and Pastor Dianne's congregational vote to extend to each a term of three years. Jay fielded input from congregational members who felt that the "NO" votes were nothing against the pastors but just a statement of concern by some members that Eden may not be able to financially support two full time pastors. Jay has also been in conversation with conference minister, Heidi Regier Kreider. She has suggested that during this next year our congregation should clarify our goals and together discern how we will fulfill our mission. We can then discern together what the best ratio of pastor leadership/members is needed to fulfill the needs of the congregation and fulfill our ministry to our wider community.

The ELT reviewed and had extensive discussion on the proposed 2020 budget. There was discussion about the intent and usage of the Endowment Fund, which echoed the earlier discussion in #5 above. Can some of the Endowment fund be used for the ministry of the church's internal projects and not all of the funds sent out away from the church? There was also discussion on the amount of available money in the Capital Building Fund that could be used for projects such as replacing flooring/carpeting. It was asked how the congregation will respond to a decrease in giving to missions. It was noted that we will still give a good amount to missions. It was mentioned that "growth" means different things to different people. Connie Schrag from SCRT was available to answer questions about the pastoral staff's memos of understanding. It was suggested that a 5th Sunday SS discussion topic could be about how we financially support our church and our mission. After discussion, the ELT approved the budget as presented.

Next scheduled ELT meeting date—December 9, 2019 at 7 pm at the Eden Church Office.

Candace Unrau, secretary

Caring for Strangers Through New Kits and Partnerships

Immigration detainee care kits give dignity & show Christ's love

For nearly 100 years, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has been walking alongside and offering relief to those who are hungry, without clothing or water. MCC is actively working to support people who are seeking a safer, better life for themselves and their families by migrating to the U.S.

In Matthew 25:31-45, Jesus commands that we care for the hungry, thirsty, strangers, those without clothes or in prison. MCC is following that command by collecting and distributing immigration detainee care kits and partnering with organizations like the South Texas Human Rights Center in Falfurrias, Texas.

A Christmas project this year for the Peace and Witness Commission will be gathering supplies for these detainee care kits. Duffle bags and backpacks will be provided and located under the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall ready for donations. If you would like to complete a whole kit that is fine—single items are fine too. Items will be gathered through November and December.

When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they transition into life outside the detention center.

CLOTHING

Please compile packs sizes small, medium or large for both men and women.

- ~ 1 jogging suit (new, sweatpants and sweatshirt; can be purchased as separate items)
- ~ 1 t-shirt (new, crew or v-neck)
- ~ 1 pair of socks (new)
- ~ 1 pair of underwear (new)

MISCELLANEOUS

- ~ 1 pair of shoelaces (outdoor or sport style; any color)
- ~ 1 pen (black)
- ~ 1 small notebook

HYGIENE PRODUCTS

- ~ 1 washcloth
- ~ 1 bath towel
- ~ 1 adult-sized toothbrush (new; in package)
- ~ 1 small toothpaste (2.7-3.5 oz.)
- ~ 1 package bath wipes (pre-moistened soft wipes)
- ~ 1 razor (disposable)
- ~ 1 small shaving cream (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 comb (wide-tooth)
- ~ 1 small deodorant (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 small body lotion (2-3 oz.)

For female packs only: sanitary napkins (18-24 count; ultra-thin)

For more information go to mcc.org/immigrationkit

Please limit donations to these NEW items. Items for kits will be taken to MCC in North Newton and assembled there. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Peace and Witness Commission. Thanks!



News from Michelle

Hello Eden family,

I wanted to give you a short update on how my Mennonite Voluntary Service experience is going so far. I am spending my year in Tucson, AZ where I am already three months into my year of service. I have already had so many new experiences and truly am enjoying myself here in a new city and state.

My service placement here in Tucson is at Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRP). I am having a great time so far at this organization and like that I have the opportunity of meeting many Tucson residents, while also learning many different skills of home repair. CHRP fills a unique role in the community that provides home repairs to residents of Tucson and Pima county that fall into specific low income or disability guidelines at no cost to the client. This is made possible by grants made available by different entities such as the City of Tucson, Tucson utility companies, and federal grants among others. So far at CHRP, I have been involved in projects such as repairing and installing coolers, building ramps and steps, repairing minor roof damage, installing toilets, repairing water leaks, repairing water heaters, addressing electrical issues, and converting bathtubs into showers among others. With this job I also get the opportunity of seeing all different parts of the city which I may not have seen otherwise. I love that no one day or repair is ever the same and that each day we meet many different people with very different stories. CHRP staff encourage you to take the time to listen to these stories and make a connection with each client. Often, we assist clients that haven't had cooling or hot water for a couple of years since they have no one to turn to in order to fix the problem. Being able to fix even the smallest problem often makes a world of difference to our clients and their appreciation and thankfulness makes a long tiring day on the job worth it. If you are on Facebook, I encourage you to like the Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRP) Facebook page where often some of these stories are shared along with pictures from some of the projects.

From the second that I landed in Tucson I was welcomed into the community of Shalom Mennonite Fellowship. They not only greet me and talk to me on a Sunday morning, but many members have already had me over to their houses for a meal to get to know me and show their support. They all have definitely made my transition to Tucson much smoother. The congregation itself is very diverse and I am also impressed with their involvement and commitment to social justice issues in the community. My favorite church event I have attended so far was a church retreat campout at the local state park. It was fun spending the evening outdoors with church members tossing around a frisbee, playing music, and sitting around the campfire.

Since I am the only MVSer in Tucson this year, a member of Shalom graciously invited me to stay with her for the year. Her name is Jen and she teaches at a local elementary school. She is very kind and helpful and her house and yard are beautiful and spacious. A few weeks into my time here in Tucson, she invited me to join the community choir she sings in called Desert Voices. This has been a fun way of meeting new people in the community and continuing to sing in a choir post college.

Since arriving, I have also had the opportunity to explore the city and take a couple of unit trips. I have been on several hikes in three of the four mountain ranges that surround Tucson and love to take in the desert plant life that is so different from Kansas. Tucson also has many events and festivals during this time of year that celebrate the diverse people and traditions of Tucson. It has been fun to attend a few of these events. In October, I joined my unit coordinator's family and a few other Shalom friends and took a trip to the Grand Canyon. While I wasn't one of the group members that hiked the canyon rim to rim to rim, I was still able to do a little bit of hiking and lot of relaxing in the cabin and along the North rim. A few weeks later I flew to Denver and attended the MVS National retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. This was a fun time of hearing about the experiences of other MVSErs and catching up with college friends who are also in MVS (Emily!).

I hope this gave you a small glimpse into my time here in Tucson so far. I want to thank you all so much for your prayers and support from afar, and I am excited to return home for Christmas which is quickly approaching. Thanks again and see you soon!

Love,
Michelle Schrag



“As a PK (pastor’s kid) times 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) 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 Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, Kansas

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service.

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 began taking classes again in Fall 2019. 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 possible for Ray and others impacted by disaster across the U.S. and Canada.

Kevin King
Executive Director

Dear Supporting Congregation:

We are grateful for your financial gift that enables us to partner together in this wonderful ministry of service to our elders. Your contribution enables us to provide our elders with quality person centered care in a home-like environment.

On behalf of the Pine Village community, I thank you.

Fred Goering
Fund Development Director



Venita Patchin (97) passed away on October 29. A graveside service was held on Saturday, November 9. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.



Invitation to Share

The project for the month of December is: Comforters and blankets (60” x 80” or 82” x 90”). Comforters specifications:

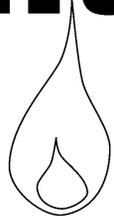
- ~NEW or nearly new material
- Single/twin preferred
- ~Winter weight preferred
- ~Please use quilt batting
- ~Knot with crochet cotton (4” - 8” apart)

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. Hirschler, Moundridge, KS 67107.

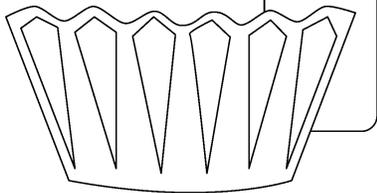


Beginning on December 1 the **Angel Tree** will be decorated in Fellowship Hall to honor the memory of our loved ones who have passed away. You may purchase an angel for each of your loved ones for \$3.00 each. The ornaments will decorate the tree during the Christmas season and may be taken home on or after December 22. Forms and envelopes are available near the tree. Please place the completed form and payment in the box by the tree.

Light the way



Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.



Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff

_ _ _ _

tree that keeps its leaves

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way

_ _ _

green for eternal life,
red for Jesus' blood

_ _ _ _ &
_ _ _ _ _

sounds to announce
good news

_ _ _

has no beginning or end

_ _ _ _ _

Th ks b to od fo is
indesc ba le gif !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV



- 1- Karey French
Nick Graber
Roberta Ollenburger
- 2- Tony Schrag
- 3- Leland Goering
Polly Schrag
Angela Tipton
- 4- Alexis Westfall (Jacob & Tonya)
- 6- Bill Toews
- 7- Annie Toews
- 8- Teresa Stucky
- 9- Alison Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)
- 10- Galen Waltner
- 11- Deborah Koehn
Bryan Zerger
- 12- Ethan Knight
Miriam Krehbiel
- 13- Reese Gehring
Christine Goering
Tonya Westfall
Haley Schrag
- 16- Makenna Hayes (Mike & Kelly)
Sarah Erb
- 18- Becky Setser
Kurt Graber
Leda Kaufman
Jerry Stucky

- 19- Seth Goering
Ernest Krehbiel
Judy Krehbiel
Jacey Krehbiel
Kyle Schrag
- 20- Christina Graber
Kollen Shirack (Christy)
- 21- Victoria Stucky
Danny Zerger
- 22- Emmi Schrag (David & Hillery Schrag)
Jason Neufeld
- 23- Chelsey Knight
- 24- Marla Gillmore
Ruth White
- 26- Charlene Epp
Ronald Stucky
- 27- Annah Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)
Lauren Bonde
- 28- Blair Goering
Annie Schrag
Judy Sebo
- 29- Kim Cutting
- 30- Dick Zerger
- 31- Ronnie Schrag

- 3- Fred & Polly Schrag
- 11- David & Margaret Goering
- 16- Kirby & Christine Goering
- 17- Josh & Emily Regier
- 18- Steve & Barbara Goering
Michael & Margaret Krehbiel
- 19- Daniel & Janet Schrag
Kelly & Donna Stucky
- 20- Homer & Dorothy Goering
- 22- Mark B. & Sheila Goering
Robert D. & Katy Schrag
- 28- Matt & Lindsey Begnoche
- 29- Don & Bonnie Kaufman
Darrell & Bobbi Schrag
- 30- Stephen & Sandra Koontz
DaWayne and Britney Stos
Emory & Naomi Wedel

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

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 1- Gene and Germaine Bird
Murray & Melody Stucky
- 3- Jan Craig Goering & Abigail Hubbard
Eugene & Carolyn Goering
- 5- Rob & Lori Parsons
Bruce & Kelly Schrag
- 9- Larry & Carol Goering
- 14- Terry & Colleen Schrag
- 21- Brandon & Morgan Kaufman

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1- Lia-Jing Groves (Jan & Anne)
Lori Vontz
- 2- Emily Regier
- 4- Sam Goering
Wanda Knight
- 5- Josh Regier
Sondra Tolle
- 6- Sandy Arnold
Judy Goering
Steven L. Goering
- 7- Joseph Krehbiel
Mason Krehbiel
- 8- Ashley Stucky
Joyce Stucky
- 9- Meroe Graber
Denise Stucky
Camden Stewart (Kimberley Kaschke)
- 10- Kenneth Preheim
Lisa Schrag
- 11- Penny Graber

- 12- Elaine Krehbiel
Emily Perkins (Greg & Kathy)
Paul Marsh (Sheri)
- 13- Harold Kaufman
- 15- Jacob Schrag, Jr. (Esther)
- 16- Don R. Gehring
- 17- Paula Goering
- 20- Wendell Kaufman
- 21- Kenneth Schrag
- 22- Larry Kaufman
Perry Krehbiel
Jacob Westfall
- 23- Cheri Kaufman
Darrell Schrag
- 24- Brad Goering
MaKayla Stucky (Kevin Stucky & Gayle Stucky)
- 25- Mary Albrecht
Benjamin Schrag (Steve & Maggie)
Troy Stucky
- 26- Bill Juhnke, Jr.

- 27- James Griffin
Bryce Krehbiel
Tori Starks
- 28- Kelly Thomas
Katy Schrag
Larry Temple
- 29- DeLonna Barnett
Jennifer Knight
Sheryl Plenert
Linda Graber
- 30- Jeileen Cruz (Ron & Cecilia Goering)
Juanita Graber
Becky King
Lexus Stewart (Kimberley Kaschke)
- 31- Dorothy Goering
Derek King
Hayley Koontz (Stephen & Sandra)

January birthdays are included because the January/February *Eden Echoes* doesn't come out until mid-late January.

Up-Coming Events

- December 2:** 6:00 p.m. Deacons mtg.
December 3: 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
December 9: 7:00 p.m. ELT mtg.
December 10: 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
December 11: 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
December 12: Edu/Disc. Commission mtg.
December 18: 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
December 24: Eden Church Office Closed for Christmas Eve
 7:00 Christmas Eve Service
December 25: Christmas Day
 Eden Church Office Closed

December 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	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	31				



January 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	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	31	



Address Services Requested