



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

May 2019
Issue Vol. 51 No. 4



At the beginning of April, I participated in a two day training for pastors called *Healthy Boundaries 101*. This course is a requirement for pastors in Mennonite Church USA as a way to provide accountability and to promote health in the pastoral role, specifically as it relates to interacting with congregants. Healthy Boundaries explores boundaries that exist in this pastoral role and how to navigate them in ways that are healthy and

beneficial for all, hopefully free of manipulation and abuses of power. I found the training to be extremely helpful. I am grateful that the denomination cares enough about its congregations and their pastors to ensure this training happens. This is one crucial way that we can proactively respond to so many tragic stories of clergy abuse that have come out across Christian denominations. This is just one of the many amazing benefits of being part of a larger body of Anabaptist Christian churches.

As I reflected on boundaries within my role, I also thought of the boundaries that exist for all of us in everyday life. Some of those boundaries may be clear, but some may be harder to define, especially in close friend and family relationships. There are days when I have a hard time determining where my children end and I begin. I notice this most clearly in the transfer of emotional energy. The more deeply connected we are, the more likely it will be that another person's emotions will affect our own. My child's impatience and whininess may make me impatient and whiny. A friend's stress over a relationship may be a catalyst for a spike in your own anxiety.

Boundaries are a necessary part of life, because they help us to clearly define who we are, what we do, and what our responsibilities are. But, they are not concrete walls. We are always crossing boundaries in our relationships when we engage with one another, share lives together, and help each other out. The challenge is to try to see when crossing a boundary is healthy or not.

When we are stressed out or filled with anxiety (whether we know it or not), we tend to pass our anxiety to others to help us lighten the load on ourselves. Don't get me wrong, sharing our lives with one another is absolutely essential, so we shouldn't shy away from sharing our joys and struggles. The problem is when we expect others to take on our emotions or to fix our situations for us.

Have you ever heard anyone say, "If you love me, you would..." or "Why aren't you more upset about this"? These are inappropriate boundary violations in which person A seeks to manage their own emotions and circumstances by dictating the actions or emotions of person B. A healthy boundary crossing would be to own our own emotions and ask for help, when legitimately needed, without forcing or manipulating the other.

Now the flip-side is when we have the tendency to see someone else's anxiety and immediately take it on, possibly even trying to fix their situation for them. Some of us are just wired this way to have empathetic and servant hearts. Again, this isn't bad, but we just need to be careful to not violate boundaries in which we are now taking things on that are not our own and doing things for people that they can and should do themselves.

A guiding text that may be helpful is in Galatians 6, where Paul writes in verse 2, that we should "carry each other's burdens", while later in verse 5 he writes that "each should carry their own load." The reality is that we can't do life all by ourselves, because the burdens will at times be too great for us. But, we also have loads that we can and must carry on our own. Your goal and mine must be to understand our own responsibilities, capabilities, and limitations, so

There's more →→→→

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that we can ask for help when needed without invading someone's boundary by manipulating or forcing them to help. Conversely, we should be prepared to help others when needed. However, we must notice when we are allowing our own anxiety to lead us to do more than we really should.

On this journey, I hope we can all improve our ability to name our own boundaries and to respect the boundaries of others. There will be times this seems cold, especially to the "If you love me..." crowd, but in the end, I believe it will make for much healthier people.

DL A.K.



The Eden Leadership Team met April 8 at the Eden Church Office

Members present: Pastor Derek, Austin Goering, Ken Stucky, Barbara Stucky, Berni Kaufman, Jerry Lankford, Marcia Goering, Keith Albrecht, Pastor Dianne, Josh Regier, Jay Goering, Becky Koller, and Candy Unrau

Jay lit a candle to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit. ELT members read Eden's Mission and Vision statements in unison.

Lectio Divina devotions were from Psalm 67. Jay led in prayer.

The March 11, 2019 ELT minutes were approved as submitted.

Austin gave the Eden church budget report. Income to date: \$87,000 and Expenses to date: \$110,000 which leaves a deficit of \$23,000. There has been a jump in the cost of utilities.

Commission and Pastor reports

Stewardship Commission: Ken reported that they will be meeting April 16 to discuss QuickBooks and strategies to alleviate the budget deficit.

Deacon Commission: Barb had nothing to report, since their meeting was scheduled for the next day.

Worship Commission: Berni reported that the Maundy Thursday service will include handwashing instead of foot washing this year. There will be a Sunday morning worship service at Pine Village scheduled in September. The Camp Mennoscah weekend will be July 14 and First Mennonite Church of Christian will join us in the programming and food preparation. A closet in the nursery formerly used by the audio-visual committee will be used for storage of worship visuals.

Education Commission: Marcia reported that Pastor Dianne has agreed to teach an adult summer Sunday school elective.

Trustee Commission: Keith reports that workers from Wichita Glass Window and Door Company have repaired some of the outside doors. The trustees have looked at samples to replace the floors in the men's bathroom, west hall bathroom, and the choir loft.

Work on the stage floor should begin May 13. The grand piano will have to be moved off the stage to do this and may require tuning after being moved. The dishwasher in the kitchen has not been working properly and the trustees plan to have someone from Goering Hardware look at it to see if it can be repaired or if it will need to be replaced.

The trustees are working on communicating duties/responsibilities of the custodial staff and clarifying who supervises/evaluates the custodial staff. The church work day that had been scheduled for March 30 was canceled due to the weather and will be rescheduled for later this Spring.

Pastor Dianne: She is looking forward to the Community Holy Week service and prayer walk. She has agreed to teach an adult Sunday school elective on "the Doctrine of Discovery." This study will consider a Christian perspective on the rights of indigenous people.

Pastor Derek: He recently completed Healthy Boundaries training. He and Pastor Brad Roth have been serving as greeters at Moundridge Elementary School on Friday mornings. The FEWZ youth group finished an 8-week book study, "A Walk Through the Bible." The youth group will also help plan the Easter sunrise service. They are getting organized for the summer convention and are still looking for a male chaperone.

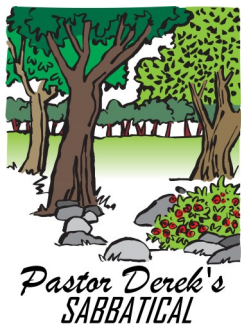
Other business: We have secured five conference delegates from Eden for the convention. They are: Jeff Koller, Becky Koller, Jenny Schrag, Linda Goering, and Jay Goering.

Pastor Dianne's Evaluation: Marvin Zehr will meet with the ELT executive committee and the SCRT on April 24 to formulate a timeline for the evaluation process.

Board Member Replacement: There was discussion about the process by which representatives of Eden Church are appointed to and replaced on various boards, including Associated Ministries of Moundridge, Helping Hands, Moundridge VBS, Et Cetera Shop, Pine Village, and Cradles to Crayons. It was decided by consensus that the ELT moderator-elect will be in charge of overseeing the process allowing the Eden board members to report to the ELT if needed, and can have assistance if needed to find replacement board members when their term is over or they are no longer able or willing to serve on the board.

Next meeting of the ELT will be May 13, 2019 at 7pm at the Eden Church office.

Candace Unrau, Secretary



Pastor Derek has been ministering at Eden for five years. A sabbatical leave for pastors is encouraged at both the denominational level and within our own congregational understandings. Therefore, the Eden Leadership Team (ELT) has been in conversation with Pastor Derek over the last months to consider what a sabbatical will look like for Derek.

Why a sabbatical? First, we want Pastor Derek to be an effective pastor. Pastoring is a demanding calling as congregants have differing expectations and needs in pastoral services. These demands and expectations take a mental and emotional toll on a pastor.

Second, pastors are on call 24/7. Even when on vacation, the possibility of calls, emails, and maybe even ending vacations early is always present. Thirdly, we want Pastor Derek to continue at Eden for the foreseeable future. We do not want him to burn out and become less effective in his ministry. Fourthly, a sabbatical gives a time for renewing a call, renewing relationship with God, renewing relationships with family, renewing biblical knowledge and spirituality, and learning new skills to increase effectiveness as a pastor. A three month break is a good period to become refreshed, renewed and reinvigorated.

Thus Derek and the ELT believe that a three month sabbatical would be in the best interest of Pastor Derek and his family, and also the best interest of Eden. Derek suggested taking his Sabbatical during the summer months when activities are less, and the pace in the office and church life is a little slower. This would make it easier to cover for him while he is gone.

Pastor Derek will be gone from June 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019. While he is gone, Pastor Dianne will increase her work time from 85% to full-time. There are three main areas that need to be covered during this time; worship on Sunday mornings, pastoral care of congregants, and the emergency services such as hospital and other visitations, funerals, and other pastoral functions that arise during this time. Jenny Schrag has been asked and has accepted to assist Pastor Dianne in these areas during these three months. Jenny is off from her job as a teacher during the summer and also has some experience as a pastor in the last three years. She will be hired on approximately 1/3rd time basis, depending on demands on her time. Pastor Dianne usually fills the pulpit once a month. She has agreed to preach four times during the summer with the rest of the Sundays being filled by people inside and outside of Eden. These slots are nearly all filled.

We plan to have a special service of sending for him

the last Sunday in May and also have a welcome/installation service for Jenny at the same time.

We look forward to this time of rest and renewal for Derek and for finding new gifts and skills in our congregation during these three months. We will also rejoice when he returns in September, renewed to continue his work at Eden.

Submitted by Jay Goering, ELT Moderator

Sabbatical Itinerary

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to experience sabbatical rest with my family. I can't say thank you enough to you, our Eden church family for providing this gift. Also, special thanks go to those who are helping make this happen and adjusting to this change over the summer: Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Jenny Schrag, and Becky Koller. I wanted to offer a brief explanation of my planned schedule for this sabbatical.

Primarily, this sabbatical will be focused on rest. Therefore, my family and I will be spending most of our time in Virginia with my parents. Our children will have lots of time to be with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The girls are thrilled to meet their newly born cousin and to welcome another cousin, due to be born in June. Our resting time will include favorite activities like camping, biking, hiking, and swimming. We have plans to attend a music festival, attend two family reunions, and spend a week at the beach.

We will also plan to take advantage of our opportunities being so close to Washington D.C. for new experiences for our daughters. We hope to make several trips to visit places like the Smithsonian and the National Zoo.

While the primary focus of the sabbatical is on rest, I will dabble in some alternative opportunities for ministry. We will spend two weeks at Laurelville, where I will serve as Bible Teacher for upper elementary and middle school-aged camps. I will also likely preach at our former church once. Additionally, I intend to connect with pastors in Virginia to learn more about their congregations about what is going well and what struggles exist. My hope is to come back with new ideas about how Eden can grow in faithfulness to the mission of God in our context.

It has been a wonderful five years being a part of this faith community. I have felt very affirmed in my call to be a pastor here. That call is still very strong in my heart, so I hope for this sabbatical to be a chance to rest and rejuvenate as we anticipate many years to come in this pastoral relationship.

Blessings,
Derek King



Consider Sharing Your Gift of Music

The worship commission is looking for persons to share their gift of music during worship starting the second Sunday in May. The music may be vocal or instrumental, an individual or a group. Usually two numbers are shared. Contact Judy Goering at 620-345-8519 or hkjkgoring@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.



Invitation to Share

The project for the month of May is Sewing Kits:

- 3 spools white thread (all purpose; cotton/poly or 100% polyester; minimum 250 yds. each)
- 3 spools black thread (all purpose; cotton/poly or 100% polyester; minimum 250 yds. each)
- 1 metric fabric tape measure (plastic or fiberglass; 150 cm; inch markings optional)
- 1 thimble (metal, medium size)
- 1 dressmaker shears, (good quality)
- 1 pkg. needles, (minimum 25; assorted sizes)
- 1 pkg. straight pins, (minimum 80; round plastic heads preferred)
- Shirt-style buttons (12; black or white; size 1/2-1 inch; place loose buttons in a resealable plastic bag)
- Sew on snaps, (minimum 20; assorted sizes)
- Safety pins (minimum 10; assorted sizes)

Place contents in 11 3/4 " x 16 3/4" double drawstring cloth bag.

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.

"Adopt the pace of nature: Her secret is patience."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Healing Hospitality

Repeated headlines about violence can make us "feel like locking our doors and never entering society again," writes pastor and author Max Lucado.

After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

"It's no accident that *hospitality* and *hospital* come from the same Latin word," Lucado writes, "for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: 'You matter.'"

Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado contends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, "and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon." Our kitchen tables are "God's secret weapons in the war on fear," Lucado says. "We never know what one meal will do."



Restoring the balance

In *Springs in the Valley* (Zondervan), pioneer missionary Lettie Cowman tells of a traveler making a trek through an African jungle. Native tribesmen who helped carry loads walked rapidly on day one, covering a great distance. Yet the next morning they refused to move. When the frustrated traveler asked the tribesmen why they were just sitting, they said they'd gone too fast on the first day and "were now waiting for their souls to catch up to their bodies."

Cowman writes, "This whirling rushing life which so many of us live does for us what that march did for those tribesmen. The difference: They knew they needed to restore life's balance; too often we do not."

God promises rest for our soul *and* body, so don't overlook the importance of physical restoration. Only by taking time to recharge can you be an effective laborer in God's kingdom.



Thank you for the monetary gift you gave us through your Peace/Witness Commission. It has helped us greatly with our rent and utilities this winter. It also enabled us to pay the fee necessary for becoming an ‘official’ church with not for profit status. Your support gives us encouragement as we continue to try to be God’s light in Wichita. You are welcome to join us for worship on Sundays at 10 AM on the corner of Lincoln and Pattie. God’s blessings,
Pastor Jerry Acosta
At the Feet of Christ Church

Dear Eden Mennonite Church,
Thank you so much for the donation. We are working hard to save up some money so we can get a new roof. We are having leaks and are eager to get it replaced this spring. This will help! Thanks again!
Casie Wiens
Cradle to Crayons Director

Thank you for your recent gift to the McPherson County Community Foundation. Every contribution to our foundation helps to ensure there are resources available to support the communities you care about in McPherson County. We truly appreciate your generosity and thank you for your investment in your community.



Bible Quiz

Who had a staff sprout, bud, blossom and produce almonds, indicating that God had chosen him for a special reason?

- A. Moses
- B. Zechariah
- C. Aaron
- D. Nathan

Answer: C (See Numbers 17:1-11, specifically v. 8.)

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



Congratulations to Jacob and Katie Stucky on the birth of a daughter, Gracyn Nicole born on Thursday, April 11. Gracyn is welcomed by her grandparents Greg and Karen Stucky and great-grandparents, Ken and Barbara Stucky.



Robert & Cheryl Stucky
609 20th St. Vlg.
Moundridge, KS 67107

“The wise man doesn’t give the right answers; he poses the right questions.” —Claude Levi-Strauss

Joys of Motherhood

- ♥ A hug for no reason.
 - ♥ Belly laughs
 - ♥ The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you’ve been trying to teach them.
 - ♥ Smiles and giggles
 - ♥ Mud pies.
 - ♥ Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
 - ♥ Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child’s lips.
 - ♥ Quiet moments on the couch.
 - ♥ Reading aloud together.
 - ♥ A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
 - ♥ Watching your child be kind to another.
 - ♥ Recognizing a moment you’d like to freeze in time.
 - ♥ A child’s look of surprise and joy.
 - ♥ A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
 - ♥ The words “I love you” —and a sticky kiss.
- Unknown



HEART-SHAPED *breakfast*



Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.

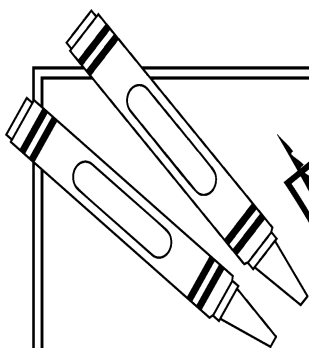


What you need:

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

What you do:

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



PUZZLE

A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call



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



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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1- Chester & Ruth White | 20- Chris & Tori Starks
Herb & Lorita Zook | 27- David & Joyce Anderson |
| 2- Roger & Terra Regehr
David & Hillery Schrag | 21- Ronnie & Pam Schrag | 28- Ian & Shayna Smith |
| 3- Tom & Jamie Mulder | 23- Michael & Greta Koehn
Phil & Sharon McCowen | 29- Larry G. & Sarah Goering
Tony & Leslie Schrag
Norman & Nadine Wedel |
| 7- E. Fred & Beverly Goering | Brian & Amy Schrag | 31- Troy & Suzanne Miller |
| 9- Myron & Monica Flickner | Kenneth L. & Barbara Stucky | Derek & Shannon Schrag |
| 12- Steve & Linda Graber
Kyle & Robin Schrag | 24- Tony & Karen Janzen
Leslie & Joy Thiessen | |
| 13- Mark & Tindy Graber | 25- David & Teresa Birky | |
| 17- Tim & Amber Stucky | | |

Up-Coming Events

May 5:	Choir Finale during the worship service
May 6:	7:00 p.m. Deacon Commission mtg.
May 7:	7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
May 12:	Mother's Day
May 13:	7:00 p.m. ELT meets at Eden Church Office
May 15:	7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.
May 30:	Ascension Day

May 2019						
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June 2019						
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