



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

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*From the
Pastor*



Caring for God's Good Creation

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1*

Last fall my seminary class was a study on the theology, ethics and spirituality of creation care. The semester was full of reading various authors on this topic as well as taking intentional time to engage "my place." To learn about my place, I spent time walking in nature, I took a guided bird walk, I started a compost bin, and I interviewed several people in this congregation about their land. I discovered that many people have a deep connection to their land not only through family legacy but their land is a sanctuary where they encounter God. I heard deep desires to live in harmony with their land and care for it well.

The question arose in the course of my study, "Do Christians have special responsibilities for the care of creation?" In some ways this question seems self-evident that Christians, those of us who have a deep connection with the Creator, will of course care deeply for all that the Creator has made. The underlying question however is what special motivations or mandates have we been given that are unique from others who do not profess belief or faith in God as creator, redeemer or sustainer? I believe that our special responsibilities flow from our covenantal relationship with God in whom we "live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) Our relationship and connection to God means that we will align ourselves with God's intentions for all of creation.

As humans we are created in the image of God, and thus are to live into God's intention, which seeks and delights in the flourishing of all creation. Living in the image of God means a responsibility and call to follow a model of servanthood. In servanthood our orientation is shifted from self-interest to looking for the well-being and care of others. Rather than dominating and controlling, there is a call for the interdependency and mutuality of all creation. In reflecting God's image, we look for the ways God offers grace, hospitality, and care so that we also can emulate such care for the earth. Living in God's image means living in gratitude for the gift of creation and God's sustaining presence in it. In this vein we become students of creation and learn to serve creation, becoming attuned to all the complexities it presents.

As God's people we find our connection to the creator through the gift of land. The land that God gave to God's people Israel brought a deep, covenantal relationship between God as the giver and the people who took possession of it. In this covenant, the task was to keep the Torah including maintaining Sabbath as a way of honoring the land.

As Christians, we inherit this understanding of the gift of land. The temptation is to forget that the land is a gift and try to control and manage it as our own. Wendell Berry calls us to remember that we did not create the land, nor do we own it, nor is it a reward for something we have done. This gift of land from the Creator shows the Creator's love and desire to be in covenant with us. Our response to this gift is to be "faithful, grateful, and humble," to be neighborly, and to care for it well. The gift of land binds us in covenant with the Creator and to the ultimate fulfillment of the Creator's work of redeeming and restoring all creation.

This leads us to the future hope that is lived out by Christians in communities of faith together. God's design as described in the book of Ephesians is "to gather up all things together in Christ" through the church. The cosmic nature of God's vision includes all of creation, not just humanity. This grand plan is now at work through the church. The church cannot save the earth but it can show in small ways what a 'saved' earth might look like. The church is a witness to the coming fulfillment of the reign of God.

The gift of the church is to speak about and make visible God's creative work. It is the church that can

There's more → → →

In This Issue

Anniversaries	7
Announcements	2
Birthdays	7
Deaths	5
Invitation to Share	3
Just For Kids	6
Letter from Emily Knight	4
Thank you notes	5
Up-coming Events	8

offer the larger picture to live as a patient community of faith that resists evil and shows signs of God's grace in the midst of an imperfect world. Even in the midst of environmental crisis, the church's patient witness offers hope that God has not abandoned creation but continues to be present and at work.

I invite those who would like to live more fully into being a church that cares well for creation to join the Wednesday evening Bible Study starting January 29. We will learn together and look for practical ways to participate in God's vision for a restored earth.

Shalom,
Pastor Dianne



The Eden Leadership Team met on Monday, January 13, 2020

ELT Members present: Jay Goering, Bill Zerger, Becky Koller, Bret Gillmore, Jerry Lankford, Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Marcia Goering, Kenneth L. Stucky, Austin Goering, Berni Kaufman, Joshua Regier, Jean Regier, Candy Unrau

Lectio Divina devotions: Ephesians 4: 11-16. Jay lead in prayer.

Approval of December 9, 2019 Minutes: These were approved as submitted.

Budget report: Austin reported that the total income for 2019 was \$497,000 and total expenses for 2019 was \$487,000—showing a net income of \$10,000. This was the first time we had a positive balance since 2016. Congregational giving was \$25,000 more than last year.

A. Trustees: Bill Zerger reported that he will be the chair of the Trustees. Brandon Kaufman will be the secretary and Herb Stucky will be the treasurer. They are looking for possible dates for a church work day. Projects will include window sash installation, cleaning windows, filling dirt around grave sites as needed, inspection of the moveable wall system. Trustee tasks include looking into carpet/new flooring for the fellowship hall area, repair of the fellowship hall moveable wall ceiling areas, review and replace lighting fixtures with LED bulbs. It was brought up that the church signs are need of maintenance. They are reviewing the property insurance policy that reduced coverage against a cyber-attack.

B. Deacons: Bret Gillmore reported that they met 1/6/2020. They approved the following roles: Barbara Stucky (Ken) will be chair, Marcia Hiebert will be treasurer, Kathy Neufeld will be secretary, Bret will be ELT rep, Kristen Stucky will be endowment rep. The deacons are making plans to share the new Safe Church

recently met to audit/review financial reports. Austin will be training Fred Schrag to take over as church treasurer. They plan to meet again 2/6/2020.

D. Worship: Berni Kaufman reported that Tyler Stucky will serve as chair. JoLene Kaufman will be secretary and Children's Story coordinator. Berni will serve as treasurer and ELT representative. Judy will be Music contact and Cindy Bartell will be committee coordinator. Plans are being made for Lent. The Associated Church Pastors are planning Holy Week services Sunday and Monday night before Easter. The three Mennonite churches will have a combined sunrise service on Easter morning. Becky Setser is looking for instrumentalists to participate in the Easter Cantata.

E. Education: Marcia Goering reported that they met recently and reviewed the Christmas Eve program. The program and the refreshments afterwards were well received. Wednesday night meals will begin again on 1/22/2020 and there will be a game night for all ages with Galen and Kathy Waltner in charge. Adult Bible class will begin 1/29/2020. They are still looking for groups to sign up to serve the Wednesday evening meals. Debi Lichti will serve as chair, Sarah Neufeld will be treasurer, Cory Harrison will be secretary, and Marcia Goering will be the ELT representative.

F. Peace/Witness: Jean Regier reported that Mark will serve as chair, Shirley Delk will be secretary, Kirby Goering will be treasurer. The refugee backpack project was a success and the MCC office was grateful for the donations. They are working on ideas for Peace Sunday. They will be continuing the baby showers for refugees as needed. The congregation gave good support to our ladies in Voluntary Service.

G. Pastor Dianne reported that she and Pastor Derek are making plans for the Leadership Retreat 1/25/2020 from 9-3 at church. Pastor Derek and family are currently in Virginia where Derek is attending leadership training and spending some time with family. There have been three deaths/funerals in recent days—Delbert Stucky, Val Graber, and Jerry Stucky.

H. Eden Endowment committee. There was discussion about the operating procedures and policies—such as term expiration dates of committee members and questions about disbursements. Would it be possible to use some of the earnings of this fund for the maintenance and ministry of our church? It was decided to invite

There's more →→→

ELT minutes continued

representatives of the Endowment Committee to come to the next ELT meeting with the goal of improving communication and understanding of how the fund is used.

I. Year in Review Celebration. This will be held 1/26/2020 following a potluck meal. Jay encouraged the Commission representatives to consider giving short verbal reports at this meeting.

J. Next ELT meeting will be 2/17/2020 at 7 pm at the church office. It was moved to the 3rd Monday to accommodate a member who has another meeting the 2nd Monday each month.

Candace Unrau, Secretary

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2020
- Presidents Day, February 17, 2020
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 23, 2020
- Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020
- Leap Day, February 29, 2020

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

A. 200-300
B. 400-500
C. 600-700
D. 800-900

Love

Answer: C

Heavenly appearance

Our omnipresent God shows up in some unexpected places. People have "miraculously" seen Jesus' face on everything from junk food to a rusty water tank. We don't know what Jesus looked like, of course, but Scripture indicates his appearance was rather ordinary: "He had no beauty of majesty to attract us to him" (Isaiah 53:2, NIV).

On one occasion, however, Jesus' face was majestically transformed. At his Transfiguration, observed by many churches on the Sunday before Lent, Jesus' "face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, ESV). Some disciples witnessed Jesus' glory—which will be ours, thanks to his death and resurrection. As 1 John 3:2 (NIV) promises: When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."



Invitation to Share

The project for the months of January and February:

January: Wide tooth combs 6 to 8 inches, nail clippers and Band-Aids of any size.

February: NEW bath & hand towels (medium weight, dark or bright colored).

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.



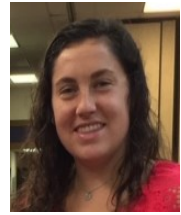
Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full-time assistant for Program Human Resources. Responsibilities include supporting the work of the Care Coordinator and Personnel Counselors, along with managing details for worker orientation and seminars. Strong attention to details, ability to manage and track people and processes. Some travel required. See the position description at www.MennoniteMission.net. Send résumé to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net for consideration.



We choose not to print the addresses of our members online. If you are looking for an address please call the church office at 345-8320. Thanks.!

Hola, Hello, and Greetings to all,

I wanted to write a quick update to wrap up the year. Thinking about how much has changed in a year is crazy: from being in nursing school, to graduating from college, and now being in Puerto Rico, so many changes. Anyway, back to Puerto Rico, I would say that things are beginning to feel a little more like home around here. I have my days where I am feeling like I am understanding the language a lot better, and then I have others where I feel like I know next to nothing and am very hard on myself. I constantly have to keep reminding myself to step out of my comfort zone and believe that I am good enough. Trying to speak a new language is not easy if you are afraid of making mistakes and sounding dumb. So I have to remind myself to try, and it is okay if I am not great at it, that is why one practices. I am learning to be easier on myself because we are not perfect, but with God we are enough.



I am meeting new people and making stronger relationships with the ones who I see often. For Thanksgiving, my housemate and I went to the Kindergarten teacher's house. She has a husband and two daughters, ages 18 and 11, who we really bonded with. They were so generous with their space, their food, and the love that they had for each other and for God was evident. Meeting people that give generously and outwardly express the love of Christ is so refreshing and overwhelming.

I finally have gotten in the hospital a couple times which has been so great. One of the days I went to the clinic at the hospital and met a doctor who talked about how he was grateful I was there helping, and even if I didn't feel like I was really making a difference, if I only touched one person in a special way that is all that matters. The most important thing is to do the best I can, and to show people I care with the love of God. Let God's will be done. The words of the doctor really hit me hard that day and made me realize that I just need to remember to trust in God and to give my best each and every day. This world needs a lot more people who care and who spread God's love, and we need to do the best we can, wherever we are and with whatever we may have.

At the hospital, I have been shadowing a nurse who speaks English and is super friendly. He is very helpful and lets me do a lot of things, so it has been awesome to work with him and to finally be doing something more in the field that I was trained in. I have been going to the hospital once a week and hopefully will continue to do that in the new year.

As far as the school goes, I have been doing more substitute teaching and helping out wherever is necessary. Some highlights have been that I was a lunch lady for a few days, I have taken the Kindergarten class by myself (there were only 6 students one day when the teacher was gone), and helped aid in the pre-kinder classroom.

Some other highlights and adventures that have happened is that my parents, both grandmas, and uncle and aunt came for a visit over here! It was awesome to show them around so they could learn a little about where I was, what I was doing, and the people that I interact with on a daily basis. I also got to meet a few members of uncle Jeff's family in Puerto Rico. They do not live too far away from me so it was awesome to make that connection-- it is a small world. Matt's uncle and aunt arrived a day before my parents left and I was able to explore more of the island with them. We went to one of the prettiest beaches I have ever seen. It is called Flamenco Beach on the island of Culebra right off of Puerto Rico. We also went to a bioluminescent bay where it looks like the water lights up when you touch it because the organisms in the water light up when they are disturbed. This was super cool and very interesting. Matt's Uncle and Aunt said that before Hurricane Maria the water and organisms would light up a lot more. I have also been to this really neat canyon called San Cristobal Canyon that is not too far away from where we live. There is so much natural beauty all over the island that is amazing and breath-taking. The climate is starting to cool down a little, but nothing like the cold in Kansas. It is very amusing to see people talk about how cold it is when it is only 65/70 degrees because they are not used to the cold like we are.

I think I am going to wrap it up with that. I have been able to be home for Christmas break and see my family and friends and that has been super great! I am looking forward to see what will behold in the New Year. Thanks for all your prayers and support, and thanks to those who have contributed towards my mission trip and supported me during the Christmas season. , I would not be able to do any of this if it were not for all the love and support I receive from Eden, my family, friends, and from God. God bless each of you!

Bendiciones and Blessings,
Emily Knight



Thank you dear friends in Christ for prayers, cards, and well wishes during my stay in skilled care at Pine Village.

Love,
Clarene Stucky

Thank you all for the continued support that you provide for us. It is much appreciated. We are not only serving people in our community and surrounding communities, but also with a church in McPherson that makes sleeping bags for the homeless in Wichita and the Kansas Children's League. It is extremely satisfying that our shop has continued contacts with people that need help. Thanks again and God bless!!

Dear friends,

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service.

Bolstered by support from donors like you, MDS volunteers have begun major repair and rebuilding work in Marianna, FL. Hurricane Michael made landfall last year, devastating Marianna, a panhandle community of 6,000 people. In weeks and months following the storm MDS volunteers cleared fallen trees from more than 300 properties.

Your gift is putting faith in action by providing hope to those unable to recover on their own. Carl Dube, the volunteer leader in Marianna, reported that when a homeowner learns that MDS will help them, "there is a noticeable change in their faces and words. Seeing the change from despair to hope is a huge blessing.

Signs of hope are evident every week at an MDS worksite. That includes when a crew recently completed a wheelchair ramp for a woman whose life had been severely limited since the hurricane.

"Her smiles and hugs for that crew are a payment that easily surpasses the hours spent on the project," Dube shares.

With thanksgiving,
Kevin King, Executive Director

To all at Eden,

Thank you so very much for your continuous support of STEP MC! To date, we have helped 35 adults and 44 children overcome poverty! Your support makes this life-changing work possible. Wishing your congregation many blessings in 2020.

Austin Regier

Dear Eden Church Folks,

Thank you so much for your prayer and financial support of us and our work in Australia over many years! We always enjoy our time with your church.

Shalom,
Mark and Mary Hurst

Gifts from alumni and friends allow us to provide a variety of opportunities, from the classroom to the performance stage to the playing field. We also know the importance of making the college experience affordable; this fall the Student Life Office initiated a campus food pantry to ensure that all students have the opportunity to focus on their studies rather than worry about the cost of their meal plan.

All this is made possible through your support. Your generosity gives life-shaping opportunities. Thank you!

Ben Lichti
Coordinator of Bethel College Church Relations



Delbert Stucky, (80) passed away on Sunday, December 29. Memorial and graveside services were held at Eden on Friday, January 3. We extend our sympathy to his wife Barbara, children Debra, Doyle, Ryan, and Clinton and all his extended family and friends.

Valeria "Val" Graber (passed away on Saturday, January 3. Services were held at Eden on Wednesday, January 8. We extend our sympathy to her daughters Terri (Mike) Gehring and Melanie Stucky and all of her extended family and friends.



Jerry Stucky (67) passed away on Friday, Jan 10. Services were held at Eden on Thursday, Jan 16. We extend our sympathy to Kathy (Al) Neufeld and all of Jerry's extended family and friends.



Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

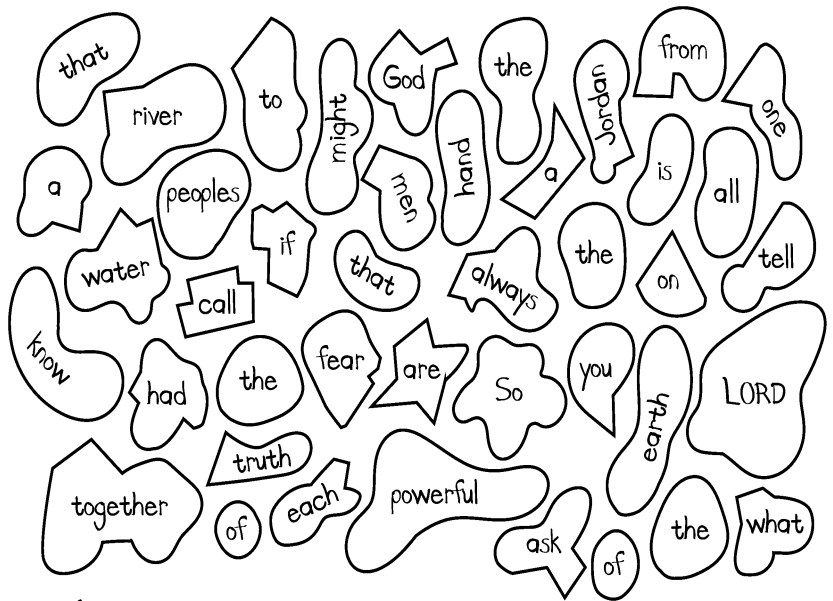
1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!



Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
 _____ the _____
 _____ the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV

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
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- Juanita Graber
Becky King
Lexus Stewart (Kimberley Kaschke)
31- Dorothy Goering
Derek King
Hayley Koontz (Stephen & Sandra) |
|--|---|---|

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

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

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1- Lisa Goering (Mrs. Glen)
2- Cory Harrison
3- Tatum Garcia (Kayla Gowdy)
4- Mary Beth Goering
Melanie Krehbiel
5- Rachel Knight
Michelle Schrag
6- Amanda Harrison
Hope Stucky (Morris & Diana)
Jackie Zerger
7- Stephen Koontz
8- Robin Gehring
9- Bonnie Kaufman
Michael J. Krehbiel
Ian Smith
Ian Waltner (Michael & Amanda)
10- Terry Schrag
11- E. Fred Goering
Sarah Neufeld
Savannah Starks (Chris & Tori)
12- Patrick Goering
Althea Harrison (Cory & Amanda)
Harlan Stucky
13- Terence Goering
Calen Klassen (Scott Klassen)
Jay Krehbiel
Gordon Schrag
Betty J. Stucky (Richard)
Julia Waltner
14- Jace Dalke (Justin & Krystle)
Dennis Schmidt
Pamela Webb | 15- Cathy Fiedler
Kori Roberson (Steve & Robyn)
Maynard Stucky
16- Keith Goering
17- Noah Schrag (Steve and Maggie)
Dillon Schrag
Lanny Stucky
18- Jerold Neufeld
19- Jerri Kaufman
Victoria Mandeen (Pam)
20- Jared Brite
Jay Goering
Kris Waltner
21- Jim Haag
Linda Schrag
22- Dee Juhnke
Lynelle Stucky
Ella Wyssmann (T.J. & Annie)
23- Erma L. Goering
24- Preslie Doane (Heath & Sami)
Bret Preheim
Pam Schrag
Joy Thiessen
25- Keith Albrecht
Brad Cutting
Carina Knight
26- Diane Knight
Dustin Krehbiel
Maegen Stucky
27- Vance Unrau |
|--|--|

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

- 1- Blair & Kelly Goering
- 5- Wayne & Danielle Goering
James & Terri Neufeld
- 6- Warren & Jerri Kaufman
- 18- Jerry & Linda Schrag
- 21- Jeff & Becky Koller
- 25- Cory & Amanda Harrison

Up-Coming Events

January 26: Noon – Potluck meal followed by year in review
January 29: 6:00 p.m. Fellowship meal served in fellowship hall
 6:45 p.m. Bible study for all ages
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
February 3: 6:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg.
February 4: 7:00 p.m. Edu/Disc Commission mtg.
February 5 & 12: 6:00 p.m. Fellowship meal served in fellowship hall
 6:45 p.m. Bible study for all ages
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
February 13: 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
February 17: 7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at church office
February 19 & 26: 6:00 p.m. Fellowship meal served in fellowship hall
 6:45 p.m. Bible study for all ages
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

January 2020						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January/February

February 2020						
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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



Address Services Requested