



EDEN
Mennonite
Church
Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

March 2020
Issue Vol. 50 No. 2



The Better Behavior Bureau

In January, the leadership of Eden (Commissions, Eden Leadership Team, and two appointed Committees) gathered for a one-day retreat. Throughout the day we learned more about each other, we dreamed about what we hope to accomplish in 2020, and we paid attention to how our various commissions and committees interact with each other in our work.

It was inspiring to see such a large percentage of Eden’s leadership committing to this fun and eye-opening day.

One of the other things we did that day was to pay attention to our behaviors, specifically as they relate to our church life. Dianne and I believe our faith family is at a wonderful place right now: anxiety is low, we enjoy being together, and we are committed to following Jesus together. We also are aware that this congregation (as all others) has seen conflict and unhealthy behaviors at times throughout its history. Our goal was to name the unhealthy behaviors that we all have a tendency for and name alternatives, so that when anxiety goes up and disagreements arise, we will be prepared to maintain healthy behaviors. We came up with five behaviors that we have committed to practicing. They are posted at the office so we are reminded of them every time we meet. I share them with you now in the hopes that it can motivate you to think about your tendencies and intentionally grow into healthy behaviors in all aspects of life.

- *We promise to pray for and follow the Spirit’s leading before, during, and after our “work.”*

It is very easy for us to bring our own agendas into our church life. Instead, we intend to put our agendas aside to let the Holy Spirit’s agenda for us be our guide.

- *We promise to speak only for ourselves, openly and honestly, even when risky.*

Speaking honestly from the heart can be difficult and scary. As a way to feel safer, we bring other people into the conversation by saying things like, “Some people have been saying that…” We will resist this tendency by speaking only for ourselves and allowing others to speak for themselves.

- *We promise to intentionally listen to various voices, staying open to different opinions and possibilities.*

Sometimes we have already made up our minds about an issue or decision before the group has fully discerned together. We also live in an age where we seek out and are spoon-fed the voices we know we like and will agree with. God’s church has always been incredibly diverse, which is a crucial sign of God’s kingdom. We will be intentional about listening to a variety of voices, always staying open to new possibilities.

There’s more→→→→→

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- *We promise to see conflict/diversity as an opportunity for growth.*

We have fallen into the all too common practice of seeing conflict as a win/lose scenario.

- *We promise to love and care for each other through all the ups and downs of our work together.*

Disagreements and challenges are hard to work through and often can put a strain on our relationships. But we believe that our commitment to love each other through everything that happens is the most important way we can show each other and the world that we are followers of Jesus.




The Eden Leadership Team met on Monday, February 17, 2020.

Members present: Mark Stucky, Berni Kaufman, Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Barbara Stucky, Ken Stucky, Marcia Goering, Jerry Lankford, Jay Goering, Austin Goering, Pastor Derek King, Josh Regier, Matt Schrag, Candy Unrau, Guests: Eugene Goering, Dick Gehring, and Fred Schrag

1. **Lectio Divina devotions:** Psalm 23. Jay led us in prayer.
2. **Approval of January 13, 2020 minutes:** These were approved as submitted.
3. **Budget report:** Austin Goering reported income to date of \$53,000 and expenses of \$40,000. At the end of the month, our every two month donations to organizations will be made.

4. Commission and Pastor Reports

A. Peace and Witness: Mark Stucky reported that the Peace Sunday theme will be related to the 100th year of MCC. He would encourage young adults to consider attending a Borderlands Learning Tour in Texas/Mexico that is sponsored by MCC as a learning opportunity. Their commission is taking a close look at their budget in the light of cuts made. They have questions if some of their disbursements (web master monthly fee, newspaper publicity) might be moved to another category in the budget. After discussion, it was decided that they will let the current system run this calendar year and they will re-visit the issue in October/November when the next year's budget will be proposed.

B. Worship: Berni Kaufman reported that Judy Goering resigned from their commission and the gift discernment committee is seeking a replacement for her. They have paid the deposit for the Camp Mennoscah Eden summer retreat, July 11-12, 2020. First

Mennonite of Christian will join us. West Zion and At the Feet of Christ churches will be invited to attend as well. Eden will meet at Pine Village for Sunday morning worship on July 26, 2020.

C. Trustees: Matt Schrag submitted a report from Bill Zerger that the trustees are planning a work day at the church April 4, 2020 at 8am to install new window sashes, clean windows, general cleaning throughout the church and grounds, fill in dirt around grave markers where needed, inspect and adjust moveable wall system, and repair and paint church rural signage. The dishwasher valve has been moved to the South wall of the mechanical room. New flooring labor and material price quotes have been received: Fellowship Hall and north hallway: \$27,230, Sanctuary: \$27,166.03, Library and room to the north: \$3,737.16, and Kitchen: \$3,354.97.

D. Education: Marcia Goering reports that they have filled the Wednesday night openings for meal preparations. They will be having a service night February 26 where they will be making door decorations for residents of Pine Village.

E. Deacons: Barbara Stucky reported that Kristen Stucky attended an endowment committee meeting. They worked on preparations for the February 23, 2020 Wedding Feast of the Lamb celebration. They worked on the on-call schedule.

F. Stewardship: Ken Stucky - They have not met since the leadership retreat, but all of their members were present at the retreat and they had good discussion.

G. Pastor Dianne: She taught a ministry inquiry class in January and February. Amy Krehbiel and Shari Miller are planning to become members. We will officially welcome them to our congregation February 23, although they have both already been involved in our church family. Pastor Dianne also mentioned the care and support that has been given to Cheri Kaufman and her family during the illness, death, and celebration of life for her mother, Jan Hadley.

H. Pastor Derek: He reports a good experience at a 3-day school for leadership training that he attended at the seminary at Harrisonburg. Topics included

There's more →→→

ELT minutes continued

“Shalom in the Streets,” and a focus away from Facebook and polarizing media toward interaction with people. Derek is teaching Sunday school to Middle/HS youth which includes catechism curriculum, “Gods Story, Our Story,” by Michelle Hershberger. Baptism will be offered in the Spring. He was grateful for the good turnout and energy for the leadership retreat. The FEWZ youth group will be serving at the Soup Kitchen in Hutchinson on February 22, under leadership of Gary and Jean Regier. FEWZ is planning a youth trip this summer to Texas, which will include a mini border learning tour. They currently have 8-9 kids regularly attending. Pastor Derek will be attending the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series at Hesston College.

5. Clarification of Eden Endowment Committee:

Members of the current committee, Eugene Goering, Dick Gehring, and Fred Schrag were present to give some history of the endowment committee and address questions and concerns that have recently been raised. Issues discussed included: How does the endowment committee fit into our current church organizational structure? How much is currently in the fund? How big should the fund be allowed to get? What are the length of terms of committee members, and how are they replaced? Can the scope of gifts disbursed be expanded to include church building improvements? How should the awardees report back on the results? After much discussion, it was decided that the ELT executive, with the help of Pastor Dianne Schmidt, will look at updating the language of the Endowment Fund Policies and Procedures and will bring the proposed changes back to the ELT.

6. Next ELT meeting will be March 16, 2020 at the Eden Church Office at 7 pm.

Candace Unrau, Secretary



All women are invited to the **Western District Women in Mission Spring Supper on Thursday, March 12 at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS.** The meal starts at 6 pm with the program at 7 pm. Our Special Guest Speaker, Patty Shelly, Professor of Bible and Religion at Bethel College, will present “My Journey through Scripture”. Reservations required by calling Darlene @ 316-323-9762 or email westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com. Cost is \$10 and payable at the door.



Invitation to Share

The project for the month of March is Health Kits:

- 1 toothbrush, (adult size; leave in wrapper)
- 1 large bar bath soap
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color).

Place contents in a fabric double drawstring bag, 11” x 16”.

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 Museum in Uzbekistan” is the topic of Dr. James Juhnke’s talk at the annual meeting of Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



Dr. James Juhnke will be the speaker at the March 8 annual meeting of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association held at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel College Mennonite Church. “Mennonite Museum in Uzbekistan” is the title of the presentation. He will tell about the history of the Mennonite community that lived for fifty years near the city of Khiva, and how that community is now celebrated in a new museum in Khiva. He will address why the Mennonites moved to a Muslim area and why the Muslims there created a museum that remembers the Mennonites. The Handbell Choir of the Bethel College Mennonite Church will provide music. Election of SMCHA officers for 2020 will be held and there will be an opportunity for members to give counsel and ask questions. Refreshments will be served. No reservations are needed.

Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*



Dear Eden Church Family,

Thank you for the paper products—they definitely came in handy. Thanks also for your prayers through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Mike & Terri Gehring



The Eden Endowment Committee will be accepting grant requests until March 1st. Applications are available on the information stand in the fellowship hall.



Please join us for Game Night at Pine Village Wellness Center on Sunday, March 15. The evening of food, fellowship and fun begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring a favorite snack and/or drink to share, even a friend or two if you wish. All are invited and welcome to join in. We need the older, the younger and the in between. Come to play or visit. The great thing about a game night is the more who gather, the more fun it is for all. For information, contact Bret and Marla Gilmore, Rene and Kristin Kaufman, or Gary and Bonita

Special Dates

- ◆ First Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2020
- ◆ World Day of Prayer, March 6, 2020
- ◆ Second Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2020
- ◆ Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 8, 2020
- ◆ Third Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2020
- ◆ Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22, 2020
- ◆ Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, 2020



Mt. Hope Sanctuary of McPherson is looking for ministry-minded women for a part-time staff coaching position.

The Staff position is part-time with the hours of 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., every other Saturday and 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. every other Friday. The staff responsibilities include, but are not limited to, helping the women cook meals, pray with them, light cleaning, answering the phone and doors. This staff person would need to be able to walk, climb stairs, and have a basic computer knowledge. The starting pay is \$8/hr.

The coaching positions is part-time as well. Hours are flexible and vary depending on case load. The coach needs to be able to work with women with a variety of backgrounds, walk along side them through their Mt. Hope journey to self-sufficiency, be their main support, and be able to help them reach their personal goals and financial independence. The starting pay is \$9-\$10/hr. depending on experience.

Our Director of Staffing is Kayla Aguilar, and you can reach her through email at kayla.mthope@gmail.com or by phone at 620-241-1993.

The Moundridge Food Pantry is looking for an individual to become its Director as they serve those families and individuals in need in our community. If you have any interest or questions, please contact Rick Krehbiel at 620-386-4147.



MCC event produces thousands of comforters



Marleen Reinhardt, left, helps Chloe Obri, age 3 thread a needle so she can knot a comforter. Isaac Obri, age 5 works with his mother Sara Obri, in the background. They joined hundreds of volunteers at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio, for the Great Winter Warm-up event. MCC photo/ Jennifer Steiner

Written By: Emily Jones and Linda Espenshade

With the whirl of sewing machines, the snip of scissors and the hum of conversation as music to work by, volunteers across two continents completed 9,504 comforters as part of Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Great Winter Warm-up in January.

The total exceeded the goal of 6,500 comforters organizers set for the event. The Great Winter Warm-up comforters will jump-start the collection of more than 50,000 comforters MCC sends each year to people in crisis around the world.

Although the event centered around making comforters on Jan. 18, organizers counted contributions from anyone who made comforters specifically for Great Winter Warm-up, regardless of the day.

Nine hundred comforters were shipped Jan. 29 to Puerto Rico, where MCC is working with Mennonite Disaster Service to help people affected by multiple earthquakes in January.

"Surpassing the 6,500 goal is an incredible feat, but in some ways is not surprising. This is what our supporters do," says Ann Graber Hershberger, interim associate executive director of MCC U.S.

The day started early with events in Europe and continued in the United States and Canada. Despite the wintry weather in numerous locations, volunteers came to more than 100 locations – churches, offices, homes.

At Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio, about 280 volunteers of all ages came together to transform colorful fabric into cozy comforters.

"I was there when we reached 100 completed comforters," says Sara Obri, an MCC Great Lakes board member from Twinsburg, Ohio, "and everyone put their needle and thread down to clap and cheer." The group went on to finish 122 comforters.

The number 100 was significant to them and to MCC who, in 2020, celebrates 100 years of ministry – today providing relief, supporting sustainable development and encouraging peace in more than 50 countries. The Great Winter Warm-up was the first big event of the centennial year.

With more than 70 million people displaced in the world today, the need for relief and hope is growing. Last year, MCC shipped more than 53,000 comforters to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malawi, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Serbia, Syria and Ukraine as well as throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Every one of the comforters completed during the event is important, says Tom Wenger, MCC U.S. material resources coordinator.

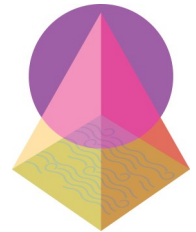
"Many of the people receiving these comforters have been displaced from their homes, needing to flee for their lives and leaving most of their possessions behind," Wenger says. "These beautiful, handmade comforters provide some warmth and demonstrate God's love by showing that somebody cares for them."

The community quilt tying event at Pine Village wellness center had 82 participants and completed 34 comforters.

God's Wonders

People travel to wonder
at the height of the mountains,
at the huge waves of the seas,
at the long course of the rivers,
at the vast compass of the ocean,
at the circular motion of the stars,
and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.

—St. Augustine



A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *lencten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD



People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.



Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



A type of horn MURTEP

Played by King David PRHA

Plucked to make sound IGSNSTR

Similar to a tambourine MRBELIT

A type of harp ELRY

Blown through to make sound EPPI

A percussion instrument YBLACMS

Let everyting tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet; harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, gymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV



MARCH

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1- May Juhnke
Terri Neufeld
David Schrag
Michael Stucky | 17- Gary Schrag |
| 2- Virginia Kaufman
Tillie Zerger | 18- Zachary Graber
Karen Kaufman
Shelly Krehbiel |
| 3- Anton Klassen | 19- Patty Clark |
| 4- Clarence Goering
Cory Graber
Carol Lichti
Douglas Waltner | 20- Matthew Thiesen |
| 5- Lonnie E. Schrag
MARIKE Stucky
Dianne Schmidt
Dennis Wedel | 21- Daniel Graber
Elaina Graber (Nathan & Krista)
Nathaniel Graber
Sawyer Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Marcy Schrag |
| 6- Grant McGinness (Paul & Claudia)
Glenna Schrag
Wanita Schrag | 22- Alexa Hoffmann (Phil & Kristy)
Herb Stucky, Jr.
John Elmer Stucky |
| 7- Claudia McGinness | 23- Whitney Fast |
| 8- Waneta Goering | 25- Ashton Goering (Blair & Kelly)
Robert K. Stucky
Erika Zahn |
| 9- Matt Harmon
Emily Knight
Gail Stucky | 26- Marcia Hiebert
Lynn Kaufman
Sandra Koontz
Cole Stucky |
| 10- Steven W. Schrag
Sara Hocking | 27- Kennedy Krehbiel (Dustin & Amy)
Zachary Roberson (Steve & Robyn)
Taylor Sechrist
Wes Stucky |
| 11- Doug Stucky | 28- Larry D. Goering
Patricia Mead |
| 12- Janice Graber
Marge Kaufman | 29- Lachlan Goering (Patrick & Jennifer)
Marvin J. Goering
Morgan Kaufman
Clinton Krehbiel |
| 13- Roland Kaufman
Jessica Neufeld
Brian Schrag
Boston Smith (Ian & Shayna)
Erland Wayne Waltner
Addison Westfall (Jacob & Tonya) | 31- Dylan Juhnke (Vaughn & Dee)
Richard L. Stucky
Elliot Thompson (Chris & Kristeen) |
| 14- Ren Flickinger | |
| 15- Ty Unrau | |
| 16- James Neufeld
Jeff Snyder | |



MARCH

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- Derrick & Laura Law
Alan & Tina Waltner | 21- Perry & Betty Kaufman
Paul & Sherri Marsh
Russell & Lynelle Stucky |
| 2- Merlin & Lisa Goering
Morris & Diana Stucky | 24- Duane & Carol Stucky |
| 7- Paul & Claudia McGinness | 27- Wayne & Laurie Schrag |
| 8- Duane & LaDonna Wedel | 28- Todd & Sandy Arnold |
| 16- Dick & Kaylene Gehring | 29- Keith & Connie Schrag |
| 19- Daniel & Annette Knoll | 30- Larry & Betty Krehbiel |
| 20- Robert & DeLonna Barnett | 31- Orville & Mary Ann Waltner |

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

Up-Coming Events

- March 2:** 6:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg.
March 8: Daylight Saving Time begins
March 4 & 11: 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
March 10: 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
March 11: 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
March 12: 7:00 p.m. Edu./Disc. Commission mtg.
March 16: 7:00 p.m. ELT meets at church office
March 17: 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship mtg.
March 18: 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
April 4: Church Workday

March 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				



April 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		



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