

The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

April 2021 Issue Vol. 1 No. 2



A note from the Pastor

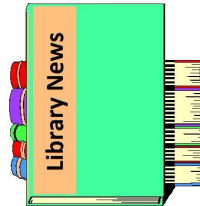
For the first time in my amateur gardening career, I planted seeds inside. I'm not sure why I made the decision; I've always loved getting tall healthy starter plants and feeling like fresh tomatoes or cucumbers were close. For some reason this year, I thought I'd give it a try to grow my own little plants in the house and see what would come up. Just a couple weeks in, I am already realizing why I didn't do this before: I have no patience.

I would hope that COVID-19 has helped me become more patient, but seeing a bit of a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel has caused me to run even faster. I can't wait to be done with all the precautions. I actually feel less patient now than I did back in the Fall. Yet, now is the time (or perhaps it's always the time) to grow in patience, especially when the end seems so near. Yet, now is the time (or perhaps it's always the time) to grow in patience, especially when the end seems so near.

Every Easter I think about this, because I want the reality that God reveals on Easter to be fully realized. I am so tired of sin and death wreaking havoc on this beautiful world and I can't wait for God to renew it and renew us. I am in awe of the power of God to resurrect Jesus and I want that to be our reality now. It makes Easter both amazing and frustrating at the same time, because I just can't wait any longer.

Yet, my seed sprouts are helping me to learn more patience. While I want tomatoes as soon as possible, I have these beautiful tiny sprouts. They are small and fragile. They will grow at their own speed, not at mine. So, I can be frustrated at them for not giving me fruit right now, or I can appreciate them for what they are: simple signs of what is to come, yet also beautiful creations just as they are right now.

DL A.K.



Have you seen the new signs in the church library? They detail the ways in which we are quarantining books to enhance our safety measures. Books that are returned to the library during the week and on a Sunday will be in our quarantine bin for a total of one week. Many libraries have implemented quarantine measures from 3-7 days based on the recommendation from a series of studies done by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), designed to test the persistence of the coronavirus on books and materials.

What can you do to help? If you grab a book or magazine, even if you don't check it out, please return to the quarantine bin. We will reshelve them after a period of quarantine. We look forward to continuing to provide materials in a safe and healthy way!

Amanda Harrison
Eden Librarian

EDEN MENNONITE CHURCH

BORROWING A BOOK FOR JUST A MINUTE?

Please return in the book return bin and it will be quarantined for a week before returning to the shelf.





FEWZ+

When the FEWZ youth group was created, it was a joint effort between the three local Mennonite churches: First, Eden, and West Zion, hence the name, FEWZ. While the core of the group still has its roots in these congregations, it has undergone an exciting expansion. As youth have invited friends to join them and go deeper in their faith, the group has grown to include youth who attend other churches or no church at all. The common thread holding them all together is a willingness to explore their faith in open, honest ways.

In our time together this school year, we have been exploring the meaning of the "Kingdom of God" and learning what God desires in our relationships with each other. We've had meaningful experiences praying with and for each other and had lots of fun just hanging out around fires and playing games in the church buildings late into the night. We are looking forward to the opportunity to attend the Mennonite Church USA Convention this summer, in-person, virtually, or both.

Finally, we are excited that Jr. FEWZ launched in March, built on the same concept of growing deeper in faith together. This group consists of 6th-8th grade youth from the three Mennonite churches as well as participants from other various church backgrounds. All these youth and sponsors could use your prayers, support, and encouragement as we become more rooted and grounded in God's love.

Eden Leadership Team

Summary of March meeting

Worship Commission plans to have flowers placed on the cross by congregation members as they arrive on Easter Sunday. They are also looking at options for including the *Halleluiah Chorus* on Easter. They have sent a refundable deposit for the Camp Mennoscah retreat weekend in July. They are looking at a possible \$12,000 upgrade to the video system.

Matt Schrag reported that the trustees are looking at different quotes for replacing carpet and flooring in the church building. They are also exploring why two of the three boilers are not working properly.

The Stewardship Commission reviewed finances. They note we are behind on our giving to keep pace with our budget.

Our last pictorial directory pictures were taken January/February of 2017. The church office has been contacted by a company to make an appointment for this and they are booking out six to eight months. There was discussion about checking what kind of cancellation policy they have if we were to make a commitment.

The Education/Discipleship Commission is looking for more teachers for the 2-3 year old Sunday school class. They have heard good feedback about the current curriculum. This curriculum will end in May, so they are looking into new material.

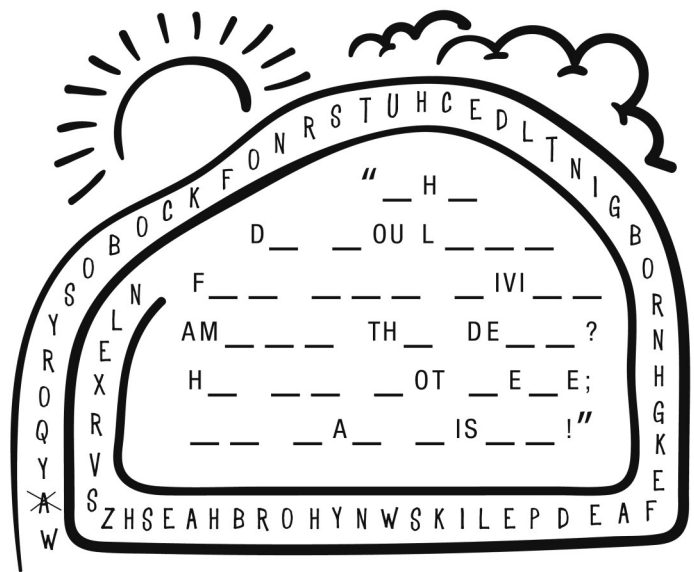
The next ELT meeting will be April 20 at 7:15 p.m.



EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



As I am preparing to return home, my family and I express our gratitude to our caring church community for the kind cards, prayers, and heartfelt thoughts sent for our recovery. We are truly blessed and very thankful.

Paula and Ken Goering

Dear Church Family,

I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to those who have remembered me with cards, prayers, calls and visits during the last two years at Pine Village.

Clarene Stucky

Thank you for your recent designated gift to Hesston College. We are grateful for your support, which allows more students to study and learn in Hesston's Christ-centered community. We ask for your continued prayers for our students, faculty and staff as we strive to fulfill our mission of service to others in the church and around the world.

Rachel Swartzendruber Miller

Vice President of Advancement

Thank you very much for our generous contribution to Mobility Worldwide Kansas (formerly PET). Your gift helps us give the Gift of mobility to the millions in the world in need of our special wheelchair. Every dollar raised gives the Gift of Hope for those who cannot walk. With help from Health and Mobility Charities, Mobility Carts have been sent to 104 countries around the world.

Christine Goering, Mobility Worldwide

Like the deep-rooted prairie grass that holds the soil in place through blizzards and drought, Bethel College stands strong in our aim to prepare students for meaningful lives of work and service. Founded on a love of learning and guided by the Anabaptist spirit, the college holds up our students and faculty as they push themselves to excellence in the studio, lab, classroom, stage, and playing field.

Thank you for contributing to the education and faith formation of our students.

Ben Lichti, Coordinator of Church Relations

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

Thank you for your gift to AMBS. Your support is vital in helping us to carry out our mission to educate leaders with hearts on fire for God's reconciling mission in the world.

"My time at Seminary overlapped with my time as both a pastor and international service worker," Eric Frey Marten reflected. "My classes, professors and fellow students helped to energize my ongoing ministry as I was continually learning and exploring new ways to view my faith."

Thanks for your support.

Daniel B. Grimes, Vice President for Advancement & Enrollment



- 3- Kenneth L. Stucky
 - 4- Monica Ewy
Marge Goering
 - 5- Bret Gillmore
 - 6- Luene Flickinger
Rhett Stucky (David)
 - 7- Greta Koehn
 - 8- Angela Harmon
Karen Stucky
 - 9- Gib Burgan
Howard Kaufman
Kathy Neufeld
 - 10- Kirby Goering
Katie Gillmore
Sandra Stephenson
 - 12- Andrew Goering
 - 14- Heath Goering
Nathan Graber
Reid Graber (Nathan & Shelby)
Kathy Waltner
 - 15- Ben J. Schrag
Kenneth H. Stucky
 - 16- Leland Flickinger
 - 17- Marjorie Stucky
 - 18- Bonita Howard
Don Kaufman
 - 19- Jerry L. Schrag
Mary Schrag
 - 20- Lucas Stucky
 - 21- Josh Knight
 - 22- Cory Howard
Rory Howard
 - 23- Beverly Goering
 - 24- Danielle Goering
Daniel Knoll
Connie Schrag
Nathan Vontz (Nick & Lori)
 - 25- Linda Goering
Delmer Kaufman
Elwood Stucky
 - 30- Tenise Wedel Hall
- Anniversaries**
- 2- Mark & Pat Rupp
 - 8- Gib & Kay Burgan
 - 9- Gary & Bonita Howard
 - 12- Tim & Susan Goering
 - 13- Greg & Glenda Krehbiel
 - 18- Robert & Sondra Tolle
 - 25- Zach & Kali Graber
 - 30- LaVerne & Luene Flickinger
Del & Ann Kaufman
Greg & Karen Stucky

To: Area Conferences, MC
USA member congregations,
Racial/Ethnic Groups:

It has been an interesting two years to say the least. 2020 was a year filled with pain and uncertainty for many in our nation and across the globe. Usually at this time I would be drafting a letter encouraging you to prepare for our biennial Delegate Assembly. While we will still host our **Delegate Assembly July 10, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**, how we gather will be much different. Our 2021 gathering will be virtual as the global pandemic has changed if not hindered our ability to connect and discuss the issue of faith and life that impact the people of MC USA.



The 2021 Delegate Assembly will be a shortened virtual event with a limited agenda. Whether you travel to Cincinnati or connect from the comfort of your own home, we hope to see you participate in the delegate process.

The Delegate Assembly is your opportunity to not only speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies, but it is also an opportunity for you to connect with and listen to the various members in our great and diverse denomination.

Check out the attached FAQ page to see how many delegates you are allowed as well as the registration process. Stay tuned for more details posted on the delegate tab of the convention website: <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/>

May God's Spirit continue to lead and guide our denomination.

Glen Guyton
Executive Director
Mennonite Church USA



Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.



Camp Mennoscah is seeking a full-time Director of Development, Marketing & Communications to lead our ongoing operational and advancement needs. This professional must embrace the mission of Camp Mennoscah, have an established background in coordinating nonprofit donation strategies, possess strong written, interpersonal, leadership and relationship building skills, and work as an independent contributor with good organization and follow-through. Most of the work will commence off campus, however some in-person time at camp is required. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled and early submission is encouraged. Please send application materials (resume, cover letter, references and salary requirements) to campmennojobs@att.net

Mt. Hope Sanctuary, McPherson is looking for a live-in House Manager. Contact Julie Holloway at julie.mthope@gmail.com or call 620-245-7157 for more information.

Newton Et Cetera Shop is grateful for your donated items, your volunteer time, and your shopping enthusiasm! We have three requests for you this spring:

1. Please let your friends and neighbors know we're **hiring a full-time Home Goods Manager!** The job description and applications are available on our website (newtonetceterashop.com) and at our shop; applications are due April 19, 2021.
2. We are in need of **high-quality furniture, toys and home goods** at this time. Our current donation schedule is the first and third Wednesday of each month, 9:30-6:00, and we hope to add Wednesdays in April and May.
3. We **welcome new volunteers!** Amazingly, we welcomed the same number of new volunteers (40!) in 2020 in the midst of a pandemic, as we did in 2019! If you're interested in learning more, please visit our website or facebook page, send us an email expressing interest to manager@newtonetceterashop.com, or call us at 316-283-9461. **Thank you for supporting your local MCC Thrift Shop!**

