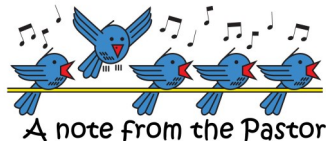


The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

March 2021 Issue Vol. 1 No. 1



“Are we in tune?” is a frequent question that musicians ask each other. Staying in tune requires careful listening and adjusting our voices or instruments to blend and create beautiful music. It doesn't happen automatically, we must practice; paying careful attention to each part to produce in tune harmonies.

Staying “in tune” can also be seen as a spiritual practice both as individuals and as a community of faith. As Christians our desire is to stay in tune with God. As we worship, study, read, and engage in conversations, we are listening for the Spirit's voice. We are tuning in to hear God's deepest desires for us and for our world. This is our ongoing task to recognize the ways God is at work in the world and discover what God is calling us to do and to be in our current context. This is an art and a discipline to continue to align our decisions and actions with God's as we enter God's story and sing God's song.

The beauty of being a church family is that we are creating God's song together. I am so glad to be part of the Eden family. Even during these difficult months of the pandemic, we have been learning, growing, and finding ways to connect with each other in new ways. New melodies and harmonies have merged. We've learned to Zoom!

This newly, resurrected newsletter is one way for us to stay connected to each other. It is an avenue for us to see and hear what is happening in different parts of our congregational life and recognize God's work among us. Let's stay in touch with each other.

Pastor Dianne



Eden Leadership Team

Summary of February meeting

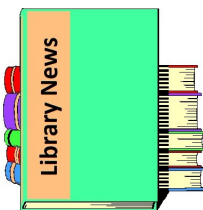
First, Eden, and West Zion (FEWZ) youth have continued to meet at various churches. They prepared a meal for STEP-MC as a service project. **Junior FEWZ will be starting in March for 6th-8th graders**, led by Pastor Brad Roth. Josh and Emily Regier will be helping with social events and Pastor Derek will help where needed. The High School and Junior group will meet together for a meal and will separate for further activities/studies.

The Peace/Witness Commission is brainstorming ideas for projects and opportunities to witness to our church, community and world. They welcome input.

The Trustee Commission is looking at ways to decrease the cost of church utilities. They are also looking at dates in March for a church workday. Much of the church flooring, (carpet, vinyl tile) needs to be replaced and the trustees are getting quotes for this project. The work we need to be spread over several years.

The Worship Commission is planning for Lent, Holy Week and Good Friday. There may be a joint Easter sunrise service with other Mennonite churches.

The Ad-hoc Building use committee is planning returning to worship in the building on March 7. A Zoom link will continue to be offered as an option for those who may be uncomfortable with in person worship.



In all the challenges of this year and last, I know that personally books have provided both solace and entertainment. I have reread many and have also found new authors and writers to follow. Probably, like many of you, I have also marveled at descriptions of dances, parades, and group dinners, those ‘normal’ activities that now seem so marvelous!

But rather than tell you about my favorites, I am curious, what books are you interested in reading next? What types of resources would you like to see? I look forward to adding to our church library and hope to hear from you.

Amanda Harrison



Thank you for your recent gift to the McPherson County Community Foundation for the Steps to End Poverty fund. 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 our investment in your community.

Sincerely,
Becky Goss
President/CEO

Thank you for donating to MCC in 2020. We could not have expected that in MCC's centennial year, the world would be hit with a disaster of the magnitude of the coronavirus pandemic. We so appreciate your support though it all and the life-changing ministries that you made possible during an extraordinary year.

With Gratitude,
Ann Graber Hershberger
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Executive Director

Your December gift to MennoMedia made a big difference! You helped us raise more than \$115,000 in December in response to our year-end appeal to support Shine Sunday school curriculum, surpassing our goal of \$109,000. Because of you,

- Thousands of kids will continue learning about Jesus from an Anabaptist perspective
- Our Shine team is empowered to create new faith formation products
- Our research continues on how to meet the changing needs of churches and families

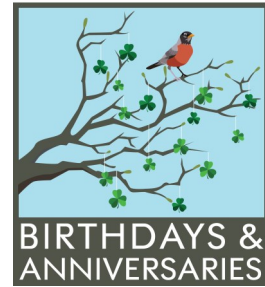
Thank you for our ongoing support and partnership!
Gratefully,
Amy Gingerich, Executive Director



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a catastrophic impact globally on health, economic well-being and inequality. Oxfam estimates it will take more than a decade for vulnerable communities to recover. In a letter to President Biden, MCC joined other organizations in calling for increased international pandemic assistance as hundreds of millions of people slip into poverty, more than three billion lack access to health care and many more lack the resources to recover economically.

On January 27, six senators reintroduced the Support for Global Financial Institution Pandemic Response Act (S. 67). Many vulnerable low-income countries lack the resources to cope with COVID-19 and a global economic downturn. This bill would direct the International Monetary Fund to assist by freeing up reserve assets at no cost to U.S. taxpayers. Ask your senators to support a robust financial international response to the global pandemic.

MARCH



- 2- Virginia Kaufman
Tillie Zerger
- 3- Anton Klassen
- 4- Clarence Goering
Cory Graber
- 5- Marike Stucky
Dianne Schmidt
Dennis Wedel
- 6- Glenna Schrag
- 8- Waneta Goering
- 9- Matt Harmon
Emily Knight
Lance Loganbill
Gail Stucky
- 13- Boston Smith (Ian & Shayna)
Addison Westfall (Jacob & Tonya)
- 16- Jeff Snyder
- 17- Gary Schrag
- 18- Zachary Graber
Karen Kaufman
- 21- Elaina Graber (Nathan & Krista)
Nathaniel Graber
Sawyer Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Marcy Schrag
- 22- Herb Stucky, Jr.
- 25- Robert K. Stucky
- 26- Marcia Hiebert
Lynn Kaufman
- 27- Kennedy Krehbiel (Dustin & Amy)
Taylor Sechrist
Wes Stucky
- 29- Marvin J. Goering
Morgan Kaufman
- 31- Elliot Thompson (Chris & Kristeen)

Anniversaries

- 1- Derrick & Laura Law
- 8- Duane & LaDonna Wedel
- 16- Dick & Kaylene Gehring
- 21- Perry & Betty Kaufman
Russell & Lynelle Stucky
- 27- Wayne & Laurie Schrag
- 29- Keith & Connie Schrag
- 30- Larry & Betty Krehbiel
- 31- Orville & Mary Ann Waltner