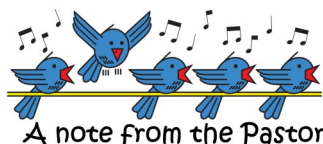


The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

May 2021 Issue Vol. 1 No. 3



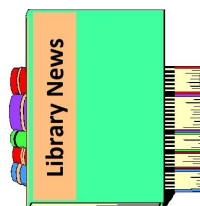
A note from the Pastor

In *The Berenstain Bears: Get in a Fight*, Brother and Sister Bear let their frustrations with each other boil over until they have to draw a line down the center of their unfinished tree house to make a clear boundary between them that is not to be crossed. I remember that page clearly from reading the book as a child and it seemed so silly to draw a line down the middle of a tree house. The reality was that I probably did something similar with my siblings.

A couple weeks ago I heard of a church that was so divided about whether or not to wear masks in worship that they separated the congregation into two rooms, one for masks, one without. Now, I don't know the pain and struggle they went through to come to that decision, so I hesitate to judge too harshly, but it breaks my heart to think that a community of Jesus followers would be so ideologically and practically separate and distant from each other. We, too, are not immune from this deep division in beliefs about how to respond to COVID-19. Our actions, however, have given me hope.

What I have seen is a group of people that is more committed to each other and to Jesus than our differing viewpoints. I have witnessed those who would like to proceed with less guidelines willing to wear a mask and keep some distance, because that's what the faith family is doing. I am grateful that we have not had to draw a line between us. In the days ahead, as we move closer and closer to setting aside some of our safety practices, I hope that we continue to see each other with compassion and commitment. May we see our brothers and sisters who are scared and be moved to sacrifice our comfort to show our love for them. May we who have been scared see that our brothers and sisters around us have laid aside their preferences for the well-being of the family and our broader community. May we all be drawn closer together by the sacrificial love of Jesus.

Al A. K.



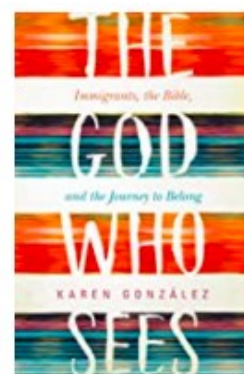
Literature is one great way of exploring our faith by looking at the inner struggles and faith formation of others. Check out these new books in the Eden library!

Faith, Farming, and Family by Kansan Caitlin Henderson explores how to survive and thrive by examining biblical truth, and embracing the challenges of raising a family and living out your faith.

The God Who Sees by Karen Gonzalez explores Gonzalez' own account of migration from Guatemala to the United States and encountering Christ through a campus ministry program.

Searching for Sunday by Rachel Held Evans explores the seven sacraments through stories, honesty and her personal experience of rediscovering her faith.

Chasing Vines by Beth Moore explores a way to find a meaningful, Christ-centered life. **Audacious**, also by Moore, further looks at her own life to find ways to infuse purpose and passion, no matter your position.





FEWZ

Some of my (Derek) most vivid memories from my teenage years are my experiences at the national church convention with my youth group. They were always amazing times to gather with Mennonites from different places and backgrounds. I learned a lot by seeing the cultural and language diversity within our own denomination and hearing about how God's Spirit was moving in our sister churches all over the country. This year, the Mennonite Church USA Convention is taking place in Cincinnati, OH, July 6-10. Because of COVID-19, this year's "gathering" is a hybrid, utilizing in person and virtual elements. Our FEWZ youth group is hoping to be able to attend in person. We are excited for the chance to safely meet other youth for worship and faith formation. We hope to learn from diverse Christian perspectives, explore a new city, and deepen our relationships with each other. We welcome your support and prayers as we prepare for this exciting opportunity.

Eden Leadership Team

Summary of April meeting

Budget Update—Total income: \$98,679.95.
Expenses: \$97,906.57

Stewardship is discussing ways of communicating budget concerns to the congregation and plan to do quarterly update announcements in the bulletin.

Worship Commission presented suggestions for updating the COVID guidelines. The summer worship theme will be Parables of Jesus with possible outside worship occasionally. Camp Mennoscah Retreat is July 10-11.

The Trustees shared quotes for replacing 2 of the 3 boilers and for replacing carpeting and flooring. There was discussion about possibly using Capital Building funds for these projects. Some plumbing repairs and installation of new windows has occurred and other issues are being discovered.

Peace and Witness Commission is considering projects involving prison rehabilitation, immigrant children in Texas, and/or a partnership with a school, church, or mosque in Gaza and looking at providing a "Peace Corner" item in the church newsletter.

The deacons have discussed concerns of the church moving forward past the COVID epidemic. Deacons continue to make connections with church members who are isolated and look forward to more

in-person visits.

The Education Commission will be changing the Jr SS curriculum in June. A service project is planned at Pine Village in May. Children's Day will be June 6 outdoors with a meal. Changes to SS COVID guidelines have been discussed. VBS will be July 11-13 and 2 volunteers are needed from Eden to serve on the committee.

Pastor Dianne reported that Holy Week was busy and meaningful. She is beginning to be able to do in-person visits to residents.

Pastor Derek is working on Summer planning during Dianne's sabbatical. He hopes to take a group of Youth to conference in Cincinnati. Upgrades to the video system are in process. Derek longs for unity in establishing COVID guidelines to maximize safety and has been filled with hope and gratitude throughout the process.

The ad hoc building committee has been dissolved and ELT is now the decision making entity for our timeline. Changes in the guidelines were discerned.

Pastor Derek has a lead on an assistant during Dianne's sabbatical.

October 28, 29 and 30 will be booked for the Pictorial Directory. Volunteers will be needed for the process.

The next meeting will be May 18 at 7:15 p.m.



Our Jr. Sunday school department has been active. Above is a picture of the bulletin board created by the 6th-8th grade Sunday school class with the help of their teacher Jean Regier.



Marcella Schrag leads a prayer for the Hygiene Kits and the people who will receive them prior to the Service Project on Wednesday, April 7. Nearly 100 kits were prepared for Mennonite Central Committee that evening.

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode
Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.

CLUES:

Y = T, D = I

Y K T P Y D X Y J Z

— — — — — — — — — —

V Q K R F D Y J O V V

— — — — — — — — — —

C Q T K J Z O K Y, O X R

— — — — — — — — — —

R Q X Q Y K Z V C Q X

— — — — — — — — — —

C Q T K Q F X D X P D L J Y.

— — — — — — — — — —

Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on
your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

APRIL



- 1- Eugene H. Goering
Robyn Roberson
Bernice Zerger
- 3- Stuart Kaufman
Ethan Rose (Leslie Earlston)
- 5- Marilyn Preheim
- 6- Travis Graber
Brandon Kaufman
- 10- Ayden Fleming
- 11- Jacob Ewy
- 13- Shelby Graber
- 14- Kali Graber
Duane Wedel
- 16- Keelan Graber (Zach and Kali)
Sylvia Vogt
- 18- Teresa Graber
- 20- Molly Flickner
- 21- Jeff Koller
- 23- Zoe Vontz (Nicholas & Lori)
LaDonna Wedel
- 25- Jerry Lankford
Avery Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)
- 26- Rene Kaufman
- 27- Adelaid Polo Goering (Patricia Goering
& Said Polo)
- 28- Jerrod Dalke
- 29- Patsy Klassen
Matthew Schrag

May Anniversaries

- 7- E. Fred & Beverly Goering
- 12- Steve & Linda Graber
Kyle & Robin Schrag
- 17- Tim & Amber Stucky
- 20- Herb & Lorita Zook
- 21- Ronnie & Pam Schrag
- 23- Michael & Greta Koehn
Kenneth L. & Barbara Stucky
- 24- Leslie & Joy Thiessen
- 27- David & Joyce Anderson
Cory & Amanda Harrison
- 28- Ian & Shayna Smith

Bible Quiz

Complete this proverb: "Like snow
in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor
is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn



Answer: B (See Proverbs 26:1, ESV.)



Greetings from the Eden Endowment Committee.

The Eden Endowment Fund was active and able to award up to \$25,000 this year. Seven requests were made-- we were able to grant most of the requested funds.

2021 Grants are as follows:

Delonna Barnett with Angels Attic states their motto is "Share what you have – take what you need – pay it forward." Angels Attic was closed most of last year due to the pandemic, but the rent continued. Angels Attic can help many people, including the refugees Eden is supporting and many from Valley Hope. Some come with next to nothing and are extremely thankful for a shop like this. \$4500 was granted.

Casie Wiens with Cradle to Crayons requested funds for scholarships to assist families finding themselves on hard times. Assistance in providing childcare is a great help for struggling, working parents. They asked for a continuation for this project. \$700 was granted.

Pat Krehbiel with the Senior Citizens Center requested assistance for personnel who were laid off during the pandemic. Since March, the center has everyone back to regular hours but would like to get employees who lost hours some of their wages back. \$1500 was granted.

Sue Schrag gifted 78 comforters last year to MCC for those falling on hard times or suffering from tragic events. She was seeking assistance with materials to make comforters. \$1500 was granted.

Kirby and Christine Goering with Mobility Worldwide KS/PET continue to help the handicapped by mobile. They would use funds to buy supplies to build and distribute carts. \$5600 was granted.

Kristen Stucky requested funds for a summer reading program called "Books on Blankets." The program promotes a positive reading experience for the whole family and will provide snacks and books to families who may have limited access. \$600 was granted.

Bonita Howard with the Eden Worship Committee requested funds to upgrade the video recording system—including cameras and other equipment including the mixer and monitor. The video should be greatly improved, and the recording system enhanced for participants watching our live stream. \$10,600 was granted.

As always, the Endowment Committee is grateful for the generous donations received in the last year and you can see how that giving continues to provide. Please give this fund your prayerful consideration as even a small percentage of your estate will allow future mission work for generations to come. As you can see, this fund is providing great opportunities in our community!



MCC is hiring a multimedia producer! Check out the [job description and apply today!](#)

Camp Mennoscah is seeking to fill a part-time custodian/housekeeper position. Hours average 10 per week and are flexible, dependent upon the camp schedule. For more information, contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org

Camp Mennoscah is seeking a full-time Director of Development, Marketing & Communications to lead our ongoing operational and advancement needs. More information at www.campmennoscah.org. Applications accepted until the position is filled; early submission encouraged. Please send application materials (resume, cover letter, references and salary requirements) to campmennojbs@att.net.

Camp Mennoscah needs nurses for June 17-19 (First Camp), June 20-26 (Junior I) and July 25-30 (Senior High). Nurses receive a stipend or a discount up to full camp fees for their camper (camper does not have to attend the same camp week). Contact us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for more information.

Seeking a Chaplain: Bethesda Home, in Goessel, KS, is looking for a part-time chaplain. Interested parties may apply on the Bethesda website: www.bethesdahome.org. Please contact Marci Heidebrecht in Human Resources for additional information at 620-367-2291 x 229 or mheidebrecht@bethesdahome.org.