

# The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

August 2021 Issue Vol. 1 No. 6

## Note from the Pastor

I consider myself to be a seasoned veteran of Mennonite Church Conventions. I was present at 10 of the last 14 conventions, filling various roles including Youth Participant, Volunteer, and Youth Sponsor. Conventions have been important in my life because of the opportunity to be inspired by gathering with several thousand brothers and sisters in our particular family of Christian faith. It has been a wonderful chance to meet with people from all over the country to sing the same songs and hear the same theology. This year, while all of those things happened, I was also even more aware of our differences as a church.

Of course we sang "606", of course we ran into old friends from our Mennonite Colleges, of course our Bible study emphasized the peace of Jesus. And, we sang in Indonesian, and we were led in worship by a team consisting of a white woman from Kansas, an African-American man from Virginia, and an Indonesian immigrant from Pennsylvania. We received an inspiring message from the Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA who happens to be an African-American, former military man from Texas. Even our youth group, which began consisting of high schoolers from three Mennonite churches, embodies this diversity as we have grown to include youth from three additional congregations, two of which are not Mennonite.

In a time when difference seems to create so much division, it was humbling and inspiring to see difference not only tolerated, but celebrated. Speaker Megan-Larissa Good of Phoenix reminded us that we may not be able to draw closer to people who are very different from us by our own power, but if we move closer to Jesus as the center of our lives, then we will automatically become closer to anyone else who is moving closer to Jesus, regardless of our differences. My hope is that all of us will move closer to Jesus and in the process, see that our differences are opportunities to learn and celebrate the multi-colored Kingdom of God.



## New kids books available in the library!

### **Prairie Days** by Patricia MacLachlan

Cool summer mornings begin with the rose orange sun and the smell of earth, and fade into hot summer nights with a yellow moon, covered in a quilt of stars. There are wagon rides, farm dogs, trips into town, and games of kick the can. These are prairie days.

### **Roll with it** by Jamie Sumner

Ellie's a girl who tells it like it is. That surprises some people, who see a kid in a wheelchair and think she's going to be all sunshine and cuddles. The thing is, Ellie has big dreams.

### **Nowhere Boy** by Katherine Marsh

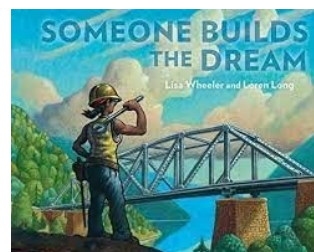
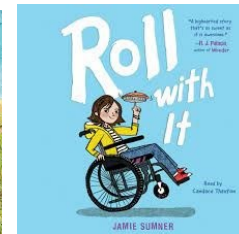
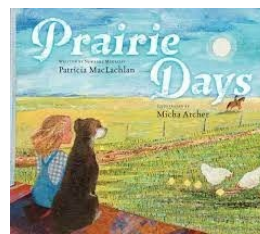
Fourteen-year-old Ahmed is stuck in a city that wants nothing to do with him. Newly arrived in Brussels, Belgium, Ahmed fled a life of uncertainty and suffering in Aleppo, Syria, only to lose his father on the perilous journey to the shores of Europe.

### **Someone Builds the Dream** by Lisa Wheeler

All across this great big world, jobs are getting done by many hands in many lands. It takes much more than ONE.

### **Anne of Green Gables Graphic Novel version**

Schoolyard rivalries. Baking disasters. Puffed sleeves. Explore the violet vales and glorious green of Avonlea in this spirited adaptation.



## Eden Leadership Team

The Eden Leadership Team (ELT) met on July 20 with the meeting opening with the reading of 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 by Josh Regier.

**JoLene Kaufman shared that the Worship Commission** will continue to place offering plates and bulletins on the table outside the sanctuary. They have also discussed Retreat Weekend at Camp Mennoscah. The numbers were down this year (about 45) on Sunday. With low numbers it is challenging to find people to plan meals and activities for the event. The question was raised if the Camp Mennoscah Retreat should continue, since only about a third of our attending members attend. ELT discussion included the comment that the pandemic may have contributed to lower numbers this year, as well as the conflict that prevented First Mennonite Church of Christian from attending.

**The Trustees are a very busy Commission at this time.** They are looking at the possibility of updating to more efficient boilers at the church building. Trustee, Matt Schrag reported upfront costs are more, but would save money in the long run. They are also considering updating the outdated control system for the HVAC system. They are compiling quotes for repairing the roof/windows/skylights/stucco due to hail damages. They are also addressing a problem with our current well, which is pumping sand and cannot produce enough water for proper watering of trees. They are also continuing to gather information regarding new carpeting plans and are prioritizing these various needs.

**The deacons have modified their care plans for the congregation in Dianne's absence.** Jeff Koller also shared that the deacons plan to present the updated sexual abuse policy that was approved by the ELT shortly before the pandemic started. This presentation will take place during the Sunday school hour the fifth Sunday of August.

**Pastor Derek shared about his continuing time spent with multiple broader church connections and ministries** that seem to be going well. He is a mentor for a younger pastor in Western District Conference (WDC). He attends monthly Pastor Peer meetings with two other conference pastors for support and prayer. He is also a member of the Resource Commission of WDC, and has accepted the nomination of a second three year term in this role, to be affirmed in Delegate Session of the Conference Assembly at the end of July. He will also serve as a delegate at this Conference Assembly.

Pastor Derek, along with Kristin Kaufman took the FEWZ youth group to the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Cincinnati. The youth had positive comments about

the event. Pastor Derek attended 8 seminars in addition to 3 whole group Bible studies and 5 whole group Worship services.

Pastor Derek continues to work ahead on plans for worship services and pastoral care during Dianne's Sabbatical, and reports that so far, things are going smoothly. Pastor Derek coordinated a brief morning worship service in the Pine Village chapel for residents on July 28 at 11 a.m. This is part of a weekly schedule shared by all the connected churches.

The next ELT meeting is scheduled for August 17 at 7:15 p.m. at the Eden Church Office.

# Puzzle!

Answer each statement by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write the circled letters on the numbered lines below to complete the biblical word.

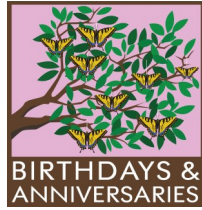
	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi is Ruth's mother.	D	(R)
2. Ruth is a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wants Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah is Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lives in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz is a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth makes a living begging at Bethlehem's gates.	X	E
8. Boaz instructs his field workers to leave extra grain for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz is related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

R  


---

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Answer: 1. R, 2. T, 3. N, 4. S, 5. C, 6. U, 7. E, 8. E, 9. R, 10. I, 11. R, 12. O; RESURRECTION



- 1- Jim Dalke  
Ryan Goering
- 2- Susan Goering  
Betty Krehbiel  
Esther Schrag
- 3- Lenora Gehring
- 4- Orville Waltner
- 5- Denise Krehbiel
- 7- Marna Goering
- 8- Sarah King (Derek & Becky)  
Pryor Loganbill (Lance & Whitney)  
Britney Stos
- 9- Brenda Wedel  
Herb Zook
- 11- Maxine Schrag
- 12- Richard Goering  
Shayna Smith  
Chuck Knight
- 13- DeAnna Goering  
DaWayne Stos  
Angela Zenger
- 18- Berni Kaufman
- 20- Kyler Dalke (Jerrod Dalke)  
Candace Unrau
- 21- Kyle Neufeld  
Amanda Stucky
- 22- Whitney Fiedler (Cathy)  
Anna (Stucky) Bertholf
- 23- Warren Kaufman  
Gary Regier
- 24- Robert John Schrag
- 25- Roy Kaufman
- 26- Piper Doane (Heath and Samantha)  
Steve Graber
- 27- Krista Graber  
Harper Loganbill (Lance & Whitney)
- 28- Mark H. Goering
- 29- Laurie Schrag
- 30- Rollin Flickner  
Debi Lichti  
Pat Rupp
- 31- Clarene Stucky  
Renae Stucky

- 4- Alan & Kathy Neufeld
- 6- Nathan & Shelby Graber
- 8- Mark H. & Mary Goering
- 9- Joe and Debi Lichti
- 10- Jacob & Tonya Westfall
- 12- Robert & Marcy Schrag
- 15- Jim & Brenda Dalke
- 17- Lucas & Katie Stucky
- 18- James & Diane Schrag
- 19- H. Keith & Judy Goering
- 20- Greg & Elaine Krehbiel
- 21- Bret & Marla Gillmore
- 22- Dennis & Teresa Graber
- 27- Larry & Cheri Kaufman
- 28- Wes & Ashley Stucky
- 30- Glen & Lisa Goering
- 31- Gordon & Annie Schrag



**A donation** from the Maynard and Marlene Krehbiel family has been used to buy a flat-screen tv and DVD player. This technology is stored in the Sunday school Supply Room and Sunday school teachers and others will certainly benefit from its use. Thank-you, Krehbiel family, for your generous donation.

The Education/Discipleship Commission

**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.

Rachel Swartzendruber Miller  
Vice President of Advancement



**This past year** has tested our resilience and has given us a renewed appreciation for the benefits of the small college experience. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, Bethel students, faculty and staff have the resources they need to forge a path into a brighter future.

Thank you!

Ben Lichti

Bethel College Coordinator of Church Relations

**Thank you** for your contribution to Menonite Disaster Service. *Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. (Isaiah 49:13)* Disaster survivors are shouting for joy as the volunteers your gift supports repair and rebuild their homes.

Kevin King

Executive Director

**Thank you** so much for your very generous contribution to the Middle East Children's Alliance at this very critical time.

While Israeli violence and the pandemic are causing enormous suffering, you make it possible for MECA staff, partners, and volunteers to provide food, medical aid, water, and hygiene supplies to the most vulnerable families in Gaza.

Your gift is a lifeline and an act of solidarity to people who are struggling every day for their lives and their rights.

Thank you,

Zeiad Abbas Shamrouch

Executive Director

*(This is the organization introduced to our congregation by Peace/Witness Commission.)*