

The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

October 2021 Issue Vol. 1 No. 8

Note from the Pastor

Your steadfast love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep.
Psalm 36:5-6

My recent sabbatical offered me the gift of time to spend in God's remarkable creation. I have always loved the mountains, so traveling for almost a month to the northwest to explore five national parks with mountains was perfect. Some peaks were rugged with sharp cliffs, some had more rounded tops (dormant volcanoes) and others had glaciers hugging the slopes and crevasses. The valleys between these mountains were filled with vibrant blue- and emerald-colored lakes, flowing streams, gushing waterfalls, meadows of flowers, and thick forests. And overhead the skies full of magnificent cloud formations. What an array of God's glory!

What drew my attention on this trip was the trees! I was in awe walking through a forest of trees where some of them were 1,000 years old. The Western Red Cedars and Douglas Firs towered high above us growing more than 200 feet tall reaching straight up toward the sun. Their grandeur and longevity were inspiring, reminding me of God's steadfast love and faithfulness, which reach to the heavens.

The massive trees in the temperate rain forest that we visited were draped in mosses and a diverse array of plants flourished on the forest floor. Some large trees had fallen but, in that ecosystem, those decaying "nurse" logs provide minerals, moisture and warmth for new seedlings to take root and grow. Youth and age are intertwined together. Underneath the ground there is a vast network of fungi that interconnect with the tree roots which help the trees thrive. In the same way, we in the church grow and thrive as we are nourished by our connection with each other and with our creator God.

Pastor Dianne



New kids books available in the library!

By Eden Librarian Amanda Harrison

Did you know the church library offers DVDs?

We have documentaries, history, and movies covering the Christian experience for kids and adults located on the south wall of the library.

A few of our new titles include:

THEO : God's Love

With Theo, learning about God and who He's called us to be is easy and fun.

Each lesson focuses on a spiritual topic that both entertains and teaches children about key aspects in Christian faith.

Bike Movement: A YA perspective on faith

For a period of two months, in July and August 2006, a group of young Mennonites cycled across the United States, stopping in Mennonite communities to have conversations about the church.

The Shack

A grieving man receives a mysterious, personal invitation to meet with God at a place called "The Shack."

Fish Eyes: Hilarious and Human

This human, comedic and ultimately profound tale of two ordinary men and their way alongside Jesus.

Updates

We are also looking to update our VHS collection. While most of our VHS tapes are replaceable, we do have a few historical tapes that we would like to convert to DVDs. If you have the software to make this conversion and time to convert ~5 VHS tapes to DVD or other modern video format would you please alert myself or the church office?

Amanda Harrison

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Eden Leadership Team

The Eden Leadership Team met on September 21. The meeting was opened with the Lectio Divina Scripture from Lamentations 3:19-26. *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;"*

The Stewardship Commission has been working on revising **The Policy for Memorial and Estate Gifts**. Bruce Stucky brought their proposed policy to ELT and after a little tweaking of wording, it was approved by ELT.

The **Deacons have spent some time discussing membership** and how to define it better. We have members who don't live in the area, some who live in the area but don't attend, etc. Jeff Koller shared that the Deacons will continue to work with membership. He also shared that the fifth Sunday discussion on the policy regarding sexual abuse victims and offenders provided opportunity for discussion and questions. A response team will be appointed if and when needed.

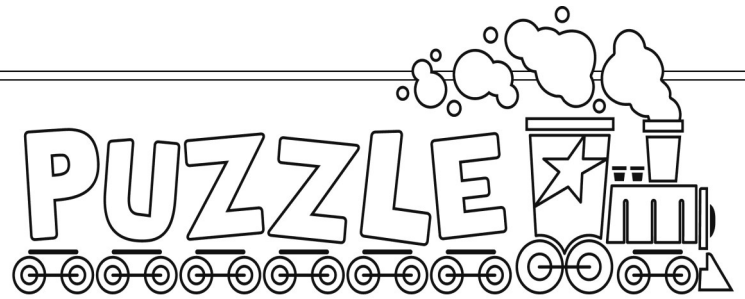
The Trustees have been overwhelmed with multiple issues with the church building. Matt Schrag shared they are looking at options for replacing the boilers with high efficiency units as well as replacing the software system that controls it. They are continuing to work with issues caused by the hailstorm earlier this year. The roof, some skylights and some windows need to be replaced.

Pastor Dianne expressed her gratitude for the gift of sabbatical and found it to be a time of rest, reflection, reading, renewal, and refreshment. She particularly enjoyed spending time with God's creation, including mountains lakes and trees. She marveled at the complexity of ecosystems, and was saddened at the evidence of our destruction of nature. She enjoyed quality time with her spouse, children and grandchildren.

Pastor Derek expressed gratitude for Dianne's return from sabbatical and has spent time catching her up on current congregational concerns. There has been an increase in pastoral care concerns with members in Hospice care and several funerals.

Sara Wenger Shenk will be our speaker for Mission Sunday, November 14. West Zion and First Mennonite of Christian will be worshipping with us for that event.

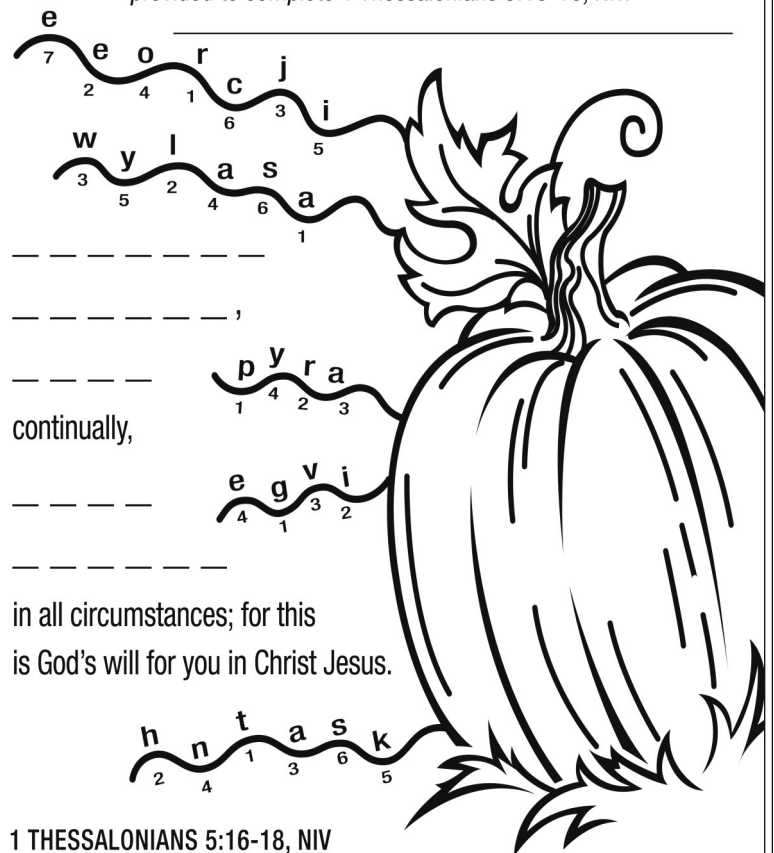
Eden Leadership Team will meet again on October 19 at 7:15 p.m. at the church office.



GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks





L-R: Pastor Derek King, Hannah Schrag, Joseph Schrag, and Deacon, Bret Gillmore.

On Sunday, September 5, we celebrated as Joseph Schrag and Hannah Schrag were baptized at Eden Mennonite Church. Darrell and Bobbi Schrag are their parents, and Jake and Esther Schrag and Joan Goering are their grandparents.

Job Opportunities

Camp Mennoscah is seeking a full-time Director of Development, Marketing & Communications to lead our ongoing operational and advancement needs. This position reports directly to the Board of Directors while taking directive from the Executive Director when related to operational considerations. As a member of a small, very hands-on staff, the role is expected to be highly collaborative. 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 campmen-nojobs@att.net. For ore information go to https://www.campmennoscah.org/vnews/display.v/ART/613a744e4142d?in_archive=1

Hesston (KS) College <https://www.hesston.edu/employment/>

- Adjunct Professor of Business Law
- Adjunct Professor of Electrical Engineering
- Adjunct Professor of Marketing
- Adjunct Professor of Organizational Behavior and Human Resources
- Electrical Engineering Professor
- Vice President of Academics
- Athletic Trainer
- Dining Services Assistant/Cook
- Dining Service Dishwasher/Utility
- Volleyball Head Coach



October is Pastor Appreciation month. Please let Pastor Derek and Pastor Dianne know how much you appreciate them.

October Birthdays

- 1- Brody Graber (Travis & Penny)
David Stucky
Carol Zerger (Mrs. Bill)
- 2- Samantha Doane
Gregory A. Krehbiel (Elaine)
Mason Regier (Josh & Emily)
- 5- Timothy J. Stucky
- 6- Gail Graber
Jacob Stucky
- 7- Harvey J. Stucky
- 8- Kenneth Goering
- 10- Elise Neufeld (Kyle & Sarah)
- 13- Jagger Smith (Ian & Shayna)
- 16- Bruce Stucky
- 22- Leona Goering
- 25- Betty Kaufman
- 26- Wayne Schrag
- 27- Tim Goering
- 28- Lennon Graber (Nathan & Shelby)
Barbara Stucky (Mrs. Delbert)
- 29- Ellen Stucky
- 30- Elizabeth Goering

October Anniversaries

- 3- Rollin & Kay Flickner
- 4- Matt & Angie Harmon
Bill & Carol Zerger
- 5- Nicholas & Lori Vontz
- 8- Chuck & Diane Knight
- 10- Kyle & Sarah Neufeld
- 11- Keith & Mary Albrecht
- 16- Dick & Jill Zerger

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your continued giving to STEPNC! Shawn is getting out of poverty because of you.

Austin Regier (see thoughts from Shawn below)

"I was homeless, moving frequently, and had been hurt by people I trusted to help me. I've now been at my job almost 15 years and I own a home. STEPNC has helped me reflect and become a leader.

It's cool having partners because they're so supportive of me as I chase my goals and look at challenges in new ways. Our relationship is more than just setting goals and getting input though - my partners genuinely care about me and my family, and that makes me feel so appreciated."

Shawn

Thank You!

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and to those who drove us to Wichita when I had my surgery and radiation.

God Bless,
Ann Kaufman

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service. Your contribution positions our volunteers to respond when called upon by communities impacted wildfires in the west and multiple flooding events across the country.

In the meantime, your gift is also bringing people securely home from disasters of months and years passed. Earlier this year Lauren Collins and her three children moved into a new home built by MDS volunteers. They had been living in a home damaged by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Her youngest son was having health issues from the mold and mildew accumulating in the damp walls.

Now settled in their new home, Collins said her children have a sense of security, and she is charting a course for the future by taking college classes with the hope of owning a business someday.

We are grateful for how your gift makes this possible for survivors like Lauren. Thank you!

In Christian service,
Kevin King
Executive Director

Thank you for your gift to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. 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.

Endalk Degefu of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, graduated from AMBS in May 2021 with a Master of Arts in Christian Formation. He also was selected to receive Award for Excellence in Christian Formation from the seminary's Church and Ministry Department. His home congregation is the Ethiopian Meserete Kristos Church in Addis Ababa.

"My learning at AMBS helped me to deepen my understanding of what the Anabaptist way of faith formation means for discipleship, through theological reflection in class lectures and discussions among different front-line ministers from every corner of the world," Endalk reflected.

With Gratitude,
Daniel B. Grimes

Vice President for Advancement and Enrollment