

The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

November 2021 Issue Vol. 1 No. 9

Note from the Pastor

"Hey, there's pictures!" One of my daughters was very excited one Sunday morning as she looked down at the bulletin to discover that there were images beside each item in the order of worship. Perhaps you've noticed it, too. This is a new thing we've been trying over the last several weeks, as a way of making our worship time more accessible to more people.

At Mennonite Church USA Convention this summer, I attended a seminar presented by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN). I learned about various ways that congregations can pay attention to the fact that everyone among us has a variety of gifts and needs, and make our gathered time more accessible. So, for instance, some congregations put images beside each item in the order of service, allowing those individuals who do not read to understand what is happening at each part of worship. Other congregations provide fidgets and/or weighted blankets, for those who need tactile stimulation while in their seats. Some congregations even make it clear that anyone who needs to get up and walk around is free to do so in the middle of the worship service.

This is all part of a deeper awareness of the diversity of needs within our congregations. I am grateful for groups like ADN, who think creatively about how to include and engage those of our brothers and sisters who have often felt on the fringes or excluded because they don't fit into our typical ways of doing things. If you have ever recognized things that we can be doing as a faith community to include folks who have typically felt on the outside because of particular needs, please let us know! We want to be a community where people can know God's love and can thrive with a variety of needs and gifts.



News from the library!

Highlighting the Western District Conference Library

By Amanda Harrison, church librarian

Have you ever had a chance to check out the Western District Conference library in North Newton?

This library is the oldest and largest Mennonite Resource Center in the United States. It began as a vision of the Western District Education Committee in 1936 and was previously located on the Bethel College campus.

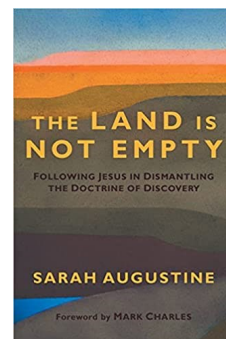
In addition to offering materials for lending, they do monthly book discussions, which are currently happening via zoom.

October's Zoom discussion will be on *Who Are Our Enemies and How Do We Love Them?* by Hyung Jin Kim Sun. What did Jesus demonstrate and teach about loving enemies? How is nonviolence connected to Christian faith and spirituality? Isn't violence sometimes necessary?

November's zoom discussion is on *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* by Sarah Augustine on Thursday, November 18, 2021. (1 week earlier than usual because of Thanksgiving).

Email crlib@mennowdc.org to borrow a copy of the book and to register for either discussion.

<https://mennowdc.org/library/>



The Eden church library has borrowed a number of materials from the Western District Conference library to coordinate with the sermon series *Talking About Faith*. You will find those materials displayed on the circulation desk display/table. Please utilize the clipboard sign-out sheet so we can keep a record of the materials checked out.

Eden Leadership Team

The Eden Leadership Team met on October 19, opening the meeting with devotions from Luke 17:11-19.

Bruce Stucky from the Stewardship Commission shared that the boilers at church are being replaced and we will need to tap into the capital building fund to pay for this expense. This will take a vote of the congregation. They have also been working on the budget for 2022 and will finalize the budget soon.

The new *Voices Together* hymnals have arrived and will be distributed after Mission Sunday, Jo-Lene Kaufman from the Worship Commission reported. The *Hymnal Worship Book*, *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story* will be made available to the congregation.

Marcella Schrag of the Education/Discipleship Commission submitted a report stating they hope to begin Wednesday night activities in January, 2022. They have begun discussion about the Christmas Eve service and will be planning to have it in the sanctuary.

The Gift Discernment Committee has prepared their slate of new commission and committee members.

Pastor Dianne has been catching up and visiting church members. Pine Village is again under quarantine due to positive COVID test in a staff member. She has been able to do end of life visits with members on Hospice care. She is looking forward to Mission Sunday on November 14 and the introduction of the new hymnal.

Pastor Derek has been working on Mission Sunday planning. He will not be present that Sunday, but will be in Elkhart, IN November 12-14. He has been in conversation with the church youth group from Brownsville, TX and is planning a border trip for the FEWZ youth group. He has also been attending meetings as a member of the WDC resource committee and the Bi-conference youth committee.

The pastor review process for both pastors will be held in January. The ELT executive and Doug Penner will facilitate this process.

The next ELT meeting will be November 9.

Parent/Child Dedication



L-R: Ian, Shayna & Jetson Smith, Brandon, Morgan & Flynt Kaufman, Lance, Whitney & Baylor Loganbill, Sam, Ashley, & Opal Shilts, Chris, Kristeen & Eleanor Thompson

On Sunday, October 17 a Parent/Child Dedication service was held during the worship service.

Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Central Committee has a variety of positions open for those called to be the hands and feet of God in a global context. We hope you will prayerfully consider the following service opportunities.

Seek Discipleship Program – Jordan, Palestine and Israel - Seek is a new six-month intentional discipleship program from MCC which encourages young adults (18-20 years of age) to deeply learn what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus. The program will include multiple discipleship and service opportunities with MCC partners. To learn more and apply for the Seek program, visit mcc.org/seek.

International Program Safety and Security HR Specialist - MCC seeks an International Program Safety and Security HR Specialist with experience in safety and security management, and at least 1 year experience in insecure environments. Should be committed to the Biblical call to be a peacemaker by seeking and promoting nonviolent solutions to conflict and oppression.

External Grants Coordinator – Lebanon, Syria & Iraq - MCC seeks an External Grants Coordinator who will provide support for humanitarian assistance and other externally funded projects in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq that MCC is undertaking as a result of the ongoing needs in the region.

Program Coordinator – Lebanon, Syria & Iraq - MCC seeks a Program Coordinator. This role, based in Beirut, is tasked with managing the program's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) for projects in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.

For more information about our current openings, including those listed here, please visit mcc.org/serve.

Thank You!

Thanks so much for your expressions of care and concern and your thoughts, prayers, phone calls and the visits of Pastor Derek during my recent hospital stay and while recovering at home. We feel blessed to have the warmth and caring of our church family. Jake and Esther Schrag

Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, food, money and support. We are so blessed to bring another boy home to our family and raise him with your love and guidance!

Love,

Ian, Shayna, Boston, Jagger & Jetson

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and wonderful cards sent to us for our 65th Wedding Anniversary. Also, thank you for your encouragement during Glenna's health issues. Your love is felt and treasured.

Kenny & Glenna Schrag



?? Bible Quiz ? ?

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

November Birthdays

- 4- Carla Shilts
- 5- Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny)
Allen Bonde
- 6- Joseph Schrag
Keith Schrag
Russell Stucky
- 7- Rashell Chastain
- 8- Kay Burgan
- 9- Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce)
Tiffany Stucky
- 11- Gentry Regier (Josh & Emily)
- 12- June Krehbiel
- 14- Evelyn Harms
Alan Neufeld
- 15- Trey Unrau
- 18- Bob Kaufman
- 19- Floyd Flickinger
- 21- Karsyn Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Robert Tolle
- 24- Leslie Thiessen
- 25- Wayne Ens
- 27- LaVerne Flickinger
- 28- Myron B. Goering
- 29- Cindy Bartell
June Graber
JoLene Kaufman
- 30- Doris Flickner

November Anniversaries

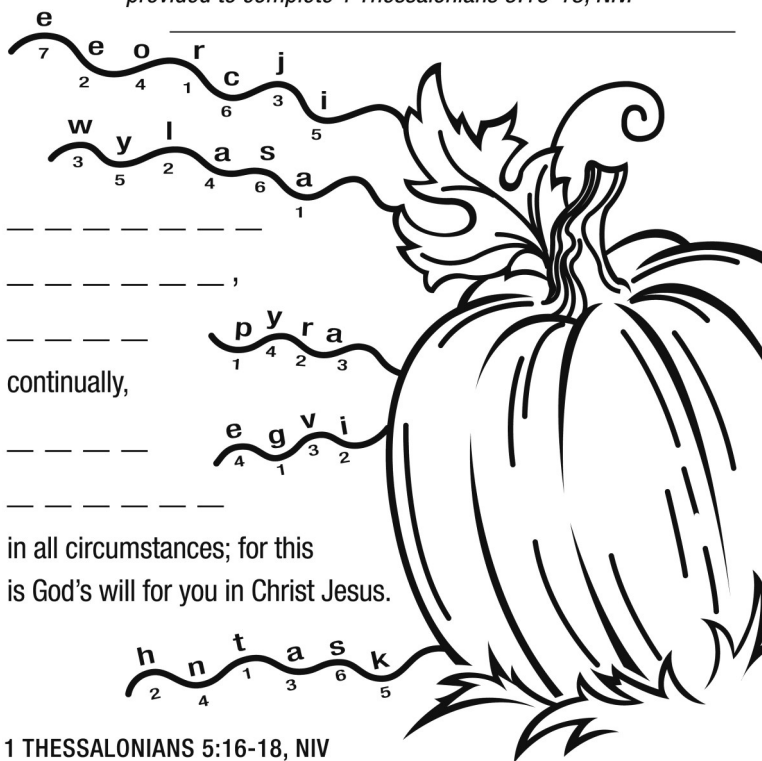
- 19- Tyler & Kristen Stucky
- 25- Gary & Jean Regier
Bruce & Pat Stucky



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.



Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

November 2021 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in November are:

- All Saints' Day — November 1, 2021
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends — November 7, 2021
- Veterans Day — November 11, 2021
- Christ the King Sunday — November 21, 2021
- Bible Sunday — November 21, 2021
- National Bible Week — November 21-28, 2021
- Thanksgiving Day — November 25, 2021
- First Sunday of Advent — November 28, 2021