

The Garden

See what's growing in Eden

May 2023 Issue Vol. 3 No. 4

Note from the Pastor

Our Knowledge Crisis

In a recent sermon about Thomas's doubts, I highlighted how similar Thomas was to the rest of the disciples, who all had some level of doubt about Jesus' resurrection, or at least the need to "see it with their own eyes." Their responses seem to be a natural part of who we are as humans. So, it should be great news that we have so many more ways of sharing and receiving information in 2023. Unfortunately, the reality is that we are more divided and confused about the truth than ever before.

We live in a time when "fake news" and "alternative facts" are commonly used phrases. In her book *Untrustworthy*, Bonnie Kristian highlights that trust in major institutions has declined over the past 50 years. Confidence in the church (65% to 42%), Congress (42 to 13), newspapers (39-25), television news (46-18), and the presidency (52-39) has dropped significantly. The void in our trust has been filled by suspect sources through the internet and social media. This is the basis of our "knowledge crisis" as Kristian calls it, and has the following result: "We can become certain about things that don't warrant certainty and doubtful about documented facts... We look like... the fool... in Proverbs: always seeking out information that pleases us, dismissive of wisdom, lacking common sense, quick to quarrel, and too happy to hear ourselves talk."

I won't be able to review the whole book, so I highly recommend you read it for yourself, but I will summarize a few of her suggestions for getting us through this crisis.

-Seek Humility. Truth exists, but we are fallible human beings, so our starting point must be a humility that recognizes that *I might be wrong*. This relates to our news sources as well, as Kristian advises that we avoid any news outlet that does not name their mistakes and provide corrections.

-Seek Knowledge Virtues: If we are actually seeking truth, we should be **studious**. This means utilizing multiple reputable sources, and being teachable on a given subject. We are to practice **intellectual honesty** by being sincere and accurate. We should ask ourselves, *Do I believe this because it is well-justified, or because I want it to be true?*

-Create healthy habits of gaining knowledge: Read the Bible more. Subscribe to reputable news sources. Cut out cable news completely. Take significant breaks from your device and specifically social media. Learn the *real news* by hearing about the lives of your loved ones from real, in-person conversations.

Finally, I hope that we are paying close attention to how our consumption of the news affects us. If we are more anxious and angry, then we are allowing the news to form us more than the Holy Spirit, whose fruit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, etc.



News from the library!

Gearing up for Summer Reading!

Updates from **Western District Conference Library** in North Newton

- **Book Sale!** In order to make room for new resources, we've been pulling items that haven't received much love recently. Stop by the library on Saturday, May 6 from 8:30am-12:30pm to give these still-useful resources a new home!
- Summer Library Programming—I've got a gift for you! Starting June 1, readers of all ages will love our reimagined summer reading program. Stop by or request via email a wrapped item. Open your gift, read/watch/listen/study it, and fill out an activity page in order to be entered into prize drawings. See how much your faith can grow this summer!
- Summer Story Days. Instead of a traditional Summer Story Hour, the library will be hosting Story Days with a self-guided, come-and-go approach for ages 3-8 and their caregiver(s) on June 15, July 20 & August 3. Stay tuned for more information.



Don't forget, you can also [sign up](#) for the **Moundridge Public Library's** summer reading program.



Do you need a **stay at home** option for summer reading? See [Mennonite USA's website](#) for Prayer Books, texts, and other resources to deepen your faith journey.

Amanda Harrison, librarian
Aesharrison@gmail.com

Easter Week with the Eden Church Family

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Folks gathered Maundy Thursday to enjoy a light meal and fellowship. The service following the meal focused on Jesus' journey to his death on the cross through scripture, songs and prayer.



Folks participated in a service of communion and foot/hand washing.



EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE



THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME by Mary McDonald was the Easter Cantata shared by the Chancel Choir. Narration by Evie, Becky and Sarah King.



We continued the tradition of flowering the cross and the kids didn't give up until all flowers adorned the cross



Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed!

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



The Easter Sunrise Service, planned and led by pastors from Eden, First Mennonite and West Zion, was held at Russ Stucky's pasture north of Moundridge.



A benefit for Mennonite Central Committee

KMRS
Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale



Eden prepares to participate in the ministry of Mennonite Central Committee. Many volunteers from surrounding areas came together to help make and bake bohne broggie on April 8. The event was coordinated by Marla Gillmore who worked tirelessly from start to clean up.



Pinching dough into buns.



Filling and shaping buns into bohne broggie ready to bake.



With all hands on deck, there were over 3,000 bohne broggie were baked .



Thank you to all who contributed to the ministry of Mennonite Central Committee through the KMRS by praying, purchasing, running, donating, bidding and eating...



IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

Child Dedication—April 23



(From left to right)

Cooper Stucky with parents, Jacob and Katie and sister, Gracyn

Pearl Shilts with parents, Sam and Ashley (sister Opal, not pictured)

Breckyn Stucky, with parents, Tyler and Kristen and sister, Kinslee

June Ediger with parents, Garrett and Ashley

Thank You!

Thanks to all of you who sent cards, prayers and all other acts of care and kindness to help usher son and brother, Jerome, into the next life. You are the true church of our Lord God. God's blessings to you.

The family of Jerome Goering

Thank you for your gift to Mennonite Mission Network. Together we share all of Christ with all of Creation.

Robert Tolle, Development Representative

Hello, my name is Stasha. I have been with STEPNC for over a year now. My story before never had many bright days. Being involved with STEPNC our lives have changed for the better. It's improved greatly and our goals are becoming a reality. It's people like you who are helping us make our dreams come true. Thank you.

The STEPNC family

Thank you to the Eden Endowment grant to further the lighting project at the Moundridge Senior Center. We hope to complete the project soon. Thank you for considering the Center. We appreciate it very much!

Pat Krehbiel, director

Eden Leadership Team Minutes // March 21, 2023

Pastor Derek read **Psalm 130** and led in prayer.

Minutes from February 2023 were approved.

Budget report from January/February.

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Actual income | 56,644.71 |
| Actual expenses | 79,521.56 |
| Net income '23 | -22,876.85 |
| Net income '22 | -24,439.36 |
| Giving '23 | 56,545.36 |
| Giving '22 | 53,608.22 |

Commission Reports:

Education: Five baby blankets were made for Eden babies at the service project night in March.

Peace/Witness: They are exploring a Mission Sunday where there would be a service project but no service at church.

Trustees: They are getting estimates on tree removal for the cemetery expansion and continuing work on the stained glass windows.

Worship: The deposit was made to secure Camp Mennoscah for Eden retreat, July 15-16. The offering baskets will be changed to a more enclosed container. There will be a hall tree on which Children's Bags will be hung.

Executive Committee: Pastor Dianne's search committee will coordinate her send-off on April 30. Lay people may have to help out during this interim time. The process to secure an associate pastor has begun.

Brenda Dalke, ELT Secretary

May Birthdays

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Eugene H Goering |
| 1 | Robyn Roberson |
| 3 | Stuart Kaufman |
| 3 | Ethan Rose (Lesli Earlstun) |
| 3 | Harrison Cutting |
| 6 | Travis Graber |
| 6 | Brandon Kaufman |
| 10 | Ayden Fleming |
| 10 | Elizabeth Stucky (Wes & Ashley) |
| 11 | Jacob Ewy |
| 11 | Opal Shilts (Sam & Ashley) |
| 14 | Duane Wedel |
| 14 | Kali Graber |
| 15 | Taryn Temple |
| 16 | Keelan Graber (Zach & Kali) |
| 17 | Carol Stucky |
| 18 | Teresa Graber |
| 21 | Jeff Koller |
| 21 | Baylor Loganbill (Lance & Whitney) |
| 23 | LaDonna Wedel |
| 25 | Jerry Lankford |
| 25 | Avery Schrag (Matt & Rashelle) |
| 26 | Rene Kaufman |
| 27 | Wayne Goering |
| 27 | Adelayd Polo Goering (Patricia Goering & Said Polo) |
| 28 | Jeff Flickinger |
| 28 | Justin Dalke |
| 28 | Jerrold Dalke |
| 29 | Matthew Schrag |
| 30 | Cora Neufeld (Kyle & Sarah) |
| 31 | Patsy Lankford |
| 31 | Pearl Shilts (Sam & Ashley) |

May Anniversaries

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 7 | E Fred and Bev Goering |
| 12 | Kyle and Robin Schrag |
| 12 | Steve and Linda Graber |
| 13 | Mark and Tindy Graber |
| 20 | Herb and Lorita Zook |
| 21 | Ron and Pam Schrag |
| 23 | Ken and Barb Stucky |
| 27 | Cory and Amanda Harrison |
| 27 | Dusty and Angela Voth |
| 28 | Ian and Shayna Smith |
| 29 | Tony and Les Schrag |