

The Messenger



February 2019



Stained Glass Windows

All grace, joy, peace, comfort and hope to you, beloved children of the Most High God, in the name of Jesus Christ our teacher and friend.

I was listening to a dear friend share about his child's disability, and the significance of her total embrace by their faith community. The things he shared reminded me of stained glass windows. Almost all churches have them. One of my most vivid memories of growing up in church is the beautiful stained glass windows that adorned the vaulted ceiling of the sanctuary. But how often do we take time to notice and think about them? Actually, at least one of you thinks about stained glass windows all the time, as part of your family trade.

I've been fortunate to learn a little bit about stained glass windows over the years. For one thing, stained glass windows are art. Whether a particular window is beautiful or not is largely in the eye of the beholder. For another thing, stained glass windows in churches are a form of communication. Long before Charlton Hesston was "Moses," stained glass windows offered a way of telling the stories of the Bible through images to a population that was largely illiterate. Finally, stained glass windows are made of broken shards of glass that has been stained. "Pure" glass is, of course, made from sand that is free of impurities and therefore colorless. I don't think I've ever actually seen a clear "stained" glass window. What good would that be? Constructing a stained glass window requires fitting the jagged edges of broken shards of glass together and then soldering a healing joint between the two. By engaging in this process over and over again, many stained and broken things are made into one great, breathtakingly beautiful thing.

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Vision: Healing & Hope

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

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Pastor Matthew Yoder

I wonder if church works just a little bit that way; we are all broken. We all have our stains. As individuals, we are worthy of being incorporated into the work of art because we have been chosen by the Master Crafter. When joined together into the body of Christ, our individual shapes and colors make a beautiful work of art that tells the story of Christ's love, mercy, grace and redemption to all who enter here.

May we always see one another through the eyes of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ; as a beautiful work of art, built together in love for the glory of God.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;

be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



February 2019

Sunday, February 3
Journey Forward
"Jesus is my Guru"
Pastor Matthew Yoder
Scripture: John 13:34-35

Sunday, February 10
Journey Forward
"The peace of Christ"
Pastor Matthew Yoder
Scripture: Ephesians 2:14-17

Sunday, February 17
Journey Forward
"You are enough"
Pastor Matthew Yoder
Scripture: Mark 1:9-11

Sunday, February 24
World Fellowship Sunday
"Migration"
Pastor Matthew Yoder
Scripture: Leviticus 9:33-34

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19



You are invited to

Labor of Love

February 15, 2019

Begin with supper at 5:30

Following supper, help assemble:

- ♥ MCC school kits
- ♥ MCC hygiene kits
- ♥ Care packages for college students
- ♥ Knot comforters

(Donations will be accepted to help MCC with the cost of shipping kits around the world.)

Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening making gifts of love for people nearby and around the world.

Please put donations for student care packages in the kitchen, or bring them to the event. Kristyn Suter is willing to purchase items for care packages. Please give your money to Kristyn as soon as possible. **We will be making 25 college student care packages.**

**Grace Mennonite Church
2019 Church Leadership &
Ministry Coordinators**

Worship-Robin Timpe,
Angie Renner, music
coordinator

PPRC-Justin Byers, Ross Kauffman,
Elizabeth Weaver

Education-Karen Byers, Diane Huber

Facilities-Keith Sommer, Crosby Suter

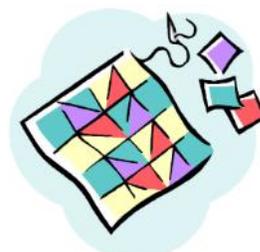
Community Connections-Joyce Schumacher

Council Chair-Keith Baumgartner

Shepherding Team-Tim Byers, Rachel Friesen,
Wendell Badertscher, Jeanette Weaver

Mission, Peace, Service-Rebecca Peckinpugh

Social Media-Amy Byers, Becca Hanefeld



Threads of Grace will have a
"Design Day"
on Friday, February 8, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.
We will design comforters, cut blocks, cut
bags, etc. Please join us if you have
interest in this
ministry. No experience
necessary. We offer "on the
job training"!



Mennonite Youth Fellowship
Make Your Own Pizza and Board Game Night!
February 10—5:00 pm—7:00 pm
Don't forget to bring your favorite board games!



Going...

Going...

Gone!



Coming up March 24th!

Mennonite Youth Fellowship Auction!

Let *Karen Byers* know if you have any items you are willing
to donate for the auction. More details coming soon!

“News Among Our Members & Friends”

HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND GRACE.....BY SHIRLEY SOMMER

Sunday, December 30th ..First Sunday after Christmas, sermon titled, “**Love Revealed.**” **Ivan Friesen**, guest pastor, used two scriptures, 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 and Luke 2:41-52. In the **Call to Worship**: it was stated that all creation is renewed, experiencing the grace & truth of **God**, through the birth and life of **Jesus.**” The two songs that were sung are a favorite of mine and the words are so meaningful: “**The virgin Mary had a baby boy,**” and “**Holy Child within the manger.**”

Monday, December 31st .. **New Year’s Eve** carols were sung by singers from the area meeting at **Maple Crest lobby.** They sang traditional songs of the Swiss Settlement at Maple Crest, Willow Ridge, and Mennonite Home. They sang in both English and German. I was told they had a very good time and residents truly enjoyed them a lot. **Rachel Friesen** organized the gathering. Thanks to all who took the time to share their singing with others!

Sunday, January 6th.. **Pastor Matthew’s** sermon title was “**Light.**” Scripture was Matthew 2:1-12. Also, this Sunday was known as “Epiphany” Sunday. We bask in the glow of Christ, the light of the world, who brings all the powers of the world to their knees. The **Magi**, who study the stars, came from the east to Jerusalem to worship the **King** led by a bright light (star). **Herod** called to the **Magi** secretly to let him know where the star led them. They didn’t because of a dream and this made **Herod** mad and gave orders to kill all boys 2 yrs. old and younger. **Pastor** left us with the message that we should “Let the Light of **Christ** shine from us to others.”

Sunday, January 13th..guest speaker, **Bryan Moyer Suderman**, from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. He has spent 25 years creating ways to engage all ages in Scripture, songs, and spoken reflections in a dynamic way to all ages. His concerts are interactive and inspirational with music putting the scriptures in song using guitar. **Bryan** had volunteers from the congregation leading all in an action song; plus three others acted out the scripture, Luke 24:13-35.

Sunday, January 20th ..Church was cancelled because of a snow storm, with strong winds and the temperature was very COLD! I believe all churches in Bluffton, Lima, Pandora, area and others were cancelled. It was reported that Pandora received **6.7 inches of snow with -13 temperature** by weatherman, **Guy Verhoff** for Saturday the 19th. (Our church has **Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy** now. When Putnam County Sheriff office declares a **Level 2 or 3** snow emergency – all activities/services are cancelled. Cancellation will be posted on **WLIO Lima** television or www.wlioclosings.com.) If you can’t use a TV or computer, and have questions, please call **Tim Byers** at **419-302-2683**.

Sunday, January 27th ..**Pastor Matthew** started a series of four weeks named “**Journey Forward**” with the first title, “**Who am I? What is this?**” Scripture was Ephesians 3:14-21. **Jesus Christ** was sent to save the world. Every family origin is from the same **God, creator**, believe it or not! **LOVE** is the power of **God** that strengthens us. We are all filled with the fullness of **God** which is **LOVE**. **Pastor** left us with a question for the week: “Think of a time **LOVE** was shared in our congregation.”

The children’s choir, **Grace Notes** leader, **Carolyn McDaniel**, sang the song, “Rejoice in the Lord Always.” They played the metallophones again with different ones each time (three times along with singing the song three times but a different way). Again, it was done well and thanks to all eleven for their performance. It truly adds to our service.

12 NOON – The **MYF** had a baked potato bar with lots of toppings, relishes, and **BROWNIES** for dessert. It was held in the fellowship hall to earn money for their trip to Kansas City USA Conference over 4th of July weekend.

1 p.m. The Annual Business Meeting met upstairs in the sanctuary with **Ollie Lugibihl**, chairperson. Congregation sang a hymn and then had prayer by **Pastor Matthew**. Reports read, some had additions mentioned, budget discussed, and 40 minutes later we were dismissed. Good now for another year!

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OTHER NEWS ITEMS INVOLVING OUR CHURCH FAMILIES.....

--**Marj Hilty** will be celebrating her birthday on **February 17th from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** at Maple Crest, Bluffton. Come and wish her a 90th birthday and many more along with the fellowship..

--**Address for Lydia Lugibihl**...836 Taylor St. Northeast, Washington, D.C. 20017. She is working at Capital Food Bank in Washington D.C. about a block or so from where she is staying thru to May. Several students from Eastern Mennonite University are living and working with her. We wish her the best during these months of her service.

--**Jenny Fish** on January 8th, led the Worship Service at the Hilty Home from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

--**Week-end of January 4th-6th, Karen & Justin Byers** and family took the **High School students** to Camp Friedenswald for their retreat. They joined others there (150 young people): **Sophia Smucker, Jackson Steinmetz, Annalise Nisly, Tanner Pinks, and Seth Andreas.** I was told there wasn't any snow but they had a good time playing table games soccer, and others. **Keith and I's** grandson, **Eli Simones**, from Cincinnati, went with the youth from First Mennonite.

--**Congratulations to Lamar Nisly** who is now the new vice president and dean of academic affairs. He has been interim since June 2017 at Bluffton University at these positions. **Lamar** had served as a professor of English at Bluffton plus many other committees and affairs.

--**January 14th, Ivan & Rachel Friesen** left for two weeks working at Koinonia Farm at Americus, GA. They'll work under the Mennonite Mission Network with **SOOP** thru January 29th.

--**Bob Suter** returned from working a week or so along with men from First Mennonite, Bluffton in Marianna, Florida. They worked with **MDS** there cleaning up after that bad hurricane later part of the summer there. **Bob** mentioned they got some things done for the people but OH so much was destroyed and a lot yet to do. I'm sure every little bit helps but will take a long time!!!

--**Threads of Grace** met on January 18th to knit comforters. They completed **13 comforters.**

--**Tim Byers** is back at church after his successful surgery on his back. He had new rods replaced and is now wearing a "large" belt around his waist for strength. He also celebrated his **66th birthday on January 13th.** Nice to see you back, **Tim.**

--**Jill Steinmetz** is having medical issues while doing service in Honduras. She is trying different things with doctors and hope and pray for success.

--**Justin Kantner** notified **Brenda Byers** about what is happening with his family and business in Paraguay. They have been there for 2 ½ years and are teaching an assistant to help with seeing patients for correcting their **sight.** He is the grandson of **Betty Kantner.**

--**Last** a few new people have been added to our **PRAYER LIST:** family of **Bob Neff**, husband of **Nancy (Schumacher)**, died and service was January 18th; **Rebecca Peckinpaugh & Amy Byers** mother's died; **Esther Nafziger's** knee cap shows some healing and now wears a brace; **Mildred Lugibihl** patience for healing on her back from a fall; and strength for **Rachel Schutz** from all the excitement over the holidays. There are several others in church who are sort of "home bound" from some surgery's they have experienced and remember them in your prayers. It was nice to see **Mildred** back in church today (January 27th) and looking very good!

--Sunday afternoon, January 13th, a **Memorial Service** was held at church for **Yanna Sue Kerekes**, fiancé, of **Ben Weaver**, son of **Paul & Jeanette.** She was killed suddenly in a car accident on Monday night, January 7th. **Pastor Matthew** had the service along with friends who helped to organize the service followed by a light meal and time to greet people in the fellowship hall. Our prayers are with both of the families and especially with **Ben.**





- Tuesday, February 5 Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- Friday, February 8 Threads of Grace Design Day 9:00—3:00 pm
- Sunday, February 10 MYF Make Your Own Pizza and Board Game Night 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 12 Shepherding Team meeting 7:00 pm
- Friday, February 15 Labor of Love 5:30—9:00 pm
- Saturday, March 9 CDC East Regional Gathering @ First Mennonite
- Sunday, March 24 MYF Auction



February Birthdays

Marybeth Hartzler	February 1	Marj Hilty	February 18
Ken Lugibihl	February 6	Rod McDaniel	February 18
Jackson Steinmetz	February 7	Dorothy Moser	February 18
Denise Dorman	February 9	Judy Smucker	February 22
John Lugibill	February 10	Sarah Diller	February 23
Matthew Yoder	February 10	Jill Steinmetz	February 23
Esther Birkey	February 11	Donna Suter	February 23
Nick Peckinpugh	February 11	Crosby Suter	February 24
Joyce Suter	February 15	Josh Meyer	February 26

Deadline for the next Messenger is February 25, 2019