

The Messenger



June 2018

Reflections

To the sons and daughters of God Most High at Grace Mennonite Church, adopted through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, son of God and firstborn of the dead, greetings! My prayer is that this edition of The Messenger finds you in good health, under blue skies and sunshine, doing what you love.

Today I've been thinking back over my first year of service in ministry here at Grace. I intentionally approached that year as a year of "yes." My intention was to open myself to new experiences, relationships and places as my family and I settled in to the next chapter of our life here in Northwest Ohio. As I reflect on my year of "yes" this morning I feel deep gratitude for all of the wonderful people, places and experiences that one little word has brought into my life. Of course I have had to say "no" at times as well. There have been scheduling conflicts, family responsibilities, and of course my own biological needs for nourishment and sleep. But on the whole it has been a wonderful year of "yes."

My reflections on past experiences inevitably bring me to the same question time and time again. "So what's next?" When I think about the year ahead a new word emerges: "focus." My "year of yes" immersed me in manifold new and wide ranging experiences and learning. Now feels like a good time to shift gears and begin discerning how and on what to focus my ministry time and energies. To that end, I will gather my next several reflections for *The Messenger* around a central theme: Gifts of Grace.

The word, "grace" in your Bible comes from the Greek word "*charis*." This word is used variously to describe both a winning quality that attracts favorable reaction from others, and a favorable disposition toward others. So the word we know as "grace" is both a favorable disposition and the favorable response it invites.

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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

It is both gift and gratitude. It is what we might call a circular word that covers the whole meaning of a give-and-take relationship that keeps growing toward ever greater echelons of favor, beneficence, generosity, gratitude and goodwill.

So my next several reflections here will focus on different aspects of our life, work and worship together as a family of faith in our community. Specifically, I want to *focus* on how these various aspects of our life, work and worship together witness to God's grace by stimulating a cycle of ever increasing favor, beneficence, generosity, gratitude and goodwill among us and in our community. If you have noticed a gift of Grace that you'd like me to write about, please e-mail it to matthewpyoder@hotmail.com or call me any time Tuesday through Saturday.

And may the Grace of God be with us all.



MY
Grace
IS SUFFICIENT
FOR YOU
FOR MY POWER IS MADE
perfect
IN WEAKNESS.
2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

June 2018

Sunday, June 3

Apocalypse Now Series

"Gospel"

Pastor Matthew Yoder

Scripture: Revelation 12:1-12

Sunday, June 10

Worship at Frank Gibbs' Farm

"Earth"

Pastor Matthew Yoder

Scripture: Psalm 24:1-2

Sunday, June 17

Apocalypse Now Series

"Bro"

Pastor Matthew Yoder

Scripture: Revelation 17:1-6

Sunday, June 24

Apocalypse Now Series

"Sword"

Pastor Matthew Yoder

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-16

CDC Annual Meeting June 21—June 23, 2018

For all the details of the Annual Meeting, visit mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting.

You will find:

- Registration forms for the gathering, along with forms for childcare and children's activities, Mennonite Women and Mennonite Men dinners, Pastor Appreciation dinner, and the fundraisers.
- Delegate Report Book, including items requiring action.
- Maps of the Goshen College campus and things to do in Goshen.
- Information about housing and meal options.
- Speakers, seminars, storytelling stations.

PIPELINE TO PRISON LEARNING TOUR

August 5-10, 2018

"I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."
- Matthew 25:36

Join MCC Great Lakes and Center for Community Justice for this week-long learning tour focusing on the challenges and complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system. Participants will journey from the local community level through the criminal justice system, learning about law enforcement, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry.



Cost: \$350 per person (includes lodging, onsite travel, meals, tour activities and honorariums)



Based in Goshen, Ind., the tour will include day trips to Elkhart, Peru and Kokomo.

Lodging will be provided on the campus of Goshen College, 1700 South Main Street, Goshen IN 46526.

Contact: Cyneatha Millsaps
574.534.4133
CyneathaMillsaps@mcc.org
mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison



“News Among Our Members & Friends”

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

Sunday, April 29th – Rudi Kauffman was our speaker for the day. Scripture lesson was I John 4:7-21. In the reading, **John** stated that “if we love one another, **God** lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” At the end of the chapter, **John** said, “whoever loves **God** must also love his brother.” The hymns that were sung went right along with the scripture verses. Before Sharing Time, recognition of University students were shared, stating their names and plans for the next year after graduation. We had three seniors present that came to church on Sunday. Congratulations to them on their future plans.

At noon, a potluck was given in their honor and enjoyed by them and congregation members. As usual, a nice variety and always so tasty.

Friday thru Snday, May 4th – 6th was Bluffton University’s graduation and May Day activities for students, alumni and friends to enjoy. There was a play, “title of show”, at Yoder’s on Friday and Saturday night (**Meghan Gibson, Sarah Sprunger’s** daughter was in it). Saturday morning there was the usual run, reunions, recitals, afternoon lunch and the traditional “**May Pole**” dance followed by the introduction of the graduates. It was a wonderful day on Saturday for being outside (weather wise) and I heard that things seem to go smooth.

Sunday, May 6th - Pastor Matthew continued the sermon series this 3rd Sunday after Easter titled “Love.” Sermon was “He is risen! Now What?” Scripture was I John 5:1-6. **Pastor** asked us at the beginning, “How do we know you love **Jesus?**” The answer is “If you believe in **Jesus** and love one another” you have the answer. Divine love has the power to transform the world. Also was mentioned that Faith is love; love is action; action leads to transformation and transformation is VICTORY! The song following the sermon was “I Will Call Upon the **Lord.**” The words really went right along with the message and “topped” the message off, I felt.

Sunday, May 13th, Mother’s Day! Sermon topic was “Ascension of our **Lord.**” Scripture reading came from Acts 1: 1-11. The verses tell us about **Jesus** beginning to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven. After giving instructions through the **Holy Spirit** to the apostles he had chosen. **Jesus** appeared to them during the 40 days and spoke about the **Kingdom of God** to them. He told them to stay in Jerusalem and they’ll receive power when the **Holy Spirit** comes. After telling them this, he was taken up in a cloud from them and will come back the same way. (This book in the **Bible**, Acts, is known as Acts of the Apostles.) **Pastor Matthew** left us with the question, “What does this mean for us?” He suggested peace building at home, work, with friends, community and country. Ask **God** to help us fix it and be a witness for healing and hope. At offering time, **Jodi and Jenny** played a special duet number in honor of their mother, **Mildred Lugibihl**. As usual, it was beautiful!!

After the service as we were leaving, Mothers received a flower which was to honor them for Mother’s Day. A thank you to whoever was responsible for such a nice thing to do.

Sunday, May 20th, Pentecost Sunday – Wow!! The sanctuary was decorated with colors of red and yellow--- balloons, red/yellow streamers in the choir loft area, and on Communion table was decorated in those colors with a white dove hanging on a red cloth draped over the brass Cross. Very, very, effective!!



To open our service, the Adult Choir and Grace Notes Choir sang together the song, "Sing dem Herrn" by Praetorius. English words are –"Sing to the **Lord**, Alleluia. All who love **Him** praise **His** name. Sing with tambourine and harp." Then for the scripture reading, there was a Worship Drama from Acts 2:1-21. **Pastor Matthew** was the reader and it was acted out by eight people from the congregation: **Ivan Friesen, Meg Schroeder, Richard Geiger, Brian Timpe, Sue Habegger, Carolyn McDaniel and Ted Cunningham**. The verses stated how the followers waited for the **Holy Spirit** to arrive at Pentecost all in one place. A violent wind came from heaven and they saw tongues (looked like) of fire on their heads. Everyone present heard them speak in different languages and people thought they had too much wine to drink. **Peter** then told them they are o.k. He explained how they were to go out and prophesy to others. This is how the first church got started!

~**The Cherubic Choir** (11) children sang "There were twelve disciples" and they were accompanied by **Josh Sprunger** on guitar. The next song was "Can a growing child like me," accompanied by **Liam Dorman & his mother, Denise**, played a duet on the piano for the children to sing. Last, the choir members acted out and spoke the scripture, Romans 8:38-39.

Pastor Matthew then spoke about "Breath" and how very important this is to each of us and everything thing that **God** created. He continued to say, that when one has a crisis, **God's spirit** is on the move with the breath of Pentecost. **God** breathes new life in all of his creation! Service longer than usual, but I feel that the drama will help us remember the scripture, children performing was **GREAT** because we don't usually have a Children's Program anymore and those involved won't forget what they did today for sometime. The songs again that we sang had a great message in them. What a service, and I know I'll remember it for quite sometime.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS INVOLVING OUR CHURCH FAMILIES....

--Graduates from Bluffton University:

Phil Birkey, Master of Arts in Organizational Management

Elizabeth Weaver, Bachelor's degree in Social Work with psychology and sociology minors

--High School:

Tristen Smucker graduated from Bluffton. Going to Goshen College, and hoping to play soccer.

(**Steve & Judy**, parents)

Olivia Schumacher graduated from Pandora. Going to attend Rhodes in Lima.

(**Josh & Jackie**, parents)

--**Jill Steinmetz** graduated from Goshen College. She'll be working at Camp Friedenswald this summer and then in August will be going to Honduras. (**Joel & Teri**, parents)

Congratulations to all of the above people and wishing them the best in the year to come.

--**Jackson Steinmetz**, Bluffton H.S., won in the 2 mile Saturday at Findlay. Will be going to Tiffin, next weekend for Regionals. Congratulations and Good Luck, **Jackson!** (**Joel & Teri**, parents)

--**Caitlyn Renner**, Bath H.S., won in the Long Jump, 100 Hurdles, 300 Hurdles Saturday and moves on to Regionals this coming Saturday at Tiffin. Congratulations and Good Luck, **Caitlyn!** (**Chris & Angie**, parents)

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Black Swamp Benefit, June 15-16, at Fulton Co. Fairgrounds in Wauson. Main attraction is the large auction held on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. This would include quilts, baby blankets, lap robes, wooden items of any kind and anything else someone would like to donate for the auction. Friday evening about 4 p.m. things open up then and a small auction will be held with little items and even some food items. If you want to make and send it up to the sale, contact **Rachel Friesen**, and she'll take it up for you. (419-358-0266)

June 11th- June 12th (Monday and Tuesday)..from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Pictures will be taken at church for the new Church Directory. One needs to schedule for your picture to be taken. Contact **Joyce Schumacher**, 567-204-5284. You can just have the picture taken and you DON'T HAVE TO BUY ANY but this will help us all to get to know our new church members.

New Babies. **Cecilia Phal**, daughter to **Crosby and Kristyn Suter**, born Sunday morning, April 29th.

Tessa Marie, daughter to **Scott & Emily Kempf**, born on Monday, April 30th. Welcomed home by sister, **Jovie**.

Prayers are requested for the **Ted M. Diller** family on his death, May 7th. Memorial Service was held on Saturday, May 12th at Grace. Continue to pray for **Joan and her family** as they adjust with him gone. Our regular friends/family of church are still in need of prayers for patience, healing, and hope during their illness/death. Some new ones are **Frank Gibbs** on the death of his cousin, **Darrel Howe**, **Lydia Lugibihl's** friend, **Destiny Fenbert**, with personal problems; and **Gary Augsburg** had surgery on a meniscus tear; and for family/children having the virus that is going around schools and communities.

on the calendar

Tuesday, June 5, 7 pm Council meeting

Thursday, June 7, 7 pm Shepherding Team meeting

Sunday, June 10 Worship at Frank Gibbs' Farm

Monday & Tuesday, June 11 & 12
Photography for Pictorial Directory 2 pm—9 pm

June 15-16 Black Swamp Benefit

June 21-23 CDC 2018 Annual Conference

Monday, July 9—Friday. July 13 Pandora Community VBS





Phil & Esther Birkey	June 30, 2012
Dwight & Irene Baumgartner	June 21, 1947 (71 yrs.)
Jim & Joan Kempf	June 10, 1972
Jerry & Nancy Suter	June 7, 1975
Terry & Lynn Hoffman	June 19, 1982
Joel & Teri Steinmetz	June 15, 1996
Keith & Jenny Baumgartner	June 8, 1996
Chris & Angie Renner	June 17, 1995
Lamar & Deborah Nisly	June 16, 1990
Jamie & Katie Archer	June 20, 2009
Ryan & Erin Suderman	June 12, 2010
Matt & Kendra Lugibihl	June 2, 2012



June Birthdays

Merry Augsburg	June 4	Jenny Fish	June 18
Jonathan Nisly	June 4	Olivia Schumacher	June 21
Tom Suter	June 5	Wren Yoder	June 21
Jeanette Weaver	June 5	Elizabeth Weaver	June 28
Orin Yoder	June 6	Liam Dorman	June 29
Alex & Ben Weaver	June 11	Lamar Nisly	June 29
Wendell Badertscher	June 12	Elizabeth Suter	June 29
Ashley Diller	June 12	Wanda Parker—91 yrs. old	June 30
Tom Schumacher	June 14		

Deadline for the next Messenger is June 25, 2018