

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Remember Linda and Paul in prayer as Paul's health continues to decline. May God's grace and love be abundant for them.
- Pray for those who are dealing with long-term illnesses, including Jan, Paul, Jeanette, Ron King, Rebecca's friend Marci, Kyle's friend Alex, and others you know.
- Pray for teachers and students as they return to the classroom for another school year. Praise God for teachers who are dedicated, compassionate, positive role-models for students. Consider ways you might encourage and bless students &/or teachers in the coming weeks.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and bless the Conference pastors as they gather; that it will be a fruitful time of learning, strengthening our Anabaptist identity, and fellowship.
- Pray for two of our sister congregations in Ohio Conference who are in a pastoral search process: Huber Mennonite and Sharon Mennonite. Join the Oak Grove congregation in Smithville in giving thanks to God as their new pastor, Seth Miller, begins this week.
- Rev. Marie Fumana coordinates the Evangelism through Literacy project in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Bandundu region. Praise God that women are learning to read the Bible for themselves and for other opportunities that have opened for them. Pray for resources to continue this ministry.

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Ken Shank, Jeanie Swartz

Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 66

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No. 33

Biblical Wisdom

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

Run away from adolescent cravings. Instead, pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace together with those who confess the Lord with a clean heart. II Timothy 2:22 (CEB)

Call to worship

We have gathered as God's people, disciples on a journey.

We may be discouraged, dismayed, discordant with life.

Let us sit together, sharing the solace of silence and song.

**Let us embrace the peace of Christ's presence
and be wrapped in the warmth of God's love.**

Let us be comforted and quieted, prepared for communion with God and fellowship with one another.

We open ourselves to hear God's good news.

Hymns: For the Fruit of All Creation – VT #124

Lead Me, Guide Me – VT #601

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:2-15

Offering & prayer

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

Message: Faithfully Responding to “Vapor”

Response hymn: My Hope is Built – VT #621

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, testimony
Intercessory prayer

Sending hymn: We, Your People, Sing Your Praises – VT #849

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rebecca will be out of town this Wednesday to attend the Ohio Conference credentialed leaders Bible Study. Leave a message and she will reply asap, or contact Carl if immediate pastoral care is needed.

Save the Date! On Sunday, Sept. 15 we will gather with other area Mennonites for worship at Lions Park, beginning at 4:00 pm, with a picnic to follow. (Morning worship at Bethel will still take place.) More details to come.

September is our month for Bethel to stock and staff the West Liberty Cares Food Pantry. Bring canned foods the next three Sundays or make a monetary contribution designated for the food pantry. A **sign-up sheet** for staffing the pantry is on the bulletin board. Thanks for your assistance in caring for our neighbors.

Mission giving opportunities in August. Bethel’s Missions Ministry invites us to contribute to any or all of the following efforts:

- Mennonite Central Committee’s ongoing emergency response in Ukraine and Gaza. Through local partners, MCC distributes food, bedding, and hygiene items, and trauma intervention for children.
- MCC Great Lakes – for a new Material Resources Building in Kidron, OH to expand operations.
- Lutheran Community Services in Bellefontaine (which includes Our Daily Bread) as they help people in our community connect with affordable resources and a social network, thus improving physical and mental health.

Job openings with MCC Appalachia Build: MCC has two exciting positions available with our Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) program in Kimball, West Virginia. Focused on home repairs for low-income households, Appalachia Build is an MCC program that provides week-long service and learning opportunities.

1. **Site Manager** to serve as an overall construction project lead. They choose projects and then schedule and oversee the work.

2. **Hospitality Manager** to provide overall responsibility for hosting volunteers and guests.

Application deadlines are September 2, and you can find both opportunities at mcc.org/careers.

Our worship series in September will be from the book of James. Consider reading through it in coming weeks; see if your “star word” is in it.

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – Sunday school

10:30 a.m. – Worship; speaker: Rebecca Kauffman

WEDNESDAY

10 a.m. – Bethel Bible reading

4:15 p.m. – Our Daily Bread

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – combined Sunday school classes

10:30 a.m. – Worship; speaker: Rebecca Kauffman

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Carl Newcomer, 937-465-3366

LAST WEEK

Worship: 30

Sunday School: 18

Offering: General Fund

Shirley King Memorial:

MCC Ukraine/Gaza:

\$370.00

\$50.00

\$1,000.00

Your generosity empowers our collective work for God’s kingdom purposes. Thank you!

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – August 25

Worship leader: Kyle VanOsdol

Music leader: Byron Kauffman

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffman

Greeter: Carol Buck

Sound: Lori Lehman

Next Sunday – September 1

Worship leader: Kim Lehman

Music leader: Carl Newcomer

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffman

Greeter: Carol Buck

Sound: Andrew Blount