

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Pray for grace, encouragement and strength for Mary Kay Kxng as she recovers from a fall and follow-up surgery on her hip.
- Remember in prayer those with health concerns, including: Mary Y., Ellie K., Ruth Y., Lee J., Alejandr Aburtx, George Thomxs, Darlene Stoltzfxs, Kyle Yodxr; as well as others you know. May God strengthen and encourage their hearts day by day.
- Praise God for the healthy birth of Juliana Hope Risnrx to John and Rachel, and grand-daughter to Steve and Miriam.
- Pray for your neighbors and co-workers, and those who are neighbors to our church building. Ask God to help you be “watchful and thankful ... making the most of every opportunity” (Colossians 4:2-5).
- Pray for Ohio Conference’s Leadership Team as they meet online this Thursday.
- Last week marked 10 years since the beginning of the war in Syria - a devastating conflict that has left a once bustling country in rubble and displaced millions of its residents. Pray for the men, women and children who have experienced the trauma of war, for Christians and people of faith who are working for peace, and for a just end to the conflict.
- Pray for God’s provision for people in our community and around the world who face food scarcity and economic instability due to the pandemic, climate change, or displacement.

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Elders: Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr, Carol Bxck, Byron Kauffmzn,
Doug Steinxr

Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 63

March 21, 2021

No. 12

Lent 5 – Deep Calls to Deep: Called to deep growth

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

You will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in you,
whose thoughts turn often to the Lord! Isaiah 26:3 (TLB)

Welcome

Gathering song: For the beauty of the earth – H #89 (v.1,2,4)

Children’s time

Offering and prayer

Old Testament reading: Psalm 51:1-3, 6-15

Song: Create in me

New Testament reading: John 12:20-33

Message: The Mystery of the Seed

Prayer of Confession, and words of assurance:

L: God of covenant and love, we call to you from
the depths of our hearts.

Deep calls to deep.

**P: Jesus, we see in your example how dying leads
to new life and bearing fruit,
yet we confess we are afraid to follow you there.**

L: We often prefer the status quo and resist the changes
required for deep growth.

P: Forgive us, and plant within us a willing spirit.
(silent prayer; name what keeps you from deep growth)

L: Deep calls to deep.

God responds to us from the depth of divine love.

**P: We come to you, Nurturing God, as you call us to deep growth.
Amen.**

Response song: Slowly turning, ever turning – SJ #23

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

Sending song: In the bulb there is a flower – H #614
Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each Sunday at 9:30 am, those who wish may join a study of the book, **The Bible Unwrapped** in the sanctuary before worship. *Revised study guides* are on the table in the foyer. Traditional Sunday School classes will not be meeting at this time.

Greeters are needed in 2021! Be a welcoming presence as people arrive for our Sunday worship services. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Newsletter items are due *today*. In a paragraph or two, share thoughts about the past year of the pandemic, a good book you've enjoyed, or a hope for 2021. Also, please fill out & return the **lavender survey** before you leave. Items for the **April calendar** are due in the church office by Wed. March 24. Thanks! Miriam

Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. EST Vurayayi Pugini and Thelma Sadzamari, MCC Area Directors for Southern and Central Africa and Nigeria, will share stories about how MCC's partners have adapted in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Register at: mcc.org/gl-africa-webinar

On **Thursday, March 25**, Lydell Steinxr and Craig Mxst of Connexxs, will present "**Transforming Conflict: Tools for the Toolbox.**" Conflict abounds in our society, our communities, our churches, and our families. But how do you respond to it? Participants will leave the workshop with practical tools for thinking about, approaching, and resolving conflict in ways that lead to restored relationships and restored communities. Please register at <http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceEvents> by **Monday, March 22**.

Mark the biblical events of **Good Friday** by attending a "Cross Walk" at Oak Grove Church, on Friday, Apr. 2, between 5:00-8:00 pm. Visitors will walk in and outside of the building (socially distanced and with masks) to stations telling the story of Christ's death and resurrection.

Ohio Conference podcast now available: in this new episode, hosts Ramon Lianxz and Corben Boshxrt will talk about evangelism with pastor Brad Rxth, who was the speaker at the recent Missional Conference. Learn why curiosity and asking questions are important as

we share our faith. Listen to the podcast at:

<http://bit.ly/OhioConferenceCast>.

When sending mail to **Sam Plxnk**, please send to: % Pam

The March edition of **On the Level** is now available from MDS. In our current issue: MDS needs volunteers to help with plumbing repairs in Texas; the Spirit of MDS Fund is offering another round of funding for congregations in Canada; and the Summer Youth Program is accepting applications from youth volunteers.

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3rYxwbR>

When we gather on **Sunday mornings**, thank you for continuing to wear masks, wash hands, keep distance, and self-quarantine as needed - these are essential actions for the health of our congregation and community.

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – The Bible Unwrapped, book study

10:10 a.m. – Worship. Rebecca Kauffmxn, speaker.

WEDNESDAY

3:30 p.m. – Our Daily Bread

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – The Bible Unwrapped, book study

10:10 a.m. – Worship. Speaker, Rebecca Kauffmxn.

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Barb Kauffmxn

LAST WEEK

Worship attendance: 45

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for
God's kingdom purposes. Thanks.*

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – March 21

Worship leader: Donna Lehmxxn

Music leader: Janet Wilkxns

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeter: Paul & Linda Hostetlxx

Sound: Ken Shxnx

Media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude:

Next Week – March 28

Worship leader: Kyle Vxn Osdxl

Music leader: Byron Kauffmxn

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeters: Ken & Jeanette Hostetlxx

Sound: Lori Lehmxxn

Media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude: