

**Welcome!**

Over the next weeks we begin a worshipful study of the "seven deadly sins" and the "seven holy virtues." With the understanding that sin is disoriented love, this disorienting season of the pandemic is an opportunity to examine our hearts and invite the Spirit of Christ to reorient us to God's saving love.



**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Welcome** – Pastor Caleb Yoder

**Call to Worship and Invocation** (lighting of the peace lamp)

“The Lord is merciful and compassionate,  
**very patient, and full of faithful love.**  
 The Lord is good to everyone and everything;  
**God’s compassion extends to all his handiwork!”**

All that you have made gives thanks to you,  
 Lord;

**all your faithful ones bless you!**

They speak of the glory of your kingdom;  
 they talk all about your power,

**Gathering Hymn**

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven*

HWB 63

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven!  
 To the throne your tribute raise.  
 Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven  
 who, like us, should sing God's praise?  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise our Maker all our days!

**to inform all human beings about God’s power and the majestic glory of God’s kingdom.**

Psalm 145:8-14 (CEB)

Your kingdom is a kingship that lasts forever;  
**your rule endures for all generations.**

The Lord is trustworthy in all that he says,  
**faithful in all that he does.**

The Lord supports all who fall down,  
**straightens up all who are bent low.**

Fatherlike, God tends and spares us,  
 well our feeble frame God knows.  
 Motherlike, God gently bears us,  
 rescues us from all our foes.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Widely yet God’s mercy flows.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor  
 to all people in distress;  
 Praise God, still the same as ever,  
 slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glorious now God’s faithfulness

Angels in the height adoring,  
 you behold God face to face.  
 Saints triumphant, now adoring,  
 gathered in from every race,  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise with us the God of grace!

**Children’s Story**

Karl Brubaker

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois Harder

**Hymn of Faith**

*Great God of wonders*

HWB 149

Great God of wonders! All thy ways  
 display the attributes divine;  
 but countless acts of pard’ning grace  
 beyond thine other wonders shine (*repeat*)

**Refrain:** Who is a pard’ning God like thee?  
 Or who has grace so rich and free,  
 or who has grace so rich and free?

In wonder lost, with trembling joy  
we take the pardon of our God;  
pardon for crimes of deepest dye,  
a pardon bought with Jesus' blood (*repeat*)

O may this strange, this matchless grace,  
this God-like miracle of love,  
fill the wide earth with grateful praise,  
as now it fills the choirs above (*repeat*)

### Worship Music

Nelson Voth, harmonica; Fern Bartel, photos

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### Scripture Reading

Romans 7:7 - 8:2

Kris Schmucker

#### Sermon

"Talking about sin"

Pastor Caleb

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

#### Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

#### Song of Response

*O Christ, in thee my soul*

HWB 510

O Christ, in Thee my soul hath found,  
and found in Thee alone,  
the peace, the joy I sought so long,  
the bliss till now unknown.

I sighed for rest and happiness,  
I yearned for them, not Thee;  
But, while I passed my Savior by,  
his love laid hold on me.

#### Refrain:

Now none but Christ can satisfy,  
none other name for me;  
There's love, and life, and lasting joy,  
Lord Jesus, found in Thee.

I tried the broken cisterns, Lord,  
but, ah, the waters failed!  
E'en as I stooped to drink they fled,  
and mock'd me as I wailed.

The pleasures lost I sadly mourned,  
but never wept for Thee,  
till grace the sightless eyes received,  
thy loveliness to see.

#### Benediction – Pastor Caleb

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

Special thanks to Marcia Brubaker, Lynel Unrau, Karen Unruh, Karl Brubaker, Kris Schmucker, Nelson Voth, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth for their help with making this online worship service possible.

Visual Arts: Amy Sterk

#### Questions for Reflection (Romans 7:7 - 8:2)

1. How were you taught to think about sin? How do you think about it now?
2. Can you identify with the struggle named in Romans 7 (being unable to do the good you wish to do)? How does God in Christ free us to move past it?

#### Scripture reading for next Sunday:

- Pride: Luke 16:19-31
- Humility: Philippians 2:5-11

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for Elaine Banman as she recovers from knee replacement surgery that took place this past week.

- ❖ We pray for those involved in planning the upcoming online assembly for Western District Conference.
- ❖ We pray for those in our church and community who work to ensure the safety of residents at area care homes, especially as case numbers rise.
- ❖ We pray for personal and congregational growth through our worship series on sin and virtue.
- ❖ We pray for inspiration and ideas on how to be church in this uncertain and unusual time.

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**Marilyn Unruh Flaming**  
**Ruth Goertzen**  
**Cindy Hastings**  
**Bryant Miller**  
**Jim Schmidt**

If you would appreciate a porch visit or phone call from one of the pastors or deacons, please feel free to contact us!

### Coming Events

Today, July 12		Online Worship Service
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom
	7:30 pm	Outdoor Discussion of "Just Mercy"
Monday, July 13	7:00 pm	Board of Worship
Wednesday, July 15	6:30 pm	Wednesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Sunday, July 19	9:00 am	Outdoor Service (weather permitting)
Wednesday, July 22	6:30 pm	Wednesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Sunday, July 26		Online Worship Service
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tonight** -- Everyone is welcome to join the casual conversation on Sunday evening, July 12, to discuss the movie/book "Just Mercy" at 7:30 under the trees east of the church. Please bring a lawn chair. You are welcome to join even if you were unable to watch the movie. This will be a relaxed conversation to review and reflect on learnings and impressions from the movie. We hope to see you Sunday evening! - The Board of Mission & Service and the Peace Committee

Pastor Caleb and Beth will be on vacation in Iowa from July 15-22nd. During this time, you may contact Pastor Lois or one of the deacons for any pastoral care concerns. Immediately upon returning, Caleb plans to mostly work from home as an expression of caution, but will otherwise be available.

**The Alexanderwohl Covid taskforce is currently looking at August 9 or 16 as the tentative date for the first service back in the sanctuary.** We will make a decision on whether to proceed at the end of July based on the current disease burden. We are committed to also providing either live stream or recordings of in-person worship services. We are taking into account responses to the congregational survey as we make decisions.

#### Use of building for meetings:

The COVID-19 taskforce recommends that the church building, specifically the Chapel or Conference Room, will now be open to boards/committees to use for in person meetings if they so choose. Zoom will continue to be an option for meetings, as well. If meetings happen in person, the following guidelines should be followed: maintain 6 feet distancing throughout the meeting, masks should be worn and please limit the

use of bathrooms to the ones on the main level of the church. Meeting organizers should be sure to communicate with the church office so that custodial staff are aware of spaces that need cleaning.

**We invite you to a weekly Zoom prayer meeting Wednesday at 6:30 pm** using the *Take our Moments and Our Days: an Anabaptist Prayer Book*. This format includes scripture readings and guided prayer, while offering space for inserting our own specific prayers. The prayer guide will show up on screen, but we also will share it as a PDF. The link to our next Wednesday prayer meeting will be sent by email.

**Current and upcoming devotionals** (*Upper Room, Rejoice!, Purpose*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

Pastor Caleb is continually updating our **Faith Formation** resource page (<http://alexanderwohl.org/resource-page/> or click the button from home page). Feel free to make suggestions of resources you are finding helpful.

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Give thanks for generous donors and congregations who contribute faithfully to WDC, and pray for ongoing financial support for WDC in its mission to empower congregations and leaders during this uncertain time.

### Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer and their family as they begin the North American segment of their two-way mission. Pray for them as they continue their Ecuador ministry from a distance and as they engage in teaching ministries from Goshen, Indiana.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Blood Drive in Goessel

Red Cross blood drive – Aug. 10, 1-6 pm, at Goessel Mennonite Church. For a limited time, the Red Cross is testing ALL donated blood for COVID-19 antibodies. Donors will be notified of their results, which will indicate if they have been exposed to the COVID-19 and therefore developed antibodies. (Red Cross is not testing to diagnosis illness.) In addition to the extra need for blood during this pandemic, 25% of the nation's blood supply helps people receiving treatments for cancer. Every minute 5 units of blood are needed to help someone going through cancer treatments. Sign up to donate at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call Rosi (356-2418) or Nancy (367-2610) for assistance. There are only 11 spots still open so act soon.

### Camp Mennoscah

**Camp Mennoscah is open to a limited number of individuals, families, and groups for both days and overnights.** Reservations must be made in advance. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 for further information. We are excited to make this sacred space available to you!

### Western District Conference

Looking forward to the Women and Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah? The Annual Spring Supper? Help make these events possible by joining the Western District Women in Mission Executive Council! There are nine open positions including: vice president, secretary, treasurer, one position on the Women and Girls Retreat Committee, two positions on the Communications Team, and three positions on the Nominating Committee. A wide variety of openings means we have a place for you and your unique talents and interests. You can help ensure the future of WDWM programming by volunteering for one of these positions. If you are interested in supporting the mission of WDWM by filling one of these roles, please email [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto:westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com).

### Mennonite Church USA

**Hundreds of people tuned in to last week's Mennonite Church USA's live online panel discussion** entitled "Race, Church and Change". Hosted by MC USA leadership, this important conversation addressed the impact of racism on the church and approaches for dismantling it. If you missed the live event, be sure to watch the video here: <http://mennoniteusa.org/leadership-development/webinars/>

**Join Mennonite Church USA leadership for another live event addressing racism in the church.** We are pleased to welcome back our panelists for this follow-up discussion, addressing key questions such as:

- What role does racial healing and reconciliation play in being anti-racist?
- How do we begin a conversation about white supremacy?

- What would it look like for MC USA congregations to practice racial reparations?

Join us Thursday, July 23 at 5:30 pm CT. Register

at: [https://mcusa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JKz\\_I1rpS76YxM8QwSvRzq](https://mcusa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JKz_I1rpS76YxM8QwSvRzq)

**Consider being an MVS participant for the 2020-2021 MVS year!** The application deadline has been extended until the end of July. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](http://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) to learn more and apply!

**Please pray for churches who are meeting virtually for their annual conference assemblies this month**, including those in Virginia, Mountain States, South Central and Western District Conferences.

**Menno Snapshots** Tax Day (July 15) is one of Sylvia Shirk's favorite annual events because it gives her the opportunity to stand on her Anabaptist faith as a war tax resister. Read more in her blog, "**If you pray for peace, why pay for war?**" <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/why-pay-for-war/>

**#BringThePeace** Save the date! Mennonite Church USA will be hosting **Race, Church and Change, Part 2**, a churchwide discussion on the impact of racism on the church and meaningful approaches for dismantling it, on **Thursday, July 23** at 3:30 p.m.PDT/4:30 p.m. MDT/5:30 p.m. CDT/6:30 p.m. EDT. Register here to participate via Zoom: [mennoniteusa.org/racewebinar-part2](http://mennoniteusa.org/racewebinar-part2)

**#BringThePeace** The **African American Mennonite Association**, a constituency group of Mennonite Church USA, has called upon fellow Mennonite congregations to address racism. <http://mennoniteusa.org/news/aama/>

#### Menno Media resources:

- **Leader magazine special edition offered for free:** The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the world and the church into uncharted territory. How can our Anabaptist biblical interpretation, faith, and practice inform a long-term strategy for ministry and mission for such a time as this? Normally MennoMedia's *Leader* magazine publishes quarterly in print. To meet the needs of congregations at this time, MennoMedia is putting out this extra issue for church leaders around COVID-19. This issue is **FREE** to anyone. Download from the MennoMedia store at <https://store.mennomedia.org/Leader-Special-Edition-June-2020-Download-P5816.aspx>

#### Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full time Network Systems Administrator located in the Newton, KS office. This position will ensure the stable operation of the organizations Local Area Network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), Internet systems and software applications. The ability to analyze and resolve end user hardware and software computer problems in a timely and accurate fashion is essential. Ability to provide excellent customer service is a must. Committed to denominational and agency goals of anti-racist action. Degree in computer science / information technology or 3-5 years' experience is preferred. View the complete position description at [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net). Submit cover letter and resumé to [StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net) for consideration.

#### Mennonite Central Committee

Grounded in the words we read in Philippians 2: 3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others," **MCC Central States offices and material resources center is closed to the public indefinitely.** The realities of COVID-19 continue to change but the dedication of MCC staff to work for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ continues on. Essential workers will continue to work at MCC, but the rest of the staff will work from home. Your material resource donations (school, hygiene or relief kits and comforters, details at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits)) are needed at this time and can be shipped directly to MCC when ordering online or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room towards the east end of the building (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> North Newton, KS 67117). In spite of the challenges from COVID-19, the global work of MCC continues. Your financial donations are needed to keep this work going. Give now at [mcc.org/donate](http://mcc.org/donate) or by sending checks to MCC PO Box 500 Akron, PA 17501. To contact staff with questions please email us at [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) or call the office 316.283.2720.