

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVI

August 9, 2020

No. 32

Welcome!

In our online service today, we hear from our delegates to the annual assembly of the Western District Conference of which we are a member congregation. We participate in the Assembly Sunday morning worship including the invited speaker Danny Carroll who brings his gifts as a Old Testament scholar to reflect on the reality of immigration in our world.



*Seek the welfare of the city
... and pray to the LORD
on its behalf.*

Jeremiah 29:7, NRSV

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome and Invocation

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Highlights from Western District Assembly

Pastor Caleb, Dwight Flaming,
Karen Unruh, Elroy Wiens

Children's Story

Ann Hiebert

Morning Prayer

Lois Harder

LIVING IN EXILE ASSEMBLY WORSHIP SERVICE

Welcome

Heidi Regier Kreider

Worship Music

Oceans ~Matt Crocker, Joel Houston & Salomon Lightelm

Hope Parchmont

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Storytelling

Sue Park Hur

Sermon

Danny Carroll

Worship Music

Reckless Love ~Corey Asbury

Hope Parchmont

Pastor Blessings

Dave Stevens

Song of Blessing *Eternal Life, Shine in my Heart* ~Irene Zachariah Moon

Alexanderwohl Quartet

+ 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 Elroy Wiens, Karen Unruh, and Steve Unruh for their help with making this online worship service possible.

Questions for Reflection (Jeremiah 29:4-7 among others)

1. How did you hear the biblical story in a new way through Danny Carroll?
2. How does recognizing that Christians are a pilgrim people in mission change our attitude toward immigrants?

Next Sunday (Outdoor service) we will continue our worship series on the seven deadly sins and seven virtues with the topic of lust and chastity.

Scripture: John 8:2-11

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Margie Young as she anticipates her first injection to alleviate intense neck and upper back pain on Monday afternoon in Wichita. Pray for the injection to alleviate her pain.
- ❖ We pray for Susan Voth and her sister Mary Richert, as Mary's health declines and nears the time of entering God's full embrace. Pray for Susan in a season of change and loss.
- ❖ We offer continued prayers for Lynell Hiebert and his family as Lynell continues to recover from COVID-19 at Newton Medical Center.
- ❖ We celebrate with grandparents Steve and Sandy Banman as they welcome a new grandchild Aurelia Kay Quiñones born Wednesday morning to Allison and Bino Quiñones. Little Aurie weighs 8 lbs 11 oz and is 21 inches and is welcomed by her big brother, Albi.
- ❖ We pray for Ashley Hiebert and James Nuss as they are married this Saturday, August 15. We wish them congratulations as they begin their life together!
- ❖ We pray for students, parents, staff, and teachers preparing for a new school year in a challenging season.
- ❖ We pray for those in our congregation and community who have tested positive with the virus and are recovering, as well as all of us who live with anxiety about ourselves or a family member contracting the virus.
- ❖ We pray for churches connected to the Mennonite Mission Network in Colombia, Ecuador, and other countries, seeking to live out the Good News amid challenges of rising Covid cases and economic crisis.

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Deacons:
Sandy Banman
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

Sunday, August 9		Online Worship Service
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom
Monday, August 10	4:30 pm	Alexanderwohl Covid Taskforce meeting
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday, August 12	7:30 pm	First book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i> outside
Sunday, August 16	9:00 am	Outdoor Service (weather permitting)
		Installation of pastor Lois
Monday, August 17	7:45 pm	Board of Worship on Zoom
Wednesday, August 19	7:30 pm	Book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i>

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't miss it! The first of a six-session study/discussion of "White Fragility" is Wednesday, August 12, 7:30 p.m. Bring your book, your questions and ideas and your chair so we can sit on the east side of the church building in the shade. We'll look at 2 chapters per session; for this week include the foreword, author's note, introduction, chapters 1 and 2. See you there!

At the 9:00 am August 16 outdoor service, Pastor Lois will be "officially" installed as our Associate Pastor. This event was postponed due to the pandemic. Heidi Regier Kreider, conference minister, will be joining us from Western District Conference. After the service, we will be serving cinnamon rolls and cheese. You are invited to drive by the north side of the church to pick up your individually-boxed brunch treat. Come celebrate Lois' ministry with our gathered church family!

Use of building for meetings: The COVID-19 task force continues to allow the church building, specifically the Chapel, to be available to boards/committees to use for in-person meetings if they so choose. Zoom continues to be an option for meetings, as well. If meetings happen in person, the following guidelines should be followed: maintain 6 feet distance 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!*) 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.

The Mennonite Heritage and Agriculture Museum, Goessel, will host the Second Monday Family History & Genealogy Group for a special time to view the Marie and Martha Voth Wheat Marquetry Art Show located in the Immigrant House on **Monday Aug. 10, 2020 from 7-9 pm**. Free for museum members and donation for anyone else interested. Art Show can also be seen during regular museum hours with regular admission. Museum phone 620-367-8200

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for children and youth in WDC congregations, and for their families, teachers and mentors, as preparations for a new school year unfold in the face of challenging circumstances.

Mennonite Mission Network

Delicia Bravo and Peter Wigginton, serving with Mennonite Mission Network, request prayer for Ecuador where COVID-19 cases continue to rise and the economic situation worsens. Pray for Quito Mennonite Church as the congregation inaugurates a seed grant initiative this month to help people get back on their feet.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

Men and Boys Retreat has been canceled for 2020. Men and boys (with adult supervision) and families are invited to contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 about overnight stays or day visits. We'll see you soon!

Camp Mennoscah welcomes guests! Camping areas and cabins are open to guests/groups for overnight stays and day visits. Spend time in the river, have a campfire cookout, and enjoy the open spaces of the tallgrass prairie and the Ninnescah River! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 to make a reservation and to inquire about use of additional facilities. We can't wait to see you!

Camp Mennoscah's main phone number (620-297-3290) will be answered between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm on weekdays. Emails will also be answered within the same basic time frame, depending on staff work hours. Outside of these hours, you may be able to reach camp staff, but there are no guarantees. Please leave a message or send an email and we'll be in touch as soon as possible!

Western District Conference

Thanks to all who attended WDC's 2020 online assembly last weekend! At Saturday morning's business session, delegates heard the conference minister's state-of-the-conference reflections and a financial update, approved the budget for 2021 and elected leaders for the coming year. Comments and questions addressed topics such as WDC's application for a CARES Act Payroll Protection Program loan, equipping existing congregations in conjunction with church planting initiatives, and affirmation for Camp Mennoscah's ongoing mission in these challenging times. The session concluded with a resolution of thanks for all involved in making Assembly possible, and recognition of outgoing moderator Ray Reimer and transition to new moderator Lois Barrett. Saturday afternoon, participants attended webinars on: *Missional in the Age of Covid*; *Growing in Faith Wherever You Are: Boxes, Bundles, or Books Which is Right for You?*; *Real Live Faith*; and *Voices Together*. And on Sunday, many WDC congregations and members joined in watching the Assembly worship service. If you were not able to attend Assembly events, you may go to "WDC Assembly 2020" on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6aO7e884ZT5d9gHzrfAucccOFYYd_M5 and watch the videos.

WDC Questionnaire is for ALL: Everyone is encouraged to fill out a WDC Questionnaire - those who participated in the Annual Assembly and those who didn't - we'd like to hear from everyone. There are some questions about the role and ministries of WDC that we hope you will answer. Find the link here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnlSX5ibg9z87BQOQBm-MkddipjurDdlz61SW5JWtCIKVZw/viewform>.

Racial Justice from the US to Palestine: The WDC Israel-Palestine Task Force invites you to a virtual conversation on racial justice. Palestinians Alex Awad and Jonathan Kuttub join US citizen Sarah Nahar. They'll share their own experiences of injustice and hope and discuss the similarities in both contexts. Join us for this free live event on WDC's Facebook page on September 21, 7 pm Central Time. You're welcome to donate to WDC at: mennondc.org.

Mennonite Church USA

Learning opportunities from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary:

Deepen your understanding of Anabaptism through six-week, online short courses from AMBS! Explore Anabaptist history, theology, current practice, commitment to peacemaking, approaches to scripture, and how to transform congregational conflict and communication. These non-credit courses feature optional weekly Zoom conversations with professors along with readings and written discussion forums. No papers and no grades! Sign up for individual courses or for the "short course bundle" at ambs.edu/shortcourses.

Prepare to lead worship and singing drawing on the vast resources of the *Voices Together* hymnal through two new AMBS online short courses--one for worship planners and leaders and one for song leaders. Both courses will feature guest instructors Katie Graber and Anneli Loepp Thiessen. Sign up at ambs.edu/shortcourses.

Grow your leadership skills and deepen your faith through Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This three-year, part-time program includes mentoring, an introduction to Anabaptist leadership and theology, and skill-building and character formation opportunities. This year, the required Weekend Learning Event will happen in Zoom, making the entire program accessible from home. The application deadline for Journey is August 11. For more information, see <https://www.ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/journey-missional-leadership-development>

Service Adventure has open spots for the 2020-2021 term beginning this fall. If you are interested in taking a gap year to serve, live in community, and grow spiritually, contact SusanN@MennoniteMission.net or apply online at MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure.

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC is hosting *virtual* alumni gatherings for four of the world regions where MCC works: Latin America and Caribbean, Asia, Europe & Middle East and Africa. And you are invited! Join us for this special time to hear updates from Area Directors about current programming, share stories of service experiences and engage in small group discussions to connect with your MCC friends or meet others who served in the same world region. Find out specific dates, times and register at mcc.org/virtual-alumni-gatherings. Questions? Please contact heidhuber@mcc.org or call 316.283.2720.

Support MCC and celebrate MCC's centennial with a new shirt, hoodie, tea towel, bag or hat! Check out this online store set up by the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale to place your order today (pssst, it's never too early to start Christmas shopping!). Visit wearatomic.com/product-category/mcc/ and start shopping to support MCC!