

Welcome!

Welcome to Alexanderwohl! As we enjoy the outdoors, today is the last of our series on the seven deadly sins. Today we consider "wrath" and how we can counter the effects of unhealthy anger, by reorienting ourselves toward God's love so that we are empowered to show patience and love toward others.



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome Pastor Caleb Yoder

Call to Worship and Invocation

Whether you're young or old,
come, let us worship our eternal God.
Whether you're rich or poor,
come, let us worship our generous God.
Whether you're tired or energized,
come, let us worship the God of our strength
Whether you're filled with righteous fury or the peace of Christ,
come, let us worship our gracious God together today.

Peace Prayer (lighting of the peace torch) Emma and Mallory Schroeder

Gathering Song *Praise Him, Praise Him* HWB 100

Praise him, praise him! Praise him, praise him!
Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim! For our sins he suffered and bled and died.
Hail him, hail him! highest archangels in glory, He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
Strength and honor give to his holy name! Hail him, hail him! Jesus, the crucified.
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children. Sound his praises, Jesus who bore our sorrows,
In his arms he carries them all day long. love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.

Refrain:
Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
tell of his excellent greatness. Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Praise him! praise him! ever in joyful song. Jesus, Savior, reigneth for ever and ever!
Crown him, crown him! prophet and priest and king!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious.
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

Children's Story (find it online) Gayle Voth

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

NAMING THE SIN

Scripture Reading Mark 15:15-20, 27-32 Steve Banman

Reflection on Wrath Pastor Caleb

Hymn of Confession *Dear Lord, Thou Life of Humankind* HWB 523

1) Dear Lord, thou life of humankind,
forgive our foolish ways.
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

2) O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love;

3) drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease.
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

4) Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm.
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

ORIENTED TOWARD GOD'S LOVE

Spiritual Practice – Reading scripture as a love letter

Pastor Lois

Prayer of Confession

(Adapted from Leader, Summer 2019, p. 48)

Loving God,
As we offer ourselves to you in worship, we
confess that sometimes it's easier to be
angry.
Transform the anger that burns in our hearts to a
justice-seeking love that reflects your
unbridled love for us.
When our hearts are hardened by resentment,
help us remember how you have forgiven us,
so that in time we, too, may share the love
you have mercifully shown us.
When our hearts wallow in the pool of indignation,
longing for misfortune to befall our neighbors,

soften them by your grace so that we may
offer and accept your generous love.
Forgive us when our actions do not reflect you
and your love. Lead us in your paths of grace
and peace.
May your love move us toward reconciliation and
restoration with our neighbors in our
communities, with your creation in our world,
and in your church.
May our actions and our words reflect your loving
Spirit present in your Son, who demonstrated
your kingdom of shalom to us.
Amen

Words of Assurance

Jesus said, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." (Matt 6:14).

EMBRACING THE VIRTUE

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3:14-19

Steve Banman

Reflection on Love

Pastor Caleb

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Hymn of Response

The Love of God

(text from Voices Together Sampler)

The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.
The wand'ring child is reconciled
by God's beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole,
and priceless pardon won.

When ancient time shall pass away,
and human thrones and kingdoms fall;
when those who here refuse to pray
on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
grace will resound the whole earth round –
the saints' and angels' song.

Refrain:

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the
skies of parchment made; were every stalk on
earth a quill, and every one a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above would drain the
ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.

Benediction

Pastor Lois

+ 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 Renae Schmidt Peters, Lynel Unrau, Laura Unrau, Bryant Miller, Emma and Mallory Schroeder, Gayle Voth, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth, Dwight M. Flaming, Brendon Nafziger, Marlin Janzen, and David Esau for their help with making this outdoor worship service possible.

Questions for Reflection (Mark 15:15-20, 27-32, Ephesians 3:14-19)

1. Have you been taught to think of anger as a sin? What are the ethical dimensions to anger, and what would it look like to channel anger in healthy ways?
2. How would it look for you to love people that you feel anger toward?

Scripture reading for next Sunday:

- Revelation 1
- Next Sunday, we begin our next worship series on the book of Revelation, finding in this book encouragement toward faithfulness in times of trial and crisis.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for student athletes with the beginning of fall sports seasons. We pray that all may stay healthy.
- ❖ We give thanks for God's Spirit always with us, offering guidance and wisdom; may we have the humility and awareness to tap into that Source.
- ❖ We pray for God's presence and peace with justice where there is unrest, anger, fear and grief.
- ❖ We pray for Bethesda and other long-term care facilities as they struggle to comply with recent federal mandates.
- ❖ We pray for those who are sick or recovering from Covid-19, or grieving the loss of loved ones who have died.
- ❖ We pray for those who are undergoing medical tests and awaiting the results.
- ❖ We pray for safety and renewal over this Labor Day weekend.

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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, September 6	9:00 am	Outdoor Worship Service
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom
Monday, September 7		Labor Day – Church offices closed
Tuesday, September 8	4:30 pm	Covid Taskforce meets
Wednesday, September 9	7:00 pm	Book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i> – Ch. 9-10
Sunday, September 13		Outdoor Worship Service (weather permitting)
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom
Monday, September 14	5:45 pm	Board of Mission and Service

	7:00 pm	Church council
Wednesday, September 9	7:00 pm	Book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i> – Ch. 11-12
Sunday, September 27	10:30 am	Church retreat at Camp Mennoscah

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the garden produce on the table at the south end of our seating area. Please bring your extra produce to share with others.

During the month of September, we would like to take advantage of a beautiful time of year by having services outdoors each week, as we have been doing every other week, weather permitting. In the case of bad weather, we will make a recording available. We will still offer a congregational sharing Zoom call this Sunday at 11:15 am. We also encourage adult SS groups to consider finding times to connect outdoors this fall.

Thank you so much for your past support of our spring & summer children's offering project for Camp Mennoscah. This Sunday, begins the fall quarter and the children will now begin collecting an offering for Bethesda Home. If your child(ren) wish to participate, please bring money (cash or check) in an envelope marked "**Children's SS Offering**" and place it in the offering container following the worship service.

Join us! The fifth of a six-session study/discussion of "White Fragility" is Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. Bring your book, your questions and ideas and your chair so we can sit outside in the shade. We'll look at Ch. 9 & 10 this week. See you there!

Church Retreat 2020: After much discussion, the Board of Worship decided to move ahead with plans for Alexanderwohl's biennial retreat at Camp Mennoscah. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 27! An outdoor worship service will begin at 10:30 and include the baptism of Elizabeth Schmucker in the river. The service will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. You are invited to bring your own picnic lunch, as we will not be using the dining hall or the kitchen. Sanitized restroom facilities will be accessible. The camp grounds are reserved until 4:00pm for those who want to enjoy the river, walk the trails, or play frisbee golf (bring your own gear). Unlike previous retreats, there will not be an opportunity to stay overnight as a group. Camp Mennoscah adheres to social distancing and mask guidelines.

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

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for Gabriel Pennington as he is installed today as pastor at Southern Hills Mennonite Church, a WDC congregation in Topeka, KS.

Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure participants began their assignments in the Jackson, Mississippi, unit this week. Pray that God will provide wisdom for Debbie and Rick Lee, new unit leaders, and for all as they transition into community living and learning.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family History and Genealogy Group Meeting

An outdoor meeting is planned for the Second Monday Family History & Genealogy Group at the Goessel Mennonite Church Cemetery on Monday, September 14, 2020, 6:45 p.m. (Please note the earlier meeting time.)

The cemetery is located on Alamo Road, 1/2 mile north of Goessel's Main Street.

Suggested items to bring: An outdoor chair, mosquito spray, flashlight, and a camera if you wish to take pictures of any tombstone that interests you. So far we anticipate that the day will be "rain free." However, the meeting will be canceled in case bad weather develops. The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information, please call

either the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum (620-367-8200) or Anna Beth (620-367-8135). If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, please feel free to invite them.

Camp Mennoscah

Mental Health Spiritual Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be a one-day event on Monday, September 7. This retreat is for those affected by mental illness, including friends and family. Activities will be outside. We will follow social distancing and mask guidelines. Please bring a mask with you. Those interested in attending the retreat should contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290.

Limited number of openings! Camp Mennoscah's Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats will take place on Oct. 30-Nov. 1 and Nov. 6-8. Masks and physical distancing guidelines will be followed and the facility used has been changed. More spaces will be opened as determined safe and feasible, so put your name on the waitlist! Register online at campmennoscah.org! Call 620-297-3290 for further information.

The weather is great! Where are you? Camp Mennoscah's facilities 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 facilities. We can't wait to see you!

Western District Conference

Preschool Story Hour at the Conference Resource Library returns this fall with VIRTUAL LIVE story hours full of stories, rhymes, and craft ideas on Tuesdays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 3:30pm. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be different, join us for one or both sessions each week. Story Hour will start Tuesday, September 8 and be geared toward ages 3-5. Story Hour will be led by Library Director Jennie Wintermote and will be shorter than our Summer Story Hour. Register at <https://forms.gle/vpk7DXRwwHAbSo5A7> and contact Jennie with any questions at crlib@mennowdc.org.

The Israel Palestine Relations Task Force of Western District Conference/Mennonite Church USA is sponsoring a webinar on September 21, UN's International Day of Peace entitled *Racial Justice from US to Palestine*. The Webinar features Jonathan Kuttab, Alex Awad and Sarah Thompson Nahar. Call the church office for more information.

For a quick snapshot of what's happening around WDC or what Keynote Speaker Danny Carroll had to say at the WDC Assembly, go to "WDC Assembly 2020" on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6aO7e884ZT5d9gHzrfaUccOFYYd_M5. There are many creative Assembly videos still available for viewing!

Women's Retreat 2020: And now for something completely different! After much discussion and prayer, the Retreat Committee has decided not to meet in person at Camp Mennoscah this year. We will miss all of you and the energy and joy you bring to camp. However **we WILL gather virtually on Saturday night, September 12 from 7-8:30 pm via Zoom for a worship service.** Our goal is to connect to and encourage each other through Christ and His love for us. Susan Jantzen (interim pastor of Worship/Visitation at First Mennonite in Newton) will lead us on "Reflections on God as Keeper". Bethany Martin from Faith and Life Bookstore will review a few books. Annelle Claassen (Retreat Committee Chair) will lead singing, and Karen Mascho (Pastor and Retreat Committee) will lead communion together. No masks required! For free registration or questions, send your email to Tammy Duvanel Unruh at 2020womensretreat.rsvp@gmail.com by Thursday, September 10. Save the date and we look forward to seeing your whole face!

Mennonite Church USA

Wurst Fundraiser Event: You're invited to a German-themed drive-through carryout meal fundraiser to benefit Mennonite Central Committee Sept. 26 held at Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, Kan. Tim and Heidi Huber's family will be offering bratwurst, sides, dessert and drinks, with an RSVP deadline of Sept. 19 or 300 reservations at <https://forms.gle/ASndjK9AQP3BLRS7>. Hope to see you there!

Bethel College Women's Association has worked to raise money for Bethel for many years. This August we are opening our first online store, www.bca.marketonline.com. We invite you to help us support Bethel by checking this online market for crafts, jewelry, Bethel-themed items and much more. Our inventory will change over time so please check in to find that special gift or item for your home. If circumstances allow, on September 1 we will begin accepting orders for baked goods to be picked up on Fall Fest weekend, October 1-3. Please check the website for updated information.

Join Bible teacher Joe Sawatzky on Mission Network's Facebook on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. (EST) starting Sept. 8. "Missional Meditations" will help you gain insight for your sermons or daily life, and inspire a missional imagination in your congregation!

Mennonite Central Committee WDC/SCC Women's Retreat 2020:

After much discussion and prayer, the Retreat Committee has decided not to meet in person at Camp Menoscah this year. We will miss all of you and the energy and joy you bring to camp. However **we WILL gather virtually on Saturday night, September 12 from 7-8:30 pm via Zoom for a worship service.** Our goal is to connect to and encourage each other through Christ and His love for us. Susan Jantzen (interim pastor of Worship/Visitation at First Mennonite in Newton) will lead us on "Reflections on God as Keeper". Bethany Martin from Faith and Life Bookstore will review a few books. Annelle Claassen (Retreat Committee Chair) will lead singing, and Karen Mascho (Pastor and Retreat Committee) will lead communion together. No masks required! For free registration or questions, send your email to Tammy Duvanel Unruh at 2020womensretreat.rsvp@gmail.com by Thursday, September 10. Save the date and we look forward to seeing your whole face!

Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people in need of food and other assistance in Beirut, Lebanon. A massive explosion on Aug. 4 destroyed the country's main port and silos filled with grain and worsened an existing economic crisis. You can donate online at mcc.org/beirut-response, by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Beirut response" to MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron PA 17501.

MCC is in need of school kits to fulfill requests from our partners around the world! Complete kits and/or supplies (find a full list of items at mcc.org/kits) can be shipped to MCC Central States (121 E. 30th St. North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room at MCC. If you would like help unloading, please contact Kate at (katemast@mcc.org, (316) 804-8432) to schedule a drop off time. Thank you for your continued support of MCC!

Bethel College

Sunday, Sept. 13 – KIPCOR, the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution at Bethel College, will kick off its annual film series *virtually*. KIPCOR will host a **Zoom call, starting at 2 p.m., featuring *Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot***, the story of a group of Alabama students and teachers who nonviolently resisted a century of Jim Crow in a segregationist state to win voting rights for African Americans. Included is a **talk-back session with Larry Burks Sr., president of the Wichita branch of the NAACP**. Register for the Zoom link at <http://kipcor.org/>

Now in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College: work by three seniors from the Class of 2020, Georgia Anderson, Blayne Stump and Anna Wiens. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Receptions will be individual and by invitation only. *Face masks must be worn on the Bethel College campus.*

At Kauffman Museum (through Nov. 29) – "Sorting Out Race: Examining Racial Identity and Stereotypes in Thrift Store Donations." To see in person: with ever-changing COVID-19 protocols, check the museum website, kauffmanmuseum.org, or Facebook page or call 316-283-1612 before planning a visit (normal hours are Tues.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 1:30-4:30 p.m., closed Mondays and major holidays). **You can also interact with the exhibit virtually at any time!** Go to <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/current-special-exhibition/> (This is not a tour of the exhibit, but examines many of the issues it covers, using artifacts featured in the exhibit.)

For the health and safety of participants and the wider community, **Life Enrichment at Bethel College is canceled for the fall 2020 semester.**

The Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is now online! See bcwamarketonline.com

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS course: Somatic Spiritual Practices in the Time of COVID. Explore the link between spirituality and our material bodies while considering how Christian spirituality is practiced in and through embodiment. Leah Thomas, Ph.D., teaches this one-credit AMBS videoconference course on Thursdays, Sept. 10 – Oct. 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m. ET. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first course for credit! Sign up at: ambs.edu/onecourse

Join AMBS's Virtual Bible Reading Colloquium! No matter how strong or dusty your Biblical Hebrew is, you are invited to join us in reading the Hebrew Bible together in Hebrew on Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m. ET via videoconference (Sept. 9 – Dec. 9; no meeting Oct. 28). The Bible Reading Colloquium is a judgment-free zone and a great way to keep your knowledge of the Bible languages alive. Contact Safwat Marzouk, Ph.D.: ambs.edu/academics/people/749240/safwat-marzouk