Volume LXVI June 14, 2020 No. 24

# Welcome!

We're glad to be doing our second drive-in service! Michael Unruh, Executive Director at Camp Mennoscah writes, "Throughout the biblical narrative, God continually reaches out to the people desiring a restored relationship. God wanted to (and still wants to) dwell among the people, first in the tabernacle, then through Jesus, and now through the Holy Spirit." Welcome Michael!



# **GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder
Call to Worship Psalm 138 CEV

Leader: With all my heart I praise you, Lord. In the presence of angels I sing your praises.

People: I worship at your holy temple and praise you for your love and your faithfulness. You were true to your word and made yourself more famous than ever before.

Leader: When I asked for your help, you answered my prayer and gave me courage. All kings on this earth have heard your promises, Lord, and they will praise you.

People: You are so famous that they will sing about the things you have done.

All: Though you are above us all, you care for humble people, and you keep a close watch on everyone who is proud.

Leader: I am surrounded by trouble, but you protect me against my angry enemies. With your own powerful arm you keep me safe.

People: You, Lord, will always treat me with kindness. Your love never fails.

All: You have made us what we are. Don't give up on us now!

**Invocation** Lighting of the peace torch

Gathering Hymn Great is the Lord HWB 87

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just,
by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice,

by his mercy he proves he is love. now lift up your voice:

Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Children's Story

Julianna Schrag

Scripture Exodus 25:1-9 Nathaniel Schmucker

Song of Faith Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Morning Prayer Pastor Caleb Yoder
Worship Music Braden Unruh and Jill Siebert

**HEARING GOD'S WORD** 

Scripture ReadingEphesians 2:19-22Nathaniel SchmuckerMessage"God is a Camper"Michael Unruh

# **Question and Answer time with Michael**

# **SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

# **Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings**

First Fruits Giving

(You may leave your offering in designated containers as you exit.)

# Song of Sending

Christ is our cornerstone

**HWB 43** 

- Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build. With his true saints alone the courts of heav'n are filled. On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.
- Oh, then with hymns of praise these hallow'd courts shall ring. Our voices we will raise, the Three-in-One to sing, and thus proclaim in joyful song both loud and long that glorious name.
- Here, gracious God, do thou forevermore draw nigh. Accept each faithful prayer, and mark each suppliant sigh. In copious shower on all who pray each holy day thy blessings pour.
- Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we implore, and may that grace, once giv'n, be with us evermore, until that day when all the bless'd to endless rest are called away!

**Benediction** Pastor Lois

+ The peace lamp (torch) 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 Braden Unruh and Jill Siebert for the gathering and worship music, Nathaniel Schmucker, Julianna Schrag, Eric Schrag, Bonnie, Kevin, Emmalyn, Eddie, Eli, Ellarose Gaeddert, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth and Dwight Flaming for their help with making this worship service possible.

We welcome Michael Unruh this morning! Michael is finishing his time as Executive Director at Camp Mennoscah and beginning as Campus Pastor at Bethel College. He has appreciated opportunities to share about camp and its mission at congregations like Alexanderwohl. Michael grew up on a farm west of Peabody and is a member of Tabor Mennonite Church. Next May he will complete his Master of Divinity degree at Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary and this coming August he and his wife Lina are expecting their first child! They live in Wichita with their black lab, Phog.

Scripture reading for Next Sunday: Genesis 21:8-21

# Praying for our congregation and beyond

- We pray for Camp Mennoscah in an unusual year without children and youth summer camp. We pray for God's love to shine through Camp in a Box, and we pray for the camp in their leadership transition.
- ❖ We pray for Steve Banman, his father, Jim, and their family at the passing of Jim's wife, Judy, on Thursday morning. Service details are pending.
- We pray for the family of Glen and Mary Lou Unrau as they grieve and celebrate the life of Virgil Unruh, married to Glen's sister Shirley. Virgil passed away on Wednesday and service details are pending.
- We pray for families finding a summer routine without the same activities as most years, including summer camp.
- We pray for God's inspiration, wisdom, and boldness for how our congregation can be involved in dismantling racism.

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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!

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# PEACE CORNER

We believe God's redemption in Christ restores all of our broken relationships, including our broken relationship with the created world. Over the last weeks, the Alexanderwohl peace committee has been sharing 50 suggestions to improve our stewardship of the earth. This week we reach our goal of 50. Just as we adjusted our lifestyles due to the pandemic, we can make other adjustments as we seek to care for the world God has entrusted us with.

# Simplifying your lifestyle

- 43. Buy organic food
- 44. Buy locally produced food
- 45. Buy in bulk using your own containers or in larger volume which use less packaging material per unit of volume
- 46. Buy seasonal food in season
- 47. Buy sustainable sea-foods
- 48. Garden and share, if possible
- 49. Eat a plant-rich diet
- 50. Minimize food waste

#### **READING CORNER**

The pandemic has been a good opportunity to slow down and read. The following books/resources are helpful for learning more about the topic of racial injustice from diverse perspectives in order to have greater awareness for *how* to love our neighbor. Suggested books come from Kris Schmucker and a lists provided by WDC conference and Mennonite Church USA. Books with an asterisk can be checked out from the WDC library.

- 1. Trouble I've Seen. Drew Hart, 2016 (Anabaptist Perspective)\*
- 2. Set Free: A Journey Toward Solidarity Against Racism, Iris De Leon-Hartshorn, Tobin Miller Shearer, Regina Shands Stoltzfus, 2001 (Anabaptist Perspective)\*
- 3. Deep Justice in a Broken World: Helping Your Kids Serve Others and Right the Wrongs Around Them, Chap Clark and Kara Powell, eds., 2008 (Youth Ministry Perspective)\*
- 4. There is a River: The Black Struggle for Freedom in America, Vincent Harding, 1981 (historical perspective)\*
- 5. The Cross and the Lynching Tree, James H. Cone, 2011 (history and theology)\*
- 6. White Fragility: Why it's so hard for White people to talk about racism, Robin J. DiAngelo, 2018 (anti-racism work)\*
- 7. Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, Bryan Stevenson, 2015 (movie version free to stream this month)
- 8. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of colorblindness, Michelle Alexander, 2012\*
- 9. Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation. Latasha Morrison, 2019
- 10. Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, 2018
- 11. Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, Ibram X. Kendi, 2017

# **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today -- You are all invited to a take-out meal as the spring fundraiser for the Mennonite College Student Scholarship fund following the outdoor service, from approximately 11 am – 12 noon. The menu will be: BBQ pork sandwiches, homemade potato salad, baked beans, baby carrots, and a bar cookie. Generous donations will be accepted! Please come to the church's northeast entrance. If unable to get a meal, donations may be sent to the church with a notation in the memo line --- MCSMT. Thank you!

You're invited to the AMC Grand Porch Visit on Sunday, June 28 at 7 p.m. in the shade on the church campus! This come-and-go social distancing event will give us a chance to casually fellowship together. Bring a lawn chair and maybe something to drink and enjoy the evening together outside! Masks are not necessary for this outdoor event.

The Board of Mission & Service invites you to watch the movie "Just Mercy" during the month of June as it is available for free on YouTube, Amazon Prime Video, Google Play and iTunes. The PG-13 rated courtroom drama tells the true story of lawyer Bryan Stevenson, who appealed the 1988 murder conviction of an innocent black man, Walter McMillian and is based on the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Then join us for a discussion of the movie on **Sunday, July 12 at 7 p.m.** (details on location TBD). Please join us in learning together!

Before the pandemic hit, Pastor Caleb had been planning to take a partial sabbatical leave time during part of June and part of July. The pastors had made arrangements for some guest speakers during that time. Now, in light of the pandemic, Caleb is delaying this leave time. However, with alternative plans for worship services already arranged during part of the summer, Caleb will still accept this hiatus from preaching in order to focus energy on other aspects of ministry. He will be working three-quarter time and using vacation days for rest and renewal with his family.

We have formed a COVID-19 taskforce to think through implications of resuming church gatherings and consider mitigation strategies for avoiding viral transmission. The taskforce had its first virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 2. The taskforce includes people diverse roles in the church and expertise: Nancy Stucky, church secretary and medical expertise; Robyn Hartvickson, medical expertise; Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Board of Deacons; Renae Peters, Board of Worship and music committee; Janine Peters, Board of Education and custodial expertise; Brendon Nafziger, Trustees and Ushers; Tina Schrag, communications; and Pastors Caleb and Lois. At this point, we do not have a timeframe for any indoor gathering. Please pray for our work as we continue meeting.

# Use of building for meetings:

The 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 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.

# MC-USA statement on Racial Injustice

In the midst of upheaval in our country, Mennonite Church USA has issued a statement on racial injustice that can be found through the following link. We offer this as a helpful starting place for conversation about this hard topic, as well as a call for us to lament, pray together, and stand in solidarity with communities of color. <a href="http://mennoniteusa.org/news/mc\_usa-statement-on-racial-injustice/">http://mennoniteusa.org/news/mc\_usa-statement-on-racial-injustice/</a>

Pastor Caleb is continually updating our **Faith Formation** resource page (<a href="http://alexanderwohl.org/resource-page/">http://alexanderwohl.org/resource-page/</a> 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 contributions to the WDC Hope Fund, and pray for ongoing financial support for WDC ministries and congregations.

# **Mennonite Mission Network**

Jaden Hostetter serves in Ecuador through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions. Pray for him and the Quito Mennonite Church as they deliver food to 80-100 refugee families during the rigorous COVID-19 lockdown that keeps people confined to their homes. Pray for God's protection over all members of the congregation and their communities.

#### **COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **Commodity Distribution**

**Commodity distribution** will be this Wednesday, June 17, from 5-6 p.m. The protocol will remain the same as it has been. Pull up in the alley and then open your trunks and someone will load your commodities in your vehicle. Please stay healthy and well. Thank you. Jenny Girard, Secretary, Goessel Mennonite Church

# Camp Mennoscah

Take a look! Summer staff are sharing camp with you from a distance! Videos are being posted on the Camp Mennoscah Facebook page daily. You'll see some typical activities of camp and some of the wild, creative fun we strive for in a week of camp. A Facebook account is not needed, though they will try to get you to sign up. Just click "not now" at the bottom of the pop-up box. You can get to the Facebook page from <a href="https://www.campmennoscah.org">www.campmennoscah.org</a> using the button at the top left corner. Send us your thoughts!

It is with both appreciation and sadness that the Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors announces the resignation of Michael Unruh from the position of Executive Director, effective July 1, 2020. In a statement, Michael shared, "I am grateful for each staff person and board member who has worked tirelessly to develop camp's ministry, and the hundreds of camp supporters I have had the privilege of getting to know." Michael will begin as Campus Pastor at Bethel College this summer. In the interim period, the Camp Mennoscah Staff and Board of Directors will continue to fulfill camp's mission by providing space and programs for people of all ages to connect with God, nature, others, and self. Full statement can be found at campmennoscah.org.

In the midst of the cancellation of in-person summer youth camps, you still have some great opportunities to support the mission of Camp Mennoscah!

- By praying for the staff, volunteers, and campers to find creative ways to connect with one another this summer.
- By making a general fund gift to support creative summer connection content and to sustain camp operations. Maybe even a little extra this year, if you are able to do so!
- By encouraging others to remain involved in camp's ministry.

It is a blessing to have your support during this unique year! If you have questions about giving options, please contact Michael Unruh at 620-382-6560 or <a href="michael.unruh@campmennoscah.org">michael.unruh@campmennoscah.org</a>.

# **Western District Conference**

Children and Youth, you are invited to offer art for display online during our virtual WDC Assembly. Read or listen to Jeremiah 29.4-13 and 1 Peter 2. 11-12, then draw or paint a picture, write a poem, or other artistic response to these scriptures which are our theme texts for Assembly, "Living in Exile." We will include them in a PowerPoint during the delegate session on August 1. Pastors, please invite your kids and youth to participate. Please send them to <a href="mailto:kathynd@mennowdc.org">kathynd@mennowdc.org</a>. Thank you.

Congregational Snapshot Videos for WDC Assembly: Ask a teen or young adult to help make your 3 minute max congregational snapshot video that will be uploaded to our public Western District Conference (Mennonite Church USA) YouTube channel. Get a smartphone, hit record, and tell a story about something exciting or memorable that happened within your congregation this year. These videos are ways we can continue to get to know each other better in WDC. If you have privacy concerns or need tech assistance, please email Kathy Neufeld Dunn at <a href="mailto:kathynd@mennowdc.org">kathynd@mennowdc.org</a>. There are options for video visibility. Upload the video to your congregation's YouTube channel, make sure it is "public," then email the link to <a href="mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org">wdc@mennowdc.org</a>.

# **Mennonite Central Committee**

Please join MCC on June 16 at 1 p.m. CST/ 12 p.m. MDT, for a webinar: MCC's migration work in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala/El Salvador to discuss questions such as: How are MCC workers and partners in Latin America being affected by COVID-19? How are U.S. policies and protocols affecting the spread of the virus among the vulnerable population? How are organizations and faith communities responding? And how can each of us get involved and support their work during this time? Learn how to join this conversation at <a href="mailto:mcc.org/immigration-webinar-series">mcc.org/immigration-webinar-series</a>.

You're invited to join MCC on June 17th at 6 p.m. CST/ 5 p.m. MDT for a webinar featuring Paul Shetler Fast, MCC's global health coordinator. Learn how COVID-19 is threatening the developing world and how MCC is responding. MCC's monthly webinar series, featuring a wide variety of stories from MCC projects from around the world, explores how MCC is responding to COVID-19. Experts in the field will give us a behind-the-scenes experience, sharing their own stories. Come with your questions! Register for upcoming webinars and browse through past recordings at <a href="mailto:mcc-webinar-series">mcccanada.ca/mcc-webinar-series</a>.

Mennonite Central Committee Flatlander Bicycle Ride: The planning committee is going ahead with plans for the 2020 Flatlander ride to be held on September 19. More information about this event can be found at: <a href="https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/mcc-flatlander-bicycle-ride">https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/mcc-flatlander-bicycle-ride</a>. We are currently looking for additional people to help on the planning committee, and also for individuals or groups to help us with the SAGs (refreshment stops) on the various bike routes. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please call Donna at 316-727-6346 or email her at beckerdonna2@gmail.com. Hope to see you there.

# **Mennonite Church USA**

Service can be a family activity! Check out <u>MennoniteMission.net/SOOP</u> to find flexible service terms so the whole family can be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Free Debt Counseling: In these trying times, Everence has made free debt counseling possible through Lutheran Social Services Counseling. See <a href="https://www.everence.com/everence-articles/core-markets/national-advisors-and-representatives/webinars/20191114-performing-a-financial-health-check-up">https://www.everence.com/everence-articles/core-markets/national-advisors-and-representatives/webinars/20191114-performing-a-financial-health-check-up</a> for more information. You don't have to struggle alone.

# **Everence**

Everence will host a *Social Security and retirement income planning* webinar, on Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. The workshop is free. Register soon by contacting Darlene Buller at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

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