

Welcome to Alexanderwohl! We're pleased and honored to welcome Sheryl Wilson as our guest preacher this morning. Sheryl is the Executive Director of KIPCOR (Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution). Through the study of Romans 12:9-21, Sheryl will focus on the faith connection between anti-racism and restorative justice.



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music Hymn Singing Led by Braden Unruh

Welcome and Opportunities for Celebration and Service Bryant Miller
Sharing from Brian Stucky about MennoCon21

***Call to Worship** Psalm 85:4-13

Leader: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

People: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Leader: Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

People: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Leader: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

People: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

All: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

People: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

All: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Lighting the Peace Lamp

***Gathering Songs** *We Praise Thee, O God (omit verse 3)* VT 91

1 - We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love, for Jesus who died, and is now gone above.

(Refrain) Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.

2 - We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.

4 - Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love. May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.

Sing to the God of Harvest VT 122

1 - Sing to the God of harvest a song of love and praise; with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise. By God's command the seasons in fruitful order move; so thank the God of harvest with hymns of heartfelt love.

2 - God gives the rain and sunshine; the deserts bloom and spring; all creatures leap in gladness; the children laugh and sing. God fills them with abundance; all living things increase; the year is crowned with kindness, with plenty and with peace.

3 - Bring to the holy table gifts God in goodness gave; the wheat of gospel planting, the world Christ died to save; and bring the cup of blessing, the fruit of field and vine, and thank the God of harvest who calls us now to dine.

Children's Story		Delbert Peters
Special Music		Braden Unruh and Jill Siebert
Morning Prayer		Bryant Miller
Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings		First Fruits Giving
Offertory	<i>Rhosymedre</i> ~Ralph Vaughan Williams	Karen Unruh
*Prayer of Dedication	<i>You Are All We Have</i>	VT 701

You are all we have. You give us what we need. Our lives are in your hands, O God, our lives are in your hands. (2x)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading	Romans 12:9-21 NIV	Marilyn Unruh Flaming
Sermon	Overcome evil with good	Sheryl Wilson

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Songs of Response	<i>Jesus, Help Us Live in Peace</i>	VT 719
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Refrain: Jesus, help us live in peace, from our blindness set us free. Fill us with your healing love. Help us live in unity.

- 1 - Many times we don't agree on what's right or wrong to do. It's so hard to really see from the other's point of view.
- 2 - How we long for pow'r and fame, seeking ev'ry earthly thing. We forget the one who came as a servant, not a king.

Beyond a Dying Sun VT 416

- 1 - Beyond a dying sun I saw a vision on the sea of golden sails full billowed on the wind (on the wind). And echoing above the waves a voice called after me, "God's dwelling place is with you till the end." (till the end).

(Refrain) I see a new world coming when ev'ryone is free! And all shall be God's people in justice, love, and peace.

- 2 - For God at last shall wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye. The sting of death shall pierce the heart no more (heart no more). When grieving turns to laughter all the pain from us shall fly, and former ways lie bleached upon the shore (on the shore).
- 3 - Though hatred rages on the wind and wars defile the land, I see those golden sails still coming strong (coming strong), for through the eyes of faith still shines the vision of the Lamb, and o'er a weary earth there rings this song (rings this song).

Benediction

Postlude	Karen Unruh
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***Please stand if able**

Song Leader: Braden Unruh

Quartet: Kyle Unruh, Justine Unruh, Braden Unruh, Jill Siebert

Greeters: North – David & Aileen Esau; South – Arlin & Maretta Buller

Visual Arts: Shari Wiens

Nursery Staff: Kim Voth and Susan Nafziger

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth, Steve Unruh

July 4 Attendance: 160 in person; 6 Zoom households

Next Sunday – Carol Duerksen and Maynard Knepp will bring the message. Assisted by Travis Duerksen and his skill at asking questions, Carol and Maynard will help us think about what is essential for "being church". Their message is nicely summarized in a quote by Rachel Held Evans, "The church is not a group of people who believe the same things; the church is a group of people caught up in the same story, with Jesus at the center."

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- We pray for our High School youth and their sponsors, Rachael and Brian Burkholder as well as Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert who are also accompanying them. The group departed this morning for their service week at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.
- Youth going on the trip: Raechel Boese, Kale Funk, Eddie Gaeddert, Lizzie Schmucker, Caiden Duerksen, Lyna Lehrman, Jacob Schrag, Timothy Schrag, Bane Spurlin, Skyler Wuest, Caleb Burkholder, Emma Schroeder, Mallory Schroeder, Sarah Spurlin, Cambry Duerksen, Alece Lehrman, Javin Schmidt, Noah Schrag, Wade Spurlin
- From the Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Vine – Quito Mennonite Church in Ecuador has planted a community garden to provide food for church members and work for those who are unemployed. The MMN workers request prayers for a bountiful harvest.

Coming Events

Today, Sunday, July 11	7:15 am	Prayer for Youth before their departure
Sunday, July 11	9:30 am	Sunday school for all ages
Sunday, July 11	10:30 am	Worship service in the sanctuary and on Zoom
Monday, July 12	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
Monday, July 12	7:00 pm	Church Council - cancelled
Wednesday, July 14	7:00 pm	Book study
Friday, July 16	10:00 am	Senior Fellowship
Sunday, July 18	11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Meeting including survey results and presentation
Monday, July 19	7:00 pm	Board of Worship - Chapel
Wednesday, July 21	7:00 pm	Final Book study
Monday, July 26	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
Saturday, July 31	3:00 – 9:00 pm	Community Junior High Camp at Alexanderwohl Church
Sunday, August 1	11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Meeting including survey results and presentation
Sunday, August 1	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Family Swim Night at Hillsboro Family Aquatic Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheryl R. Wilson has been described as a resourceful Facilitator and mediator consistently recognized for excellence in building effective relationships. She has a background in all aspects of organizational communication, specifically in providing constructive feedback. Sheryl has been a practitioner, trainer and educator in restorative justice for over fifteen years and has had the honor of working with individuals from around the world in her practice. She holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in Mediation and Communication Studies and a restorative justice-based Master of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She has served as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Georgia Council for Restorative Justice (GCRJ), a program of Georgia State University. Her work with GCRJ centered on Defense Initiated Victim Outreach work in death penalty cases. As Executive Director of Southern Truth and Reconciliation (STAR of Atlanta, GA), she was able to work with communities affected by historical harm. In the summer of 2008, Sheryl coordinated a group of victim offender facilitators to serve as support people for witnesses who gave testimony to the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) during hearings for the United States Diaspora held at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She continued working with a contingent of the Liberian TRC residing in the Atlanta area through her work as Executive Director of STAR. In the fall of 2017, she began her role as Director of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR). KIPCOR is one of the oldest regional peace institutes in the United States. She currently serves on the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution for the State of Kansas Office of Judicial Administration. In her spare time, Sheryl is working on various writing projects that explore the relationship between the restorative justice movement and racial reconciliation. She recently completed a chapter of *Colorizing Restorative Justice* (June 2020), a book about restorative justice practitioners of color and the challenges they face. She and her husband LeRoy are the parents of two sons.

Today - The Garden Sharing Table is in the south entryway. Everyone is invited to either share extra garden produce or come by the table to pick up some garden goodies through mid September.

Tomorrow, Monday, July 12 both Ruth Goertzen and Pastor Lois will be out of the office, but Sandy Banman will be available in the office to take calls, answer the door, etc. Thank you, Sandy, for your office coverage! Additionally, Pastor Lois is on vacation from July 8-15, returning to the office on Friday, July 16. Feel free to contact one of the deacons during that time, if needed. (Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Ruth Goertzen, Sandy Banman, Jim Schmidt, Bryant Miller)

Next Sunday, July 18 from 11:45-12:45 will be the first of two (identical) presentations on the topic of sexual abuse. The other will be on August 1. Veronica Mosqueda Bargdill is the Executive Director of *Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center* where she has served since February 2020. The agency started in 2001, serving Harvey and Marion Counties; it has since expanded to serve a larger area. Veronica is a Social Worker who oversees the program and does development, assessment and grant writing. In her presentation on July 18 and August 1 she will talk about what a Child Advocacy Center is and how it helps address child abuse in the community it serves. She will review definitions of abuse, what are “red flags” and how to address these issues. She will talk about social media and the potential pitfalls of using it, as well as give us tips and resources for how to stay safe. Results from the recent survey conducted by the response team will be shared and then Veronica will give her (30 minute) educational presentation. There will be time for questions about the survey and the presentation. Snacks will be provided for all (please bring your water bottles to fill with ice water) as well as childcare in the nursery for children from birth through second grade.

Just two remaining sessions of our summer BOOK STUDY! Each session stands on its own, so you're still invited to read and discuss together the book, *Creation & the Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective on a Sustainable World*, a collection of essays written by Anabaptist teachers, writers and thinkers. The remaining study schedule is as follows:

- July 14 – Essay #12, “Toward an Anabaptist/Mennonite Environmental Ethic”, written by Heather Ann Ackley Bean, discussion led by John Fast
- July 21 – Essay #13, “The Environmental Challenge Before Us”, written by Calvin Redekop, discussion led by John Fast

Each study will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Fellowship will begin again on Friday, July 16, at 10:00 a.m. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall with 5 or 6 to a table rather than 8 (to give ourselves a bit more space) with a cup of coffee, but no goodies yet (we'll reintroduce food later). We'll catch up with one another (no program yet) and get reacquainted! Mark the third Fridays of each month on your calendars and plan to attend!

The Board of Deacons is grateful to those who have agreed to serve as **delegates** to represent Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church at the Mennonite Church USA Convention as well as at Western District Conference Assembly. Brian and Nancy Stucky will zoom in to both events (Brian is our delegate for MC USA). Marj Shoemaker will join them in zoom attendance at the WDC Assembly where all three of them are delegates.

Children's Sunday School is in session! The classrooms are as follows; 2 year old class will be in room 18 & 19, Pre-K 3's and 4's will be in room 12, and K-5th Grade will be in the Foundation Room.

Adult Sunday School – Today is the official start date that the adult Sunday School will begin meeting in their classrooms. Below is a list of where each class is meeting and what they are currently studying. You are invited to join one of these groups!

Young Adults – Fellowship Hall North end. Informal fellowship.

Upper Room – Upstairs northwest corner. The Wired Word.

Seekers & Sojourners – Upstairs southeast corner. Informal fellowship.

Friends & Followers – Fellowship Hall South end. Book study - The Bible Unwrapped.

Route 15 – Conference Room . The Denominational Quarterly (Summer 2020)

Co-Workers of Faith – Chapel. The Denominational Quarterly (Summer 2020)

Help Needed – Registrar for Sunday School Hour

Two or more persons are needed to ring the opening and ending bells for the Sunday school hour. Other duties include picking up offering envelopes from Sunday school classes, counting and recording

attendance and money. Please let Janine Peters or Lynel Unrau know if you are interested in helping serve in this way. Thank you.

Schedule of Upcoming Services:

- **July 25** – Pastor Lois will preach.
- **August 1** – Travis Duerksen will bring the message based on recent podcasts he has produced at Mennonite Mission Network.

Country Threshing Days is happening in 2021! Would you please help the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum host and feed our family, friends, and guests coming for the event? Bakers, servers, and cashiers are needed for the Low German meal at the Goessel Elementary School and food service in the Preparatory School on the museum grounds on Saturday, August 7. Please see the volunteer sheet in your mailbox and respond by July 25. For further questions, contact Aileen Esau (367-2358 or daesau@gmail.com). Thank you!

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for the WDC Ministerial Leadership Commission as they meet this week, and offer support and accountability for ministerial leadership in the conference.

Mennonite Mission Network

In Bangladesh, India and Nepal, Community Health Evangelists (CHEs) have received special permission from their governments to work, despite COVID-19 travel restrictions. Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the CHEs, who care for the sick and share the good news of God's love throughout Asia.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Western District Conference

WDC Assembly Sunday Worship: How can we join August 1 Assembly worship? Join us in-person at 10:30 am at Faith Mennonite Church, 2100 N Anderson, Newton, KS. Or worship via YouTube Live at 10:30 am wherever you are. Or watch the recording on our WDC YouTube channel at Western District Conference (MC USA) whenever it is convenient for you. Join us for Friday (July 30) worship at 7 pm in any of these ways, too!

Camp Mennoscah

Family Weekend at Camp Mennoscah on July 17-18! If you're looking for a weekend to escape, this retreat offers a smorgasbord of camp activities for you to choose from and plenty of time to be with your family and friends. Register at cammennoscah.org and contact 620-297-3290 with questions!

Extra help needed for summer youth camps! Camp Mennoscah has paid and volunteer positions for grounds, maintenance and custodial positions. For college age folks, there is a weekly stipend position for a lifeguard, grounds, or custodial position. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@cammennoscah.org for details. You will make camp an amazing experience for everyone!

August 28 is the next Work Day at Camp Mennoscah! We'll remind you again, but save the date. You make camp great!

Mennonite Central Committee

The MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS is open to the public as of Tuesday, July 6. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. Masks are respected but not required for fully vaccinated adults. We look forward to welcoming you back at MCC! Contact us at 316-283-2720 or centralstates@mcc.org.

Mennonite Disaster Service

MDS has an urgent need for up to 15 volunteers to serve in Jennings, LA for the week of July 18-24. Volunteers are working on repairs from the 2020 hurricanes that passed through the area. Work will primarily be roofing, soffit and fascia repair, ceiling drywall repair and finishing, flooring, installing cabinets, and occasional painting. If you or a group might be interested in joining that week, we would love to have them join! All skills and experience levels are welcome. Call 811-241-8111 ext. 1 or email dfrey@mds.org with any questions or interest.