

Churchwide Prayer Requests

Western District Conference: Praise God for the many ways that WDC congregations are involved with Mennonite Central Committee, as MCC celebrates its centennial this year.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for Sophie Miller as she works with an indigenous organization in Guatemala that teaches sustainability from the worldview of the *Tz'utujil*, a Mayan people.

Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA), Miami, Florida: Pray for IBA Study Center at Encuentro de Renovacion Mennonite Church in Miami, Florida, and its tutors: Teresa Pérez-Soto and Andres Mendoza. Pray that their studies be a personal blessing and that God's wisdom and patience be with the tutors as they teach this group of students. May this leadership training ministry in their church be a blessing for the congregation and community.

Mennonite Church USA: Pray for the The Executive Board of MCUSA. They recently met to discuss revisions to the church's resolution policy, the Membership Guidelines Advisory Group's report and more. Read about it: mennoniteusa.org/news/boardmeets.

NEXT SUNDAY, February 23, 2020

9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upstairs – Adult Book Study

- *Faith Travels* by Marlene Kropf – Waiting for God

Downstairs – Adult Bible Study

- *Jesus Teaches about True Worship* – Perseverance in Prayer

Downstairs – Children's Sunday school

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

Greeter: Lois Newcomer

Worship Leader: Luke Van Tassel **Storyteller:** Tom Claassen

Speaker: Christina Litwiller **Piano:** Lori Schmidt

Upcoming Events

Feb. 18	Church Board	7:00 pm
Feb. 19	Worship Committee @ Zergers'	6:00 pm
Mar. 1	Congregational Meeting	11:30 am
Mar. 6	First Friday Game Night	7:00 pm
Mar. 15	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30 am

Pastor Christina's Schedule

Usual Office Hours: 9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday

This schedule may vary. Check first before stopping by.

Available most of the time by text, phone, or email.

Announcements

The Bethel College Concert Choir and the Hesston College Bel Canto Singers will unite for a joint concert on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church near Goessel. The choirs will perform individual selections from their respective repertoires, and will join together for other pieces, as well as being joined by members of the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Chancel Choir. An offering will be taken to benefit Mennonite Central Committee.

Verenike Supper: First Mennonite Church, 427 W 4th in Halstead, KS, invites everyone to their annual verenike supper on February 29 from 4:30-7 pm. Cost is by donation, proceeds go to church service trips and service projects.

Camp Mennoscah's Hymn Sing and Dessert Auction: Everyone is invited to come for an afternoon of hymns, fellowship and desserts at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton KS, on March 1 from 4-6pm. Amazing desserts will be auctioned off to raise funds to renovate our beloved amphitheater used for evening campfires.

You're invited to join the fun at the 13th annual MCC Comforter Blitz on March 2, 3 and 4 at Journey Mennonite Church at the Yoder Campus, one mile north of Yoder, Kansas. Blitz times are Monday and Tuesday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, and Wednesday, 9:00am to 4:00pm. For more information check out mcc.org/comforter-blitz.

Western District Women in Mission Spring Supper is at 6 pm on Thursday, March 12 at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. The Special Guest Speaker will be Patty Shelly, Professor of Bible and Religion at Bethel College. Additional information coming soon!

2020	Attendance		Unified Budget	Other	Total
1/26	24		\$821.00	SouperBowl of Hope \$25.00	\$846.00
2/2	28		\$3525.00	SouperBowl of Hope \$206.00	\$3731.00
2/9	30		Rent \$100.00 \$872.00	SouperBowl of Hope \$25.00 Special Needs Fund \$53.27	\$1050.27

Additional Information from January & February

Churchwide Prayer Requests

Western District Conference:

- Give thanks for the WDC Resource Library, and pray for God to nurture growth in faith and discipleship for all who use library resources.
- Pray for WDC congregations struggling with conflict or painful situations, that God's Spirit of wisdom, healing and hope would guide and sustain them.

Mennonite Mission Network:

- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Anabaptist youth in Burgos, Spain, as they prepare for their annual *Origen* conference. Over the years, many lives have been transformed through the *Origen* experience. Pray that God would use this year's event to touch lives needing healing and hope.
Praise God for Annelise Goldschmidt's three decades of service with Mennonite Mission Network, most recently as a logistics coordinator with Mission Inter Senegal for 15 years. Pray for her as she discerns what God is calling her to when she returns home to France.

Mennonite Education Agency:

- **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for student leaders as they plan events in celebration of Black History Month at EMU. May they be inspired and inspire us to work for a more just world. Also, pray that students visiting EMU during Honors and Scholarship weekend can discern whether this is the right place for them to study and grow.
- **Bluffton (Ohio) University:** Bluffton University hosted Cyneatha Milsaps, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, as she led a campus discussion on gun violence and its effects on family and community. Please pray for everyone impacted by gun violence.

Announcements

Mennonite Church USA:

- MCUSA invites everyone to focus on climate justice this month through its "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative. As part of this initiative, MCUSA is providing a free webinar on "Caring for climate: Beyond denial and despair" on Feb. 27 at 7:30-9:00 p.m. ET. The panel discussion will explore ways that congregational ministries can help people navigate the myriad emotions they experience related to climate and how they can move from inaction to hopeful engagement. Register at: <http://mennoniteusa.org/climatejustice/webinar/>
- MCUSA recently released the report from the Membership Guidelines Advisory Group, a 21-person volunteer group that was commissioned by the Executive Board to generate options for how to best discern the future of the Membership Guidelines: <http://mennoniteusa.org/news/report-guidelines>
- **Mennonite Church USA signed a letter to Congress** expressing grief at "the current rise in violence between the U.S. and Iran," and urging Congress "to pass legislation that will bring us back to the negotiating table with Iran." Read the letter here: mennoniteusa.org/iranletter
- **Bring the Peace:** What is the answer to those concerned about war? Prompted by a question from his son, Glen Guyton, executive director of MCUSA, shares his thoughts on how to respond and on our role as a "peace church." Read his blog at: mennoniteusa.org/concerned-about-war
- **The MCUSA Archives' Oral History Project** seeks to document and preserve the voices of young people, ages 24-40, who are part of MC USA. Hear what Theresa Peachey Crissman, a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University and long-term mission worker for Virginia Mennonite Missions, has to say about listening to others and risk-taking: mennoniteusa.org/church-together
- **Retired pastor Jane Thorley Roeschley** documented her personal spiritual journey by creating "prayer mandalas." Read about how this spiritual practice became a powerful expression of her faith walk through joy and angst in her blog: mennoniteusa.org/mandalas

Mennonite Central Committee:

- **Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who came together in January for MCC's Great Winter Warm-up!** Due to snow, some events were delayed by a week, but the totals are in and we collected more than 9500 comforters, that's 3,000 more than our goal! From start to finish, each comforter is created with love and MCC always hears from comforter recipients that they can feel the love from the hands that created their new comforter. Everyone is welcome to join in making more comforters at the MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, Kansas, March 2-4 check out mcc.org/comforter-blitz for more information.
- **MCC centennial celebration, Feb. 29 at 7:30 p.m.** You're invited to join MCC for an evening of centennial celebration and giving, We've Come This Far by Faith at the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. Bid on silent auction items, grab a reproduction Mennonite Feeding Station sign from our limited supply and join us for a program celebrating MCC's past 100 years, present and future! Find out more at mcc.org/events.
- **Sign up for monthly highlights from MCC's 100 stories for 100 years!** Explore images and stories from the breadth of MCC's work – from a graphic story on the 1920 trip that began MCC's ministry to accounts of women peacemakers now. Go to mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/email to sign up for monthly emails highlighting stories from the project. Can you think of others who would be interested? Please share this announcement and encourage them to sign up for monthly email highlights too!
- **Join an MCC learning tour to Palestine and Israel, June 4-14, 2020.** This deeply impactful and informative trip is open for 14 people to sign up for. On this trip you will meet Palestinian Christians, hear from Israelis and Palestinians about their current challenges and joys and you will deepen your faith and be empowered to engage in education and advocacy on Palestine and Israel. Visit mcc.org/events to find out more and get signed up for the trip.

Western District Conference:

- **Heidi Regier Kreider has been reappointed to a second term as Western District Conference Minister:** During the fall of 2019 the WDC Executive Board conducted a term review of Heidi's service over the past four and a half years. The feedback gathered from many segments of the Conference and partner institutions was broadly affirmative of Heidi's leadership. Consequently, the WDC Executive Board took action at its November 16, 2019, meeting, voting unanimously to reappoint Heidi to a second five-year term of service as WDC Conference Minister, commencing August 17, 2020. Heidi has accepted the call to a second term. The Executive Board thanks Heidi for her diligent and caring service, and looks forward to her ongoing leadership.
– Ray Reimer, Moderator, for the WDC Executive Board

Camp Mennoscah:

- **Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats** at Camp Mennoscah still have a few open spaces! We love to have these retreats overflowing with fun and fellowship. Bring a friend to either retreat on Feb. 28-March 1 or March 6-8 and join in the cropping and crafting. Register online at www.campmennoscah.org! Contact us at 620-297-3290 with questions.
- **Refresh and Renew at Camp Mennoscah's Retirees Retreat, April 20-22!** Retirees of all ages are invited to enjoy sessions on a variety of topics, partake in coffee breaks and community, and join together in song and Bible study. Request a registration form at 620-297-3290! Forms will be sent to the churches soon.