



April 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings

Do we really know God?

Jake Hess, pastor

Despite winter's tenacity, beautiful crocuses have sprouted up outside our front window. They are a brilliant purple, so fine and so rich that I doubt a similar hue could be replicated in paint or fabric. Curiously, the petals look as if *they were* painted; vertical lines curve up their backs like brush strokes. They feel like silk to the touch, but have survived both snow and frost. Inside—wildly contrasting with the purple petals—are tongue-like tendrils, orange as the setting sun, known collectively as stigmata. In a particular variety of crocus, these vibrant threads are dried and used to make saffron, one of the world's costliest spices by weight. This, lest you be falsely impressed, is mostly knowledge I acquired in the past ten minutes, thanks to our friend Google!

In contrast, consider the kind of knowledge that George Macdonald—a 19th century Scottish novelist—encourages. "To know a primrose," he claims, "is a higher thing than to know all the botany of it—just as to know Christ is an infinitely higher thing than to know all theology, all that is said about His person, or babbled about His work."

Macdonald's distinction between *types of knowing*, I believe, is partially due to the fact that English only has one verb to describe what, in other languages, requires several. For instance, Spanish speakers use the verb **saber** to talk about *informational knowledge*: facts, data, answers, etc. However, an entirely different verb, **conocer**, is used for knowing people, places, or objects on a more experiential level; it describes *relational knowledge*. This distinction, I believe, is what George Macdonald is highlighting in both creation and Christianity. We may know a lot about someone (or something) and yet not know them in a meaningful way relationally.

For this reason, Macdonald asks—*do we really know God?* At the mention of God, do our minds ignite with information and quotes and theological jargon, or do our hearts warm and our throats tighten and our eyes well at the joyous memory of God's grace come near? Is God not just *omnipresent*, in the theological sense, but also *presently felt* in your struggles, your doubts, your hopes?

According to Jesus, this kind of knowing is not just knowledge, but **life**. "And this is eternal life," he says, "that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." May *this* kind of knowledge, the eternal life of God, be yours in Christ.



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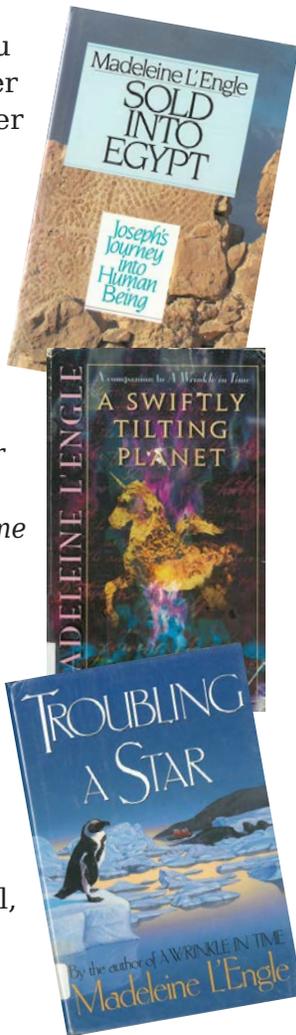
Hively library feature

Madeleine L'Engle: Writer of fiction, biblical stories and journals

Madeleine L'Engle is the author you will see more often than any other in the Hively library. We have 12 of her 60 books, and they are on short-term display in the foyer rack.

L'Engle is often described as a writer of fiction for young adults, perhaps because of the well-known *A Wrinkle in Time* (now a Disney feature film). That book is missing from our library, but we have two others in the series: *A Wind in the Door* and *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*. (We would welcome a donation of *A Wrinkle in Time* if someone has a copy they no longer need.)

Most of Hively's books from this multiple award-winning writer are for adults. If you haven't read any L'Engle books lately, take one of these and rediscover the ways her creative mind and strong faith merge in her writing. If you have never read any of L'Engle's books, choose a novel, a journal, or reflections on faith and the biblical story.



For adults

- Certain women* (1992)
- A circle of quiet: The Crosswicks journal, Book 1* (1972)
- A live coal in the sea* (1996)
- The other side of the sun* (1971)
- Penguins and golden calves: Icons and idols* (1996)
- The rock that is higher: Story as truth* (1993)
- Sold into Egypt: Joseph's journey into human being* (1989)
- Two-part invention: The story of a marriage* (1988)
- Walking on water: Reflections on faith and art* (1980)

For younger readers

- A wind in the door* (Time series) (1973)
- A swiftly tilting planet* (Time series) (1973)
- Troubling a star* (1994)

In Memoriam

Two members of the Hively family died recently and we extend our condolences to the families:

Larry Quimby, partner of Carol Troyer, died March 16, in Kissimmee, Fla. A memorial services is planned in early May.

Tom Frey, husband of Joyce Frey, died April 2. A memorial service was held April 7 at Southfield Village where Joyce and Tom had moved several weeks ago.

Remember Carol and Joyce and their family members in your prayers. 🍀

Hively youth to experience famine

Hively's youth, together with the youth group of Sunnyside Mennonite Church, will participate in a 30-hour famine from Friday afternoon, April 20, to Saturday evening, April 21.

Goals include learning about famine and experiencing God in new ways through fasting. This is also an opportunity to raise funds to feed and care for children who experience famine. We are invited to contribute. We can:

- give a check, payable to World Vision, to Jake Hess
- make a donation online: <https://bit.ly/2IyOiY1> 🍀

Two Hively women tell their stories

Febri Kristiani and Shabnam Bagh have recently been featured on the website of Mennonite Women USA because they are recipients of scholarships from the International Women's Fund. Both are studying at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and are part of the Hively congregation.

In her story on the site, Febri describes how, even as a young child, she had a goal of getting an education in spite of the difficult circumstances of her family. Her story is shared at <https://mennonitewomenusa.org/2018/03/international-womens-fund-febris-story/>



Shabnam is studying at AMBS, while Pratik, her husband, is also pursuing a degree. Shabnam chose the Master of Arts in theology and peace because she has a vision for how this and her nursing ministry can work together. Read her story:



<https://mennonitewomenusa.org/2018/02/international-womens-fund-shabnams-story/>

Relationship with Rios de Agua Viva congregation reviewed

For five years, we have shared our church building with Rios de Agua Viva, a Spanish congregation in the Missionary Church denomination.

Recently Jorge Vielman, who serves as our liaison with the congregation, and Jake Hess met with Pastor Eugenio Lara to review understandings and needs.

The following times will continue to be reserved for the Rios de Agua Viva congregation to use our building:

Sundays, beginning at 2:30 pm. Sometimes their musicians arrive earlier, but they understand the space is reserved for them beginning at 2:30.

Thursday evenings, 6-8 pm

Saturday mornings, 7-9 am. They do not always meet on Saturday mornings, depending on work schedules of their leaders, but asked that the time continue to be reserved.

If Hively events need to occur during those times, adjustments can be made through Jorge.

The spaces we have agreed to share are

the sanctuary wing of the building and the nursery.

If anyone has concerns or has information to pass on to the Rios congregation, please talk with Jorge; Jake also can assist if Jorge is not available.

As Hively celebrates its 60-year anniversary, we can remember the Rios congregation as well, as they celebrate five years of worshipping in this space.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

On Saturday, April 28, everyone is in for a nice treat when we join together in the event, "Guess who's coming to dinner." A sheet on the bulletin board invites you to sign up as a host or a guest for the event. On Sunday, April 22, the hosts will be notified how many will be coming, and guests will be told where to go. Hosts provide the main dish for the meal; guests will be told what they should contribute.

If you have questions about this event, please talk to one of the deacons, Winifred Saner, Amanda Fast or Greg Suderman. Remember to sign up!

Celebrate with Church Community Services

Church Community Services reaches its 50-year anniversary this year. An event to mark this milestone is set for April 26—Sounds of Celebration Community Concert.

Dessert is served at 6 pm, followed by the concert at 7 pm, which will include local dance teams, choirs and praise bands. An offering will be taken to support their ministry of helping to meet needs in Elkhart County.

Hively has a long and strong connection with CCS. C.J. Dyck, long-time member of Hively, was instrumental in beginning the



organization. According to “Grace Stories” (Hively’s published history), C.J. worked with Leland Slough of Elkhart City Church of the Brethren and Jim Boyts of Belmont Mennonite Church, with a vision to help needy Elkhart families to relate to prospering families.

Others who were connected to Hively for shorter periods of time also significantly shaped the organization: Denise McOwen, who initiated the Soup of Success program, and Jeni Hiatt Umble and Dean Preheim-Bartel, who were executive directors.

Many Hively members have devoted countless hours volunteering at CCS and we as a congregation and individually have contributed both financially and with items for the food pantry.

In this season of celebrating their anniversary, let’s continue or even increase our contributions to helping people in our community through this organization. 

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church: 1958-2018 Views of construction



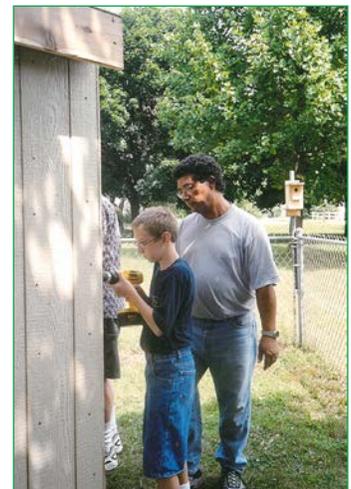
The original building, now the education wing, was constructed in 1960-61.



*Above: The ramp for accessibility was built when a preschool student was seriously injured in an automobile accident and relied on a wheelchair.
 Right: Thomas Radloff (grandson of Marlyn and Amanda Fast) and Larry Underwood work on the playhouse.*



Paul Selman and Virgil Claassen built the climbing apparatus in the playground.



Announcements

Goshen College

Earthtones Choral Concert: The annual EARTHTONES choral concert on Saturday, April 14, at 7:30 pm will feature choral works from a wide variety of composers, cultures and countries. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$8 seniors/students, available online at www.goshen.edu/tickets or via the Goshen College Box Office at 574-535-7566.

Swords into Plowshares: The Goshen College Theater Department will present its final performance of the "Swords into Plowshares" season with three student-directed one-act plays on Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21, at 8 pm and Sunday, April 22, at 3 pm in the Umble Center. Tickets are \$5, available at www.goshen.edu/tickets or via the GC Box Office: 574-535-7566.

Church Community Services

Help us stock our shelves! Peanut butter is a staple in many kitchen cupboards, and for good reason! Peanut butter is a great source of protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals. Many of the families we serve in our pantry appreciate this easy-to-serve, nutritious spread and we could use more on our shelves!

Hartwood's tree planting party

Join in an afternoon gathering with friends, food and planting trees on Saturday, April 21. We'll gather at 1 pm at 126 Pottawatomie Dr, Elkhart. Contact Nick Simons at Hartwood if you want to ...

- request a tree
- join a planting team (and bring a shovel or help drive)

Please RSVP to Nick Simons at 574.361.0009, nssimons@gmail.com, or see more on Facebook.

Thinking Christianly about immigration

Danny Carroll, biblical teacher who explores issues of immigration in light of Scripture, will speak at the Near Northwest Neighborhood Center, 1007 Portage Ave., South Bend, on Sunday, April 22, from 3-4:30 pm. Danny Carroll, who was hosted a year ago by Hively and Eighth Street Mennonite Church, is a dynamic presenter who helps listeners see the relevance now for biblical texts about war, poverty and politics. He is author of the book *Christians at the border: Immigration, the church and the Bible*.

Church Without Walls

Church Without Walls, 731 Wagner Ave, Elkhart, has invited us to join in their haystack lunch on Saturday, April 21, from 11 am to 3 pm. Cost for the meal is \$7.

Seminary's Journey program

Central District Conference invites people who are exploring a call to ministry to join **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program**, a undergraduate-level program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The deadline to apply for fall 2018 is July 17. For more information visit www.ambs.edu/journey or contact one of our pastors, or Doug Luginbill at confmin@mcusacdc.org or at 574-534-1485.

Bethany Christian Schools

Bethany Christian High School's junior class fish fry is Friday, April 20, 4:30-8:00 pm. Come for an evening of fellowship, homemade pie and all the fish you can eat. Tickets are \$11 for adults and carryout and \$6 for children grades 1-6 (under grade 1 free). Tickets may be purchased from any Bethany junior or at the school (574-534-2567). 

Buzzing at the Hive



Hively calendar

April 22, May 6, May 20
5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture
for senior and junior high
youth

April 20-21
30-hour famine
experience for youth,
hosted at Hively with
Sunnyside Mennonite
Church youth

April 28
5:30 pm
Guess Who's Coming to
Dinner

May 6
1 pm
Congregational Annual
Meeting

Area activities

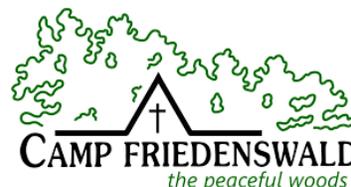
June 21-23
Central District Confer-
ence Annual Meeting at
College Mennonite
Church, Goshen

The preschool had spring break from March 29 through April 8. End-of-the-year activities include the annual field trip to Pottawatomii Zoo in South Bend on May 9 and the last day of school festivities

on May 18. Stephen's Puppets are again scheduled to perform at that final celebration. 

Walter Sawatsky to speak at international conference

Walter Sawatsky will do the opening keynote lecture and a closing lecture at what is called International Conference, "Evangelicals and Oppression: East European Perspectives" in Amsterdam, Netherlands, April 18-20. The meetings are at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, an English-language seminary where Walter has been a "senior research fellow" for about a dozen years. His presentations are titled "Eastern European Evangelicals: Tested Over Two Centuries," and "Post-Soviet Case: Evangelicals—A Deepening Cause for Discord."



Summer camping program

Reserve these dates for Camp Friedenswald's summer camping program. The theme this summer is "Followers of the way."

- June 11-16: High school camp (students completing 9-12)
- June 18-23: Junior high camp (students completing 7-8)
- June 18-20: Primary camp (students completing 1-2)
- June 25-30: Pre Junior camp (students completing 3-4)
- July 2-7: Junior camp (students completing 5-6)

Hively assists with fees for these camps and Camp Friedenswald also has scholarships available. Please talk with Carol Kotva or Mary Klassen if you want more information.

Carmen, the caterpillar-turned-butterfly, learned lessons about trusting in God during the children's time on Easter morning.

Thanks go to Terry Kraucunas for creating the puppets and Beth Suderman for helping Carmen tell her story.



Hively Happenings
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