



April 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings

Holding the glass squarely in front of our faces

Jake Hess, pastor

Lent is lurching toward its culmination. Holy week is upon us and Easter peeks back from the far end of its days. But there is something that obscures our view, an obstruction that seems to cloud the light of Easter. It is dark and foreboding, like thunderclouds on the horizon. It is suffering. It is forsakenness. It is death. Towering between us and Easter is Good Friday (a name that nobody who experienced it would have elected). We try, at times, to avert our eyes. Look around it, look over it, look beyond it. But to stare it in the face is to peer into the heart of darkness. Holy Week, for this reason, is a strange season in the Christian year. It is the place where the dark and the light come closest. Where good and evil collide most violently. And, for a terrifying moment, the darkness seems to enshroud the light.

But Good Friday—if we allow ourselves a long look down the dark well—reveals to us a reflective pool. At the heart of Good Friday, in its darkest depths, is a reflection of ourselves. Our brokenness, our rebellion, our sin. All the pain we've tasted and all the pain we've caused. But we only see it clearly if we face it squarely. Looking into the dark waters at an angle can capture a view of others' reflections. We see their faces and not our own. Their brokenness is on display while we hide ours at elusive angles. The opportunity to see ourselves with everyone else, to see ourselves truly and squarely is missed. In this sense, Good Friday can (and should) be a kind of confession. The place where we declare most clearly our complicity in the world's brokenness. The place where we embrace the ironic words of the condemning crowd—"His blood be upon us and upon our children."

If we can embrace the darkness of Good Friday in this way—as confession, as prayer, as repentance—then truly it does become "good" in the light of Easter morning. In the power of the resurrection, we hear the sweet, sweet news that our sin does not have the final word, that brokenness is not our destiny, and that the darkness was a bad dream. We awake, instead, to the beauty of forgiveness and grace. Like a magnifying glass that intensifies the light of the sun, Good Friday is that glass through which the powerful rays of Easter can burn away the dirt and dross within us. That is, if we learn to hold the glass squarely in front of our faces, letting the light of the Son bathe our once dark reflections in his radiance.

This Holy Week, may we experience Good Friday as a penitent confession, so as to glow in the radiant dawn of Easter.



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Plans for Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday service, Thursday, April 18, 6 pm

This service includes a light meal with communion and the opportunity for foot- or hand-washing. People with last names beginning with A-J should bring fruit ready to serve; people with last names beginning with K-Z should bring sandwiches to share.

Good Friday service, April 19, 7 pm, at Church Without Walls

This is a joint service of all Elkhart Mennonite churches. Church Without Walls is at 731 Wagner Avenue.

Easter, Sunday, April 21

Early service: 7:30 am. Hillary Harder will lead this service.

Breakfast: around 8 am. Main dishes will be provided; people with last names beginning with A-J should bring breads; people with last names beginning with K-Z should bring fruit ready to serve.

Worship service: 9:30 am. Jake Hess will preach.

Christian education hour: Children will have a shortened session. Youth will hide Easter eggs that the younger children will hunt for at the end of the morning.



Youth group fund-raisers

Panera Bread, April 11, 4-8 pm

Eat at Panera Bread on Thursday, April 11, and support our youth. Twenty percent of the cost of your purchase comes to the youth, if you show your fund-raising flier (available from the youth and in your mailbox).

This special deal is available between 4 and 8 pm that day. If you order online, be sure to use the code "PRFUND" so the youth get credit for your purchase.



"The Radicals" movie night

The movie "The Radicals" will be shown on Saturday, April 13, at 6:30 pm, and youth will provide snacks for you to purchase. Hot dogs, popcorn and sweets will be available.

"The Radicals" tells the story of early Anabaptist leaders Michael and Margaretha Sattler. It has won awards from the International Film Festival and Worldfest, and it won a CINE Golden Eagle Award. One movie review site says, "This story is compelling, dramatic, and inspiring as it shows two people who stand by their convictions, even if it means death."

Come to experience the beginnings of the Anabaptist faith and a good evening of fellowship and fund.

Note: If you have a popcorn popper that you can loan for the evening, please let Trish Habegger know. 

Working toward Hively goals

As a congregation, we have made a commitment to focus on hospitality and growing culture diversity for the next three years. The goals, approved by the congregation at our February business meeting, included these four emphases:

- Rooting ourselves in the biblical story, with teaching, preaching and worship on these themes
- Reflecting these themes in various aspects of our congregational life
- Reaching out into the community in ways consistent with these gifts
- Recognizing our place as guest and steward in God's creation and working toward reconciliation with the diversity of all that God has created.

The Leadership Council and commissions are using these to guide their work. In addition, each of us in the congregation is encouraged to think about what we are already doing or what we might want to do as we join in our congregation's goals. More information about this will come in the near future. 🍃

Focus on Child Abuse Prevention

With April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, **Dove's Nest** (the organization that provides resources for this emphasis) has focused on parenting for prevention. Even if we are not parents, we interact with children at church and in our families, so the resources are valuable for everyone.

A guide is available on the Dove's Nest site with helpful suggestions for boundary training, consent training and healthy practices for parents, teachers and caregivers.

In our congregational covenant for safety and protection of children, we have committed



Hively announcements

Palm Sunday peace witness

The annual Palm Sunday Peace event will be a prayer walk in the spirit of repentance, seeking God's grace, guidance and empowerment for healing and restoration of creation. All are welcome to gather at Studebaker Park (1020 McDonald St, Elkhart) at 2:30 pm and walk along the Elkhart River Greenway path to an amphitheater next to the Elkhart Environmental Center. There we will gather around 3:30 pm for some reflections, sharing and prayer. Those who do not wish to walk can join at the Environmental Center. Transportation will be available for those needing a lift back to their vehicles.

Springfest, May 1

SPRINGFEST! On Wednesday, May 1, Mennonite Women are hosting a salad supper beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring a favorite salad to share. You also will want to enjoy a dish of ice cream with a variety of toppings. This event is for women, men, young people and children. Hillary Harder will provide the evening program, sharing about her work in the schools and intertwining the talk with her original musical pieces. Mark your calendars now and plan for that fun evening.

ourselves to continued awareness and attentiveness to the welfare of children in our congregation. Find this resource and become familiar with its recommendations: <https://bit.ly/2UsIGYW>

CAPS (Child and Parent Services) will host

a free workshop geared toward empowering children to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse and to practice healthy physical boundaries. This session is for kids ages 4 to 10 and their parents. It is scheduled for April 24, 6 pm, at CAPS, 1001 W. Hively Ave., Elkhart. No registration is needed. 🍃

Mennonite Women work to assemble school kits



Fifteen Hively women worked two hours on Wednesday, April 3, at the Mennonite Central Committee Material Resource Center (The Depot) in Goshen. The work focused on assembling school kits, and included tasks such as taping groups of pens and pencils and packing contents in a very specific arrangement. No count was made, but the estimate is that more than 200 kits were completed. 

April Fool's Day birthdays

Hively has two members with birthdays on April 1, and one of those members is the oldest person in the congregation. We celebrated the birthdays of Ellene Miller and Kate Hartman on Sunday, March 31, with this cake. 



Announcements

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS webinar recordings available.

Recordings of past AMBS webinars are available for purchase for \$20 online. Topics include Planting Peace Churches; Ministry in the Face of Sexual Abuse; How We Got the Bible; Intercultural Leadership in Diversity-Oriented Churches; Is God to Blame?; Introduction to Anabaptism; and more.

ambs.edu/webinars

Fully online graduate certificate seminary program.

Strengthen the biblical and theological foundation for your work through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's fully online Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies. Develop a plan of study that matches your interests. Ideal for church leaders, bivocational pastors and other professionals. ambs.edu/certificate

Project Promise Easter Play

The **Project Promise Easter Play** will be presented at Middlebury Church of the Brethren at 3 and 6 pm on Saturday, April 13. During this live drama, the actors will interpret the events leading up to Easter. Admission is free; a goodwill offering will be taken. The church is located at 507 Bristol Avenue in Middlebury. Project Promise provides spiritual and social support for persons with disabilities.

Mennonite Church USA

Read Menno Snapshots stories this month from church planters throughout MC USA, including a story from the archives highlighting urban church planting in the 1980s: mennoniteusa.org/tag/churchplanting.

Find special Holy Week worship activities to hold with your families in the Lent At Home resources: mennoniteusa.org/lent2019.

Pathways Retreat Center, Goshen

Stations of the Cross (April 14-20) and **Stations of the Resurrection** (April 21-June 8) have become a Holy Week and Easter tradition at Pathways. Read the written reflections and gaze upon the images posted along our wooded paths. Individuals, families and groups are welcome anytime from dawn to dusk; there is no registration or cost, though donations are always gratefully accepted. A golf cart makes the Stations accessible to all; please make arrangements for the cart in advance by calling or sending a text to Linda at 574-333-1822. Pathways Retreat: 309 1/2 Hackett Rd, Goshen.

www.pathwaysretreat.org

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC responds to disaster caused by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and Malawi: Cyclone Idai destroyed 90 percent of Beira, one of Mozambique's largest cities, and affected nearly 3 million people with widespread flooding up to 20 feet high. Bridges, roads, fields, farms and millions of homes were violently washed away. It was one of the worst tropical cyclones ever to hit the southern hemisphere. Your gift will help MCC and our partners provide emergency assistance to those in dire need. You can donate online at mcc.org/cyclone-idai. Donations can also be made by calling 1-888-563-4676 or by contacting your local MCC office.

Sorting Out Race exhibit: What does a thrift store do with donated items that have stereotyped images or degrading images of people in non-dominant racial or ethnic groups? An exhibit at The Depot in Goshen explores a wide variety of these products and memorabilia in the hope of starting conversations about how we depict people whom we view as different from us. See the exhibit during regular business hours in April, or during special hours on two Sundays, April 7 and 14 from 1 to 5 pm. 



Buzzing at the Hive

During Spring Break, April 2-5, the preschool was quiet. So here are a few views of what the children were working on before their break.

Hively calendar

April 10 and 24

6 pm
Prayer Choir

April 14 and 28

5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture

April 14

2:30 pm
Palm Sunday Peace walk
Start at Studebaker Park

April 18

6 pm
Maundy Thursday
meal and service

April 19

7 pm
Good Friday Service at
Church Without Walls

April 21

Easter
7:30 am: Early service
8 am: Breakfast
9:30 am: Worship service
11 am: Christian
Education

May 1

6:30 pm
Springfest

May 5

1 pm
Congregational business
meeting

Hively Happenings
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Top left: Toothbrush paintings

Bottom left: Animal creations with the letter U

Above: Several art projects, including painting with Lego blocks in the center

Greetings from Ricki Johnson

Mennonite Mission Network worker in Benin, Africa

I am doing really well here in this stunning country. Do I miss the cold? The answer is yes. I miss the snow and I wish I could jump in a snow pile.

My French is getting way better. I have graduated from a 4 and 5 year old level to teenagers. I am also learning the native language.

The children and I made pizza and watched "The Little Rascals" for English club a couple of weeks ago. I love them so much. I've also had a job transition. I am currently in the library and I'm loving every moment of it.



Ricki Johnson with friends at La Casa Grande in Benin.