



February 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings

Readying spaces for the Spirit's generosity

Jake Hess, pastor

The wheel of the Christian year is turning us again. We sit on the stoop of a new season. The joyous clamor of Advent still echoes behind us, while Lent draws us forward. Rounding that corner—from Advent to Lent—sometimes feels like leaving the delights and din of a lively party. With windows aglow behind us, slightly muffling the laughter within, we trudge out into the cold, dark night. This may be an unfair caricature, I admit, but there is something sobering about a season marked by fasting and ashes, reminders that we are flesh and we are dust.

Whether ultimately dreary or not, however, I am learning to rethink the meaning of Lenten practices and how they form us, how discipline itself forms us. James K.A. Smith (Canadian-born Christian philosopher) encourages us not to think of disciplines as self-management and exertion; rather, we ought to think of them as, what another scholar calls, “habitations of the Spirit.” “Spiritual disciplines,” he argues, “aren’t about showing that we’re trying to pursue God. These are gifts that the Spirit inhabits. They are rituals that God invites us into to live into the power of the Spirit.”

If Smith is right, then Lenten practices are less about constraining our bodies and minds in service to God and more about readying those spaces for the Spirit’s abundant generosity. They are less about offering and more about receiving. They are, ultimately, conduits of God’s grace. According to Smith— “They are the way that you put on Christ.”

In this understanding, the ritual differences between Advent and Lent are simply differences of location, not of kind. While one is a celebration of Emmanuel’s coming into the world, the other celebrates his coming into our hearts, igniting our love for the world. While Lent, following Advent, may feel like leaving a joyous celebration for the cold of night, it is more like learning to carry that celebration, within our hearts, out into the darkness. We feel the warmth of the hearth, see smiles of a deeper warmth, hear laughter, share songs, and smell the richest of fare—all this in praise of our Gracious Host, whose home is becoming our home, his life our life. In Lent, we learn to put on Christ, to carry all of this out into the darkness. “And the darkness has not overcome it.”



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Spiritual Life Emphasis

Becoming Multicultural

James Krabill and Gilberto Pérez, our speakers for this year's Spiritual Life Emphasis sessions, January 17 and 24, left us with both questions and frameworks for more conversation about "Becoming Multicultural."

Multicultural worship

In the first session, James focused much of his input on worship music and art. Near the end of his presentation, he recommended that we think about our worship in four ways. Following a framework from the International Lutheran Federation, there are four characteristics to pay attention to:

Transcultural: What are the worship themes that are claimed around the world?

Contextual: How do we acknowledge what people are bringing to worship from the other six days of the week so we show that God cares about what happens in the world?

Counter-cultural: What in our worship reminds us that the people of God have different values than the culture around us?

Cross-cultural: In what ways can we worship with the global church, incorporating music, images, prayers and confessions of faith that come from other groups?

James concluded: "I think it's healthy

worship if every time a community worships it does a little bit of all four of those....

Name your context, name the faith in your community in contrast to your culture and incorporate something from the global family. How does Hively move toward worshipping more into God's future?"

Setting a vision

Gilberto Pérez invited the participants at the second session into table conversations around four themes with the initials SOAR: Strengths, Opportunities, Achievements and Results.

He said, "I want to challenge you: You could go and do a lot of great things, but it's very important that you think about creating a vision. If you want the commitment to be a diverse church, that also comes with a commitment to being a learning church."

Notes from those table conversations will be integrated with notes from our congregational conversations on January 21 and February 4. The Leadership Council and pastors will determine what further conversations or processing we might do so we can embrace a common vision for our congregation. 🍃



James Krabill



Gilberto Pérez

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church: 1958-2018
Looking back over 60 years



Hively's current education wing was the original building, constructed in 1961. For the first ten years the sanctuary held pews with the pulpit at the west end (left). Then the pulpit (right), where Pastor David Habegger is standing, was moved to the south wall with chairs surrounding it in semicircles.



Early 1960s front view, seen from Hively Avenue.

The church building in its neighborhood context.



*Members who joined the church on December 9, 1962:
 Back row: Otto Klassen, Helen Bohn Klassen, Steve Miller, Ellene Miller, Bob Miller, Amanda Fast, Marlyn Fast.
 Front row: Kathy Waltner, Lorna Habegger, Loren Neufeld, Frances Weaver, Diane Haines, Walter Gering (pastor).*

Science Fair awards

Three Hively Sunday School attenders received blue ribbons for their Science Fair projects:

- Aniah Branch, 5th grade;
- Kamauri Branch, 4th grade;
- Nevaeh Wilson, 3rd grade.

Congratulations!

House blessing invitation

Please bless us with your prayers and presence:

Sunday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 pm

Address: 3106 S. Sixth Street, Elkhart, IN
46517

— Charlie and Terri Geiser

Deaths

Gordon Dyck, member of Hively from 1964 to 1976, died Nov. 2, 2017, in Estes Park, Colo. He had lived with ALS for three years. Gordon was a therapist, case manager and pastoral counselor at Oaklawn for 30 years. His first wife, Delia, died while the family was part of Hively. He is survived by Judy Beechy, his wife; his two children and their spouses; and two grandchildren. A memorial service at College Mennonite Church will be planned in the future.



Arlin Yoder died Dec. 31, 2017, in Williamsburg, Iowa. He and Mary Lou, his wife, were members of Hively from 1981 to 1988; their son Kevin also attended during part of that time. Arlin and Mary Lou had been mission workers in Brazil for 15 years, and he also pastored congregations in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. Marcia Yoder-Schrock, former Hively pastor, officiated at the funeral on January 8.



Hively youth perform

Lara Claassen will perform the role of Auntie Em in “The Wizard of Oz” musical at Concord High School along with several singing and dancing roles. Performances are Thursday and Friday, March 1 and 2, at 7 pm, and Sunday, March 4, at 2 pm. To purchase tickets, visit this link: concordtheater.ludus.com/index.php

Rachelle Claassen will perform in the Concord Junior High School drama on Wednesday, March 28, at 6:30 pm. More details will be shared when they are available.

Goshen College announcements

Exhibit: “Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War,” will extend from February 16 to April 8 in the Goshen College library basement. The opening reception is Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 pm. This traveling exhibit prepared by the Kauffman Museum (North Newton, Kan.) lifts up the prophetic insights and personal courage of World War I peace protesters and suggests parallels to the culture of war and violence in our world today.

C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest: On Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 pm. in the Goshen College Umble Center, five GC students will deliver short speeches relating to peace. This event is free and open to the public.

Why quality of place? Americans—especially the young and talented—are deciding where to live first and how to make a living second. Learn about the Vibrant Communities program from Diana Lawson, of the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m., in the Music Center.

Inauguration: All are invited to the presidential inauguration ceremony for Dr. Rebecca Stoltzfus, Goshen College’s 18th president, on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 10 am in the Music Center Concert Hall. Doors open at 9:15 am. See a list of Inauguration Week events at goshen.edu/inauguration. 

Central District Conference Regional Gathering

Central District Conference, the cluster of churches in Mennonite Church USA that Hively is part of, will host a regional gathering on Saturday, March 17, at Eighth Street Mennonite Church.

This gathering is a way for everyone in this area who is part of CDC to get to know others in the conference as they worship, pray together and get updates on conference work.

The gathering begins at 9:45 am with coffee and tea and will conclude at 3 pm. Lunch is served by the host congregation. Those who plan to participate should let Emma Hartman, conference administrator, know so enough food can be prepared. Email office@mcusadc.org or call 800.662.2264. A donation is suggested to cover the cost of the food.

Bethany spring musical

Bethany Christian High School will perform the musical, "Working" (2012), on Thursday through Sunday, March 1-4. It includes musical contributions by many artists, making the music style varied and vibrant. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets may be purchased online beginning Feb. 12 at bethanycs.net/tickets. Performances are at 7:30 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 3 pm Sunday.

Spirited movement prayer

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26
Pathways Retreat Center, Goshen, Ind.

Sara Klassen, yoga instructor and Gestalt Pastoral Care trainee. leads this series. She says, "This practice grows in us the fruits of the spirit, giving us an opportunity to be present to ourselves and Immanuel, God with us." Sara will adapt classes to be suitable for any body, so ALL are welcome. Pathways provides the yoga mat.

Register online or contact Julie Stegelmann, 574-202-2864.

Church Community Services announcements

Help us stock our shelves!

In honor of this month's Super Bowl, consider donating hearty soups for the CCS food pantry during February.



Silent No More

You are invited to "Silent No More," as Soup of Success graduates tell powerful and inspirational stories of hope in a monologue style performance. "Silent No More" takes place Tuesday, March 13, at the AMBS Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, 3003 Benham Ave. Doors open at 6 pm; show begins at 7 pm. This is an adults-only show and tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets online, visit soupofsuccess.com, click on "Get Involved" and then "Donate/Buy SNM tickets." or call 574-523-1551.



March 13th Tickets \$20 (Adults Only)
Purchase tickets at soupofsuccess.com, click on Get Involved and then Donate/Buy SNM tickets or call 574-523-1551

Soup Of Success Graduates' powerful and inspirational stories of hope in a monologue style performance.

An Event to Benefit
Soup of Success
A Program of Church Community Services

Doors Open 6pm • Show 7-8pm • Desserts & Discussion 8-9pm
AMBS Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount - 3003 Benham Ave. Elkhart

January Year in Review addition

One Hively member who completed a master's degree in 2017 was omitted from the January newsletter's Year in Review: **Megan Erwin** completed a degree in Public Financial Administration and Public Policy Analysis and graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., in May.

Buzzing at the Hive



Hively calendar

February 14

7 pm
Ash Wednesday service

February 25

March 11, March 25
5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture

March 4

Congregational conversation during Christian education hour and after lunch

March 25

2 pm
Palm Sunday Peace Parade

March 29

6 pm
Maundy Thursday service

April 1

Easter
7:30 am: Early service
8 am: Breakfast
9:30 am: Worship

Area activities

March 17

Central District Conference Regional Gathering
10 am – 3 pm
Eighth Street Mennonite Church

Hively Happenings
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We will begin our Jumbo Jelly Bean fundraiser on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Orders and money are due on Monday, March 5. Jelly beans will be delivered in time for Easter giving. An order form will soon be posted on the foyer bulletin board.

Valentine parties will be held on Wed., Feb. 14. There will be no preschool on Feb. 16 and 19 for the Presidents' Day break.

Preschoolers will visit the Concord Township Fire Department on Feb. 28 and March 7. This is always an exciting field trip when we get to see firefighters and equipment up close, and learn about fire safety.

We said goodbye to a handful of students who withdrew after the first of the year. Now we are seeing



Melissa Rodriguez, preschool parent, comes several mornings each week to clean the preschool toys, and Louise Claassen works with her. They often leave behind a colorful array on the kitchen counters.

a surge in enrollment, thanks to the advertising and exposure the portable sign gives us. We've enrolled six new students, filling up our 3-year-old classes.

We still have a few openings in our 4/5s classes for children who were 4 by Sept. 1, 2017. Spread the word!

We are very thankful for those who help with snow removal, toy cleaning, building cleaning and repairs, scholarship funding and serving on our board! We appreciate all you do to serve the preschool!

— Julee Hay, preschool director

Children's Sunday School offerings

The contributions children brought for their Sunday School offerings in 2017 added up to around \$70. They selected two Mennonite Central Committee projects to receive these funds: rabbits and chickens, and art supplies for a children's camp.



Cover: Annie Mohr created this arrangement on the worship table for January 21. The sermon that Sunday the sermon focused on "miracles and messages, or signs and signals."