



February 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings



“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it”

Jake Hess pastor

After watching our little Asa sleep one night—hands curled into soft fists, mouth slightly agape, chubby cheeks pressed into the pillow, the almost imperceptible rise and fall of his chest—I commented to Elya that a sleeping child is the most precious thing in the world. She thought for a moment. “No,” she gently retorted, “it’s a child’s laughter.”

Her response made me smile. And think. I don’t know that I’ve resolved the “debate” in my mind, and probably never will. It is, after all, so indisputably natural to delight in both. The peace of sleep; the joy of laughter. Each with their own emotional evocations. Delight, delight, delight in all. “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

Winter is manifest. We have felt its bone-chilling freeze. Sub-zero gusts that make you gasp. Icy driveways. The labored whirl of car engines, straining to turn over. But there is a kind of peace in it, too. A rest and a quiet. Life slows to a calmer pace and we huddle in warm homes around heaters or fires, wrapped in layers and soft blankets. We wait in our caves—yes. But don’t miss the delights of the season: crunchy snow underfoot, tree limbs coated in ice, fiery red cardinals in the grey woods, the wakening rush of cold air in your lungs. The laughter of spring will come, but rest, now, in winter. Delight, delight, delight in all. “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

Each season holds its treasures and reminders of God’s unfailing care. “Summer and winter and springtime and harvest / Sun, moon and stars in their courses above / Join with all nature in manifold witness / To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.”

As we round the corner in the Christian calendar—Advent in our recent memory, Epiphany our present, Lent at the door, Easter a light on the horizon—may we search out and rest in the delights of each season. May we acknowledge that, along with the preacher of Ecclesiastes, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” May we embrace winter’s restful peace, while we await the glowing joy of spring.

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Why is there poverty in Elkhart?


Tom McArthur, executive director of Church Community Services, began this year's Spiritual Emphasis by exploring why, when we have such a good economy in Elkhart, there also is so much poverty.

In July 2018, CCS staff had conversations with half of the families who came to the food pantry, a total of 750 people. After sharing some of the learnings from this survey, Tom explained a number of barriers that people in poverty face. These include a "benefits cliff" in several programs. This means that if a family has been receiving benefits, such as a subsidy for childcare, but gets a raise that puts them over a specific threshold, they lose all of that benefit. Another challenge is that in Indiana, payday loan companies can charge as much as 391%, and many families in poverty rely on these lenders when they do not have funds to pay larger bills.

Tom invited conversation about ideas that might address needs in new ways. These include a micro loan program, innovative ways of sharing food resources that give people more dignity, and using Elkhart County's modular housing resources to create affordable housing in clusters near

bus lines and amenities. He even wondered about churches using their vans to provide transportation so people can get to places of work.

A recording of the January 16 presentation and discussion is available; request access to it from Mary Klassen.

The second session in the Spiritual Emphasis series has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 20. Lane Miller will share on the theme of "Finance and the Prodigal Son." A soup supper will be served at 6 pm, followed by the presentation and discussion. Childcare will be provided. 

Poverty in Elkhart – Other Reasons Why

- Transportation – 46% do not own a car: significant constraint
- Education – 72% of adults only have high school or less
 - Affordable, high quality childcare is equally a barrier and a constraint
- Lack of responsible men
- Lack of affordable credit – payday loans in Indiana are capped at 391% APR
- The Food Pantry conundrum (10 in Elkhart) – time & effort



Tom McArthur of Church Community Services outlined these and other reasons why poverty is prevalent in our city and county.



J. Tyler Klassen

On January 13 we welcomed and blessed new members to Hively: Yukino Ohyama, Jan Stair, Doris Devadoss, Ed Kauffman and Gay Kauffman.

Announcements

Bethany Christian Schools

Musical Tickets: Bethany Christian High School will perform “Junie B Jones, the Musical,” Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 28–March 3. In this musical, the outspoken and lovable Junie heads to first grade, adjusts to school, gets glasses, learns how to navigate the relationships of childhood, and discovers her own voice in her diary. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets may be purchased online beginning Feb. 11 at bethanycs.net/tickets. Performances are at 7 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 3 pm Sunday. **Risa Bohn, granddaughter of Doris Bohn, is one of the performers.**

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS online short course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: Feb. 20–April 10. Explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week noncredit course. Instructor: Betty Pries, Ph.D. (ABD). Cost: \$250. ambs.edu/shortcourses

The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 3–13. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military’s 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. ambs.edu/trailofdeath

Voices Together hymnal committee

You can register to receive regular updates on the work of the committee for the new worship and song resource (hymnal). Visit <https://bit.ly/2SiOtjs> to sign up.

Pathways Retreat Center, Goshen

Mindful Movement & Contemplative Prayer is a class that pairs simple yoga sequences with different forms of contemplative prayer and Gestalt awareness experiments, facilitated by Sara Klassen. No previous yoga experience is needed. Tuesdays, February 5–March 5, 5–6 pm in the Retreat House at Pathways Retreat (309 1/2 Hackett Rd, Goshen). Please register at www.pathwaysretreat.org

Praying with Creation, a prayer time to listen and meditate in and with nature, is Friday mornings at Pathways Retreat (309 1/2 Hackett Rd, Goshen). Facilitated by Deron Brill Bergstresser, this prayer practice arises from a deep desire for connection and care of the environment. Friday mornings, 8:30–9:15 am. There is no cost or registration; meet at the welcome gate. www.pathwaysretreat.org

Mennonite Church USA

New resources are available for exploring and engaging with MC USA’s structure. Read MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton’s three-part series on “The Little Green Dove” at mennoniteusa.org/littlegreendove and watch the new video series at mennoniteusa.org/polityvideoseris

“**The Cost of Discipleship,**” a blog series based on a sermon given on MLK weekend by Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate director of Operations for MC USA, is up now on the Menno Snapshots blog: mennoniteusa.org/radicaldiscipleship

Announcements (continued)

Church Community Services

Volunteers needed!

- The Soup of Success program needs volunteers to help sew mittens and make shower melts Monday–Thursday afternoons.
- Our Food Pantry needs people to deliver food to homebound individuals. Volunteers are needed the third Wednesday of each month to deliver food in their own car to approximately six people.
- If you have experience with video, photography, social media or marketing, we can use your help as we work to share our mission and help those in need in Elkhart County.
- Be a social media ambassador. Simply share our social media posts among your friends to help us get the word out about the important work that’s going on.
- The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to assist the Food Services Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also need people to drive our box trucks and vans for food pick-up.

If you are interested contact Jen McOwen at 295-3673 ext. 112 or volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org

Goshen College

The 18th Annual **Goshen College Conference on Religion and Science** is March 29–31, featuring Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, an evangelical Christian, atmospheric scientist and climate change expert. Dr. Hayhoe will offer two free public lectures: Friday, March 29, 7:30 pm, and Saturday, March 30, 10:30 am. A third lecture for registered conference attendees will take place on Sunday, March 31. Learn more and register at goshen.edu/religionscience/

Upcoming Goshen College Performing Arts Series concerts include Seraphic Fire with American Brass Quintet on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 pm, and Academy of St. Martin in the Fields on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 pm. More information and tickets are available at goshen.edu/tickets or at the GC Box Office.

Sisters of the Bible Basket Quilt Class

Marie Troyer and Carol Honderich are offering a two-day quilt class on Friday and Saturday, May 3–4, at Prairie Street Mennonite Church. This class is offered for only \$30 and will be limited to 15 participants. The wall-hanging quilt-piecing project is easy enough for beginners but includes something fun and new for more seasoned quilters! Each basket in the wall hanging represents a relationship of women in the Bible and we will share the story behind each block during our time together. Class times are Friday and Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, and will include all the guidance and assistance you need to start and complete this wall hanging quilt top. Pattern and supplies list will be provided in advance and consultation/assistance on fabric selection will be available if needed. The two days of instruction include lunch, snacks and beverages. Please call Carol Honderich at 574-536-9062 if you would like to join the class.



Congratulations!

In January, Aniah and Kamauri Branch and Neveah Wilson got first place ribbons at the Roosevelt Science Fair. At the Elkhart City Science Fair, Kamauri got first and second place ribbons and Neveah got a second place ribbon. Aniah did not participate in the Elkhart City event.

Mennonite Central Committee Immigration update

Get up-to-date information about policies, legislation and activities with MCC's Immigration Update website or newsletter: <https://bit.ly/2DjF510>

The January 30 issue includes information about the latest work of Congress on border wall funding and protection for people with DACA status (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), along with stories, links to pertinent news articles and opportunities for action steps.

This issue also includes a link to a Ted Talk by Joel Miller, pastor of Columbus Mennonite Church. The congregation, part of Central District Conference, has hosted Edith Espinal for more than a year while she and her lawyers challenge a deportation notice. Joel's Ted Talk gives a helpful history of sanctuary spaces and the experience of the congregation and Edith and her family.

Joel's talk ends with this affirmation: "We don't have to wait for big systems to change in order to be the kind of people, the kind of



Joel Miller, pastor of Columbus Mennonite Church, gives a Ted Talk about how the congregation is providing sanctuary for a woman who is in danger of being deported.

neighbors, the kind of community we want to be in this world. I believe we can all be sanctuary people. There is no law or policy powerful enough to prevent this."

Watch Joel's Ted Talk:

<https://bit.ly/2RMo2NG> 

Child protection and safety resources

Our congregation has made a commitment to make our spaces and relationships safe and nurturing for everyone, especially children. To keep this commitment active and in our continued awareness, here are current resources. Because this is not just the job of the Christian Education Commission, we share these for everyone in the congregation.

Human trafficking awareness

The latest news from Child and Parent Services (CAPS) included a section on how we can protect our children from becoming victims of human trafficking. A recent report indicated that in Indiana 178 kids have been reported as victims. Read more on the CAPS website:

<http://capselkhart.org/human-trafficking-awareness-how-to-protect-your-kids/>

How a congregation benefits from child protection policies

Waterford Mennonite Church was featured in the latest Dove's Next newsletter. Katie Misz, family life minister, compared a child protection policy to a playground fence: "Researchers found in a study that if there is a playground surrounded by a fence, children will play on the playground as well as in the grass all the way up to the border of the fence. However, if there is no fence, children will most likely stay on the play structures and will hardly go into the grass." She emphasized, "Boundaries are freeing."

Read the entire interview:

<https://dovesnest.net/Exploring-Safe-Spaces-with-Waterford-Mennonite> 



Buzzing at the Hive

We made it through the extreme cold temps at the end of January!

Remember five years ago when we had six weeks of frozen water pipes?! It was six weeks of hoses, buckets and hand sanitizer. The church and preschool really worked together to overcome that obstacle!


February is a busy month with Valentine parties and a field trip to Osolo Township Fire Department.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

On Saturday, March 9, everyone is invited to join in a time of fellowship, good food and a bit of mystery.

For "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," we can sign up to be a guest or a host. Hosts will not know who is coming and guests will not know whom they will share the meal with. Hosts provide the main dish and guests are assigned to bring other portions of the meal.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer by February 24. The deacons, who are organizing the event, will make assignments for guests and hosts and let everyone know what they should contribute to the meal.

If you have questions, please talk to one of the deacons, Winifred Saner, Amanda Fast or Greg Suderman. 

One of our preschool dads is an EMT with Osolo, and this will be our first visit to their station.

Our Spring fundraiser will launch in early March. Details to be announced soon!

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who keep our sidewalks safe and shoveled in the winter! We appreciate you!

— Julee Hay, director 

Our sympathies

William (Bill) Klassen died January 29 in Waterloo, Ont. Bill was one of the group of people who gathered for the first meetings that evolved into Hively Avenue Mennonite Church. According to the Hively history book, *Grace Stories*, Bill preached the first sermon at the first public meeting on May 4, 1958, he was an early moderator and he served one year as pastor (1965-1966). Bill is the father of Tyler Klassen; Kirsten Klassen, who lives in Elkhart; and Karis Klassen, who lives in Indianapolis. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 14, at Westminster United Church in Waterloo.

Ron Dean, former member of Hively, died February 1 in Cicero, Ind.

Cover image: Tuesday morning's ice created interesting views, including this winter image of the dogwood tree next to the church building.

Hively calendar

February 20

6 pm
Spiritual Emphasis session (rescheduled from January)

February 21, March 14 or March 28

6 pm
Pasta with the Pastors at Tim and Jan Stair's home
1415 Wilson Ave, Goshen

February 24 March 10 and 24

5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture

March 6

7 pm
Ash Wednesday

March 9

6 pm
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

April 18

6 pm
Maundy Thursday

April 21

Easter services

Hively Happenings
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