



July 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

# Happenings

## Summertime and *Joining Worship*

Tim Stair, pastor

It's summertime with lots of traveling and coming and going here at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church.

Jan and I, along with five good friends, experienced what can only be described as a once-in-a-lifetime vacation that included a river cruise on the Rhine and the countries of the Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland. The toughest thing we dealt with was catching the right bus upon our return on Friday afternoon, June 28, at O'Hare. If that's the most difficult thing you encounter, it was a great vacation. The scenery was wonderful. Despite how wonderful it was, I was also ready, when the time came, to return home.

My return to our church family was great. We felt warmly welcomed back home. We enjoyed worshiping with you again this past Sunday, and appreciated the insights and humor that Aaron Kingsley shared with us about our trees and maybe ourselves. Then Monday, I was able, with a number of others, to send off our youth and sponsors to MennoCon19.

For the month of July we are doing something different. Each Sunday we will worship with three other Mennonite congregations; Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Fellowship of Hope, and Southside Fellowship. The primary scripture texts will be from the Gospel of Luke, and we are calling the month *Joining Worship*. This should be interesting!

It could be easy to say, "This will be a good month to miss a service or two." But I urge you not to do that for several reasons. First, it will be a great time to get to know other followers of Jesus who live and work in our area. Second, it will be great time to expand our understandings of how others worship and what we might learn with them. Finally, there will be some creativity in the services and some good preaching.

When Rachel Miller Jacobs, professor at the seminary, heard our congregations were doing this, she was excited enough about it that she created a 7-minute video on how we might approach these Sundays. You can watch the video by going to <https://bit.ly/30bbjsL>.\* She encourages us to use four "spiritual practices" during this time. First, **pray for the capacity to see as God sees**, and hear as God hears the worship of God's people with all our variety. Second, **be curious**. Look for what's different than usual and ask questions (preferably after the service) openly and graciously about various practices and styles. Third, **lean toward the worship leaders**—be as supportive of them as you possibly can. Finally, **take care of yourself**. If it is hard for you to enter into a particular style or practice, let the congregation as a whole carry you and respectfully and worshipfully be quiet if needed.

I look forward to what we will learn together during this month.

\*Full URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chsm48342jl&feature=youtu.be>



Vol. 36 No. 7

800 E Hively Avenue  
Elkhart, Indiana 46517  
574.294.3423  
[www.hivelymennonite.org](http://www.hivelymennonite.org)

## Thanks be to God: Experiences on a Wednesday

by Louise Claassen

It wasn't until people came up to us and asked to take our picture that I realized I was standing next to a supporter of President Trump.

I had arrived at the peace vigil early on June 5. A long line of people was already waiting for the doors of the RV/MV Hall of Fame to open to meet presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren. From my bag of signs, I picked out two: NO WAR with IRAN, and LOVE IS STRONGER. As I went to stand where people could read my signs, a middle-aged man walked up to me and asked whether it would be OK for him to stand with me. I said, "Sure! There are more signs in that bag." He browsed briefly and returned saying, "Nah, they're not for me." We introduced ourselves. His name was Bob and he had served in Iraq. I told him that I had been a young child living in Germany during World War II and that my father had been a part of Hitler's army. I was totally against war.

Bob and I had not been standing together very long when person from the waiting line came up to us and asked to take our picture. Neither of us had a problem with that, but I wondered what this man meant when he asked what we were trying to say. More a rhetorical comment than a question, he asked, "What's this was all about?"

It was then that my eyes were opened! I had paid no attention to Bob's cap and the only word on his shirt that had registered with me was "VETERAN." Now I understood the reason for the puzzled expression of the one asking to take our picture. Bob, with his red TRUMP cap and VETERAN FOR TRUMP shirt, and I, holding peace signs, were quite the odd couple!

As Bob and I kept standing there, we casually shared our opinions on various issues: I told him that I had been plagued with German guilt my whole adult life and said that I was against war of any kind. Bob replied that he had served in Iraq, and "It wasn't that bad." He stated that he was for the border wall to keep illegals out. I replied that

I supported giving asylum to those fleeing danger and hunger—that the reason for the unrest in Latin American countries goes back to the time

when democratically elected leaders were overthrown by the US government and replaced with dictators. He responded, "That was a long time ago." Bob was pro life and against abortion. I said that I was "for life from the beginning to the end." About that time, a young woman, a student at Penn high school, engaged Bob in conversation about abortion. One could tell she had thoroughly researched the biology of the developing fetus. She was articulate and respectful. Both Bob and I learned something.

As reporters and others came to take our picture, I expressed my gratitude for the opportunity to have a civil conversation with someone whose opinions were so different than mine. It was towards the end of our vigil together that Bob stated that he, also, was against war with Iran. We did agree on that!

The doors to the Hall of Fame finally opened and the line of people moved inside to hear Warren. Bob and I shook hands. We both felt that it had been a good experience—our being there together,—then said goodbye and went our separate ways.

Leaving the RV/MV Hall of Fame venue, it seemed that the spirit of the Living One had been among us. That experience of Presence stayed with me. When I arrived at the Elkhart Civic Plaza to continue the peace vigil, the only spot in the shade on that warm afternoon was the table at which a young woman was sitting. On the table in front of her was a baby in a carrier. I asked whether I could join her there in the shade. I marveled (out-loud) at



## Thanks be to God: Experiences on a Wednesday (continued)

the innocent young one, sleeping so peaceful, and hoped that her baby boy would grow up in a world at peace. I shared with her that I was at the plaza to participate in a peace vigil. She wondered what that was, so I explained that a group of us would be holding signs to protest President Trump's possibly provoking a war with Iran and praying for peace.

While I was waiting for others to arrive, Valerie and I got acquainted. Having been a teacher at Beardsley and Feeser elementary schools, I was curious about where she might have gone to school. She said that she never attended elementary school because she had moved so many times. It turned out that she had started school as a 9th grader. I couldn't believe my ears! Valerie grew up in an abusive home. Social Services placed her in foster care. Even there she suffered abuse, so she was moved to another home—and then another .... Now she has two boys, an 8-year-old and a 3-month-old. Since she

has had the baby, she has not been employed. The company she had been working for had told her that she could have her job back after childbirth, but when she was ready to return, her position had already been filled. My heart went out to her. I remarked that we had such completely different experiences growing up! I wanted to learn to know her better.

Others arrived for the vigil. At one point, Valerie came over to where I was standing and said that her baby was awake now. We traded—I got to hold the baby and she the "NO WAR with IRAN" sign. That is how Valerie got to be in the picture in the June issue of *Hively Happenings*.

Before Valerie and I parted, I asked her whether she would like to get together so that we could get better acquainted. We have set the date.

Humbly I testify to the loving Spirit's presence on that Wednesday. 🍃

## Congregational goals highlight

Our congregational goals emphasize themes of hospitality and cultural diversity. They then ask us to consider how we carry these themes forward:

- rooting ourselves in the biblical story
- reflecting these themes in congregational life
- reaching out into the community
- recognizing our place in God's creation

One example of how our congregation reaches into the community is our ongoing support for the Jail Ministry of Elkhart County. Our spending plan has included this ministry for more than 30 years.

The Jail Ministry coordinates more than 500 volunteers and 100 chaplains in bringing God's love to those who reside at the jail. Cory Martin is the chaplain who leads this ministry.

Volunteers are involved in services and ministries such as tutoring, discipling and

mentoring, baby-sitting children while family members visit inmates, participating in Bible studies, and joining services and events.

Cory Martin recently sent this note to Hively: Thank-you from Jail Ministry of Elkhart County. The Jail Ministry continues to be blessed by your ongoing support. We are grateful for your prayers and encouragement.

For video testimonials from residents of the jail, visit the Jail Ministry website ([elkhartcountyjailministry.org/](http://elkhartcountyjailministry.org/)).

Among the news stories on the site is a report of the Inside-Out Goshen College class that combined inmates and Goshen College students, cotaught by Sara Klassen (daughter of Mary and Tyler), and a story about SungBin Kim's work to start a choir at the jail. Learn also about the program to remove hand and face tattoos at no charge to the inmates. 🍃



**Jail Ministry**  
*of Elkhart County*

## Greetings from SunJu Moon

A recent visitor to Hively was Bock Ki Kim, former attender from Korea. He brought a note of greetings from SunJu Moon, who also attended Hively as a seminary student, along with her husband, Dong Ju Park, and their daughters, SeRim and SeYun. SunJu's message said:

Most of all, I would like to say to you,

Thank you so much for everything that you had provided for me and my family when we stayed with you.

...

I work at Korea Anabaptist Center as a director in Korea. Whenever somebody asks me what the Mennonite church looks like, I recall my experience at Hively church and your hospitality, mutual care for each other and your passion for helping strangers. Bear in mind that your routine life becomes living testimony in Korea here around my life.

I have really wanted to say "Thank you so much for your love and care."

## Thank you from Julee Hay

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you gave me on the last day of preschool. I enjoyed them for over a week.

You have all been a huge part of making the preschool successful over the years. I appreciated your support and willingness to serve.

May God bless you for reaching out to the children of our community.

Blessings,

Julee Hay

(Retired director of Hively Avenue  
Preschool)

## Thank you from Grace & Healing Ministry

Grace & Healing Ministry in Dodoma, Tanzania, sent this letter in thanks for our contribution from our Lent observance of Rice and Beans month:

I am writing on behalf of GHMD staff and Mennonite church Dodoma to express our sincere gratitude. We are so grateful for your prayers and support during Rice and Beans month. Mama Esther told us about your love and sacrifice during the Lent period. We have also told the kids in the program that we have enlarged the circle of friends.

Your contribution is a great support for the nutrition support for the program. Kids are meeting at the center and get the nutrition lunch three days a week. This makes a huge impact for the kids living with HIV because most of them are on medication and they come from poor families that can only afford one meal a day. We are praying that one day you can visit us and share with us the love of God face to face. Please continue to pray for us as we are striving to bring a smiling face to the most vulnerable children.

★ **THE KC SAUCE** ★

Your Daily #MennoCon19 News

Find out what happened at the Mennonite Church USA convention by checking this website for news, photos and features:

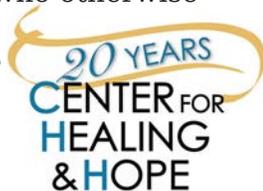
<http://mennoniteusa.org/kcsauce/>

# Announcements

## Center for Healing & Hope

---

**Call for volunteers:** Help make a difference in our community by volunteering with the Center for Healing & Hope. The Center continues to care for those who otherwise have no access to health services. We need volunteer physicians and nurses to assist in our urgent and chronic care services. Please call 574-534-4744 or enroll as a volunteer online at [chhclinics.org/volunteer](http://chhclinics.org/volunteer).



The Center for Healing & Hope seeks a **half-time communication director** to manage print and email communication and to collaborate on digital and social media communication. To apply, send a letter of application and résumé to Bryan Mierau, executive director, at [bmierau@CHHclinics.org](mailto:bmierau@CHHclinics.org).

## Mennonite Church USA

---

Joining an ecumenical and interfaith coalition effort, Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA, signed on to the **Religious Leaders Statement on Child Deaths in Detention**. You can read the letter here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/religious-leaders-statement-on-child-deaths-in-detention](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/religious-leaders-statement-on-child-deaths-in-detention).

“The presence of Christ’s peace in a world where violence seems to be winning — this is our work.” **Read reflections from Sue Park-Hur**, MC USA denominational minister for Leadership Development, on being present and proclaiming the gift of peace: [mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/peace-be-with-you/](http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/peace-be-with-you/)

You’re invited to **donate to the projects for the special offering at convention**, even from a distance! Read about the initiative for Peace Church Planting and the Peace Academic Center (formerly Hopi Mission School) and

find ways to support these ministries of MC USA at [mennoniteusa.org/news/convention-offerings-at-mennocon19](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/convention-offerings-at-mennocon19).

## Mennonite Church USA (cont.)

---

MC USA is currently seeking to hire **two Communications positions**, Communications Production Coordinator and Multimedia News Editor. Find the job descriptions and contact information at [mennoniteusa.org/who-we-are/employment](http://mennoniteusa.org/who-we-are/employment).

## Camp Friedenswald

---

### Mentor-Mentee Peace Camp

September 6–8

Hands-on-learning about communication skills, conflict resolution and biblical approach to peace and justice. Calling all Mentor-Mentee pairs and others interested in building connections, immersive learning about peace making, and lots of camp fun!

Leaders: Jason Boone and Jes Stoltzfus Buller  
[mcc.org/peace-camps](http://mcc.org/peace-camps)

### Women’s Retreat

September 20–22

Speaker: Shannon Dycus, pastor and author  
[friedenswald.org/retreats](http://friedenswald.org/retreats)

### Men’s and Boy’s Retreat

October 18–20

Speaker: Benjamin J. Tapper, chaplain and founder of the Hear Me Project.  
[friedenswald.org/retreats](http://friedenswald.org/retreats)

## Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

---

**Fall online course:** Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology, taught by Jamie Pitts. This is an online, six-week course. No grades. No papers.  
[ams.edu/shortcourses](http://ams.edu/shortcourses)

*More in page 6.*

## Hively calendar

**July 10 and 24**  
6 pm  
Prayer Choir

**July 7 and 21**  
5:30 pm  
Spaghetti and Scripture

**July 20**  
**Celebration of**

**July 24**  
Mennonite Women tour of  
quilt gardens in the area

**August 18**  
11 am  
Worship at Church  
Without Walls

**August 25**  
Picnic at OxBow Park  
following worship

**September 8**  
Congregational retreat at  
Camp Friedenswald

## Church-wide events

**August 29**  
3 pm  
Mennonite Central  
Committee Open House  
1013 Division St  
Goshen, Ind.

*Hively Happenings*  
editor: Mary E. Klassen  
office@  
hivelymennonite.org

## Help for immigrant detainees

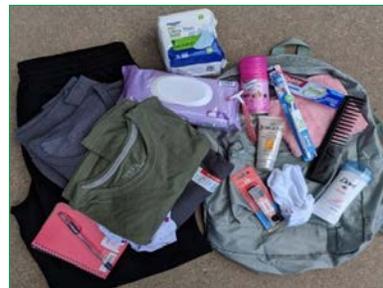
Mennonite Central Committee Central States is now collecting Immigration Detainee Care kits. When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they are taken to bus stations and airports to reconnect with their families in the U.S.

Please visit [mcc.org/immigrationkit](http://mcc.org/immigrationkit) for all the details of what goes into the kit\* and how the kits will be distributed. It is one small way we can share Christ's love with our neighbors.

All kit supplies and financial donations should be sent directly to MCC Central States, 121 E. 30th, PO Box 235, North Newton,

KS 67117. To help MCC purchase immigration detainee care kit supplies and cover transportation costs for the kits, checks should be made out to MCC with "CS Kits" in the memo line.

Questions? Please contact MCC Central States at 316.283.2720.



\*Kits include clothing (for a man, woman or child), pens or crayons, paper for writing, washcloth and towel, toothpaste, toothbrush and other hygiene items. 🍃

## Announcements (continued)

### MCC Great Lakes

MCC Great Lakes will offer a training opportunity for individuals to explore the legacy of colonialism and understand the intersecting history between Native people and European settlers. This training will use the framework of the Doctrine of Discovery to explore the taking of land from Indigenous people, which led to the justification of the global slave trade. Led by Michelle Armster, Erica Littlewolf, and Karin Kaufman Wall from MCC Central States, the training will be August 25-27 with the Sunday evening public event, Loss of Turtle Island, at Waterford Mennonite and the following two days at

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. The registration fee is \$50. For more information and registration, visit [mcc.org/gl-dod](http://mcc.org/gl-dod) or contact Kelly Shenk Koontz at [kellyshenkkoontz@mcc.org](mailto:kellyshenkkoontz@mcc.org).

**Volunteer with SWAP:** Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) addresses challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. Please consider forming a group, large or small, to work a week in West Virginia or Kentucky. For information visit [mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap](http://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap). 🍃