



June 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings

Rivers and stories: Flowing into the story of God's love

Jake Hess, pastor

It's hard not to think about water this time of year. The skies won't let us forget. Bulging rivers. Flooded streets. Fields unplanted. Farmers waiting, worried. "Water, water everywhere..." wrote Samuel Taylor Coleridge. But, unlike his poem, this water covers the land.

On a pastoral visit this week, I watched the Elkhart River lumber by—edges extended, dirt-brown with mud—flowing, flowing. Its constant current played like a kind of visible background noise while I listened to stories of the past, stories from a distant land. The river flowed on while the stories flowed out. A small house with more than 16 people living together. Parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents. Crammed, no doubt, yet crammed with life. A different place, a different culture. "I used to know ALL of my neighbors there; here," she lamented, "I've hardly met any of them." Stories of ministry, of church, of food and festivals and clothes. A biography unfolded. And, in the background, the river flowed on. Those waters soon joined the St. Joseph River and eventually plunged into Lake Michigan, where they will evaporate, rise, condense, and fall again to nourish the earth. The waters, too, have tales to tell.

What's your story? How did it start? Where is it going? Most importantly, is it flowing into that rough and raucous river we call the story of God? Sometimes, it's hard to tell. Thankfully, by God's grace, it's often happening undetected; however, this doesn't mean we shouldn't be attentive to and intentional about those precious intersections with God's narrative. For this reason, the Leadership Council is inviting each of us to be attentive and intentional this summer. Commissions and individuals are being invited to reflect on where their story intersects with God's story. More specifically, we're hoping to see those connections made in relation to our congregational goals (generated from our congregational discussions): goals of hospitality, diversity, and creation care. This could be something you're already involved in or something new you're being called to. Forms explaining this reflection process have already been passed out (at our last meeting and in mailboxes). In September, at our annual retreat, we will have a time of sharing, confirming, and blessing these commitments.

So, this summer, be attentive and intentional. Pray. Reflect. Ask. Where is your story being drawn into the wild river of God's love? Wherever that may be, we pray that it will rise up, join others' stories, and rain God's grace anew on this dry and weary land. 

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Expanding our worship in July

For the four Sundays in July, Hively and three other Elkhart Mennonite congregations will join together for our Sunday morning worship services.

Fellowship of Hope, Southside Fellowship, Prairie Street and Hively will each host one service in July and a pastor from another of the congregations will preach.

Our Worship Commission is helping coordinate this so that we can experience how other Mennonite congregations worship and so that we can get to know people from these other congregations.

Details

- There will be no Sunday school during the month of July.
- Offerings will be taken each Sunday for Church Without Walls and Emerge Ministries. In addition, there will be boxes to receive offerings for each individual congregation.
- On July 28, when Hively hosts the joint worship, we will want to provide hospitality to our guests. We may need additional ushers and childcare providers. Watch for announcements of ways you can join in. 🍃

Schedule for July worship services

July 7, 9:30 am

Worship at Prairie Street
1316 Prairie Street
Preacher: David Moser of Southside

July 14*, 9:30 am

Worship at Fellowship of Hope
1618 S. 6th Street
Preachers: Jake Hess, Tim Stair

July 21, 9:30 am

Worship at Southside Fellowship
Chapel at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical
Seminary, 3003 Benham Avenue
Preacher: Frances Ringenberg of Prairie Street

July 28, 9:30 am

Worship at Hively
Preacher: Suella Gerber of Fellowship of Hope
Service will include Communion

*The original schedule was for Hively to host on July 14; this has been changed to July 28.

Congratulations, Peace

Peace Muhagachi won this year's Art Purchase Award at Bethany Christian High School. Her art piece will be displayed in the hallway at the school

Peace explained: "I chose an expressionist style with this piece by not giving the person portrayed any facial features. This is meant to symbolize primarily the tendency in the media to misrepresent people, especially people of color ... thus making them faceless; without character or identity; anonymous." 🍃



Peace Muhagachi holds her artwork that received the Art Purchase Award at Bethany Christian High School.

September 27-28

Prepare for the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

The 2019 Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale will be held September 27-28. Keep up with Relief Sale announcements and up-to-date information on Facebook. You can “like” the “Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale” page.

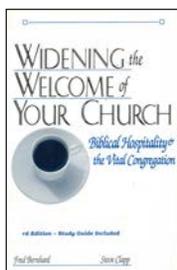
1. To offset Relief Sale expenses, a **Fundraiser Banquet** will be held on Thursday, August 15, at 6 pm at the Essenhaus in Middlebury, Ind. Further information will be forthcoming.
2. New sale section this year: **Baby clothing and baby items** will be sold at the Garage Sale. Organizers are seeking new or gently used baby, toddler, and small children’s clothing, strollers, furniture, etc. If you have appropriate clothing, items your children never used, or used that are still in good condition, or if you sew baby and children’s clothing, please consider donating these to the sale.
3. If you have items of value, new or used, that you would like to donate to the sale, remember the **Relief Sale Online Auction**. They are looking for donations such as fine jewelry, antiques, tools, sporting goods, food, gift certificates, services and many other items. Contact Jep Hostetler, at hostetlerjep@gmail.com or call 614-651-1076 if you have questions.
4. Join in the fun by starting now to collect coins for **My Coins Count**. Hively’s coin banks for quarters have all been claimed, but you can still collect your coins for the special offerings we will have several times between now and the sale.
5. Prepare now to join the 2019 **MCC Run for Relief**, 5k Run/Walk or 2k Fun Walk, on Saturday, September 28. This year we will offer women’s and youth sizes for T-shirts in addition to sizes available previously. More information will be sent soon.
6. Visit www.mennonitesale.org for more information or call 888-503-8559. Thanks for your help! Your contributions make a difference. 



Hively Library resources for our congregational goals

Widening the welcome of your church: Biblical hospitality and the vital congregation, by Fred Bernhard and Steve Clapp.

Topics include how to respond to the needs and comfort of guests and how worship can be an expression of welcome.



A Christian view of hospitality: Expecting surprises, by Michele Hershberger.

A collection of biblical and contemporary stories about hospitality. Offers a new way of looking at the world ... and at God, people, situations and our possessions. 



Keep up-to-date with John, Lara and Valeria

Hively’s three participants in the Goshen College Study Service Theology Term in Guatemala have begun their journey. John Vargas, Lara Claassen and Valeria Rosales are at Goshen College for orientation and will depart on Saturday.

A blog on the Goshen College website gives us opportunities to know what they are doing. Follow them at

www.goshen.edu/sst/current-blog/

Announcements

Church Community Services

Volunteers needed at Church Community Services: It's planting season and Church Community Services needs volunteers to help our Seed to Feed program! We need:



- help planting transplants and seeds, and putting up trellises in our garden.
- help watering in the greenhouse and outside on weekends. Volunteers would come to water in the morning and the evening for about 15 minutes each time.
- help weeding and doing basic garden maintenance in June and July.

If you are interested, please contact Jen at volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org or 574-295-3673 x112.

Mennonite Mission Network

Read about Willi Hugo Perez, director of SEMILLA in Guatemala, bringing his stories of peacemaking to the US.

<https://tinyurl.com/y28jpwjw>

Mennonite Church USA

SaeJin Lee reflects on the importance of visual art in our experience

of worship in a post on the Mennonite Church USA site.

She writes: "I long for our worship practices to more fully represent the breadth of our senses. We excel at embodying our faith through sound in singing and preaching, but we have practiced our faith in worship less fully through the visual arts. They can be a powerful way of moving us beyond our heads and into our hearts."



She gives instructions for experiencing God through the beauty around us with a session in *visio divina*, which invites viewers into a slow, careful interaction with the divine through images and other visual forms. Find

the full article on the Menno Snapshots blog: mennoniteusa.org/language-of-the-soul

Visit the Menno Snapshots blog to see how people from across MC USA have followed Jesus, witnessed to God's peace and experienced transformation in their lives, their congregation or community: mennoniteusa.org/category/journey-forward.

Mennonite World Conference

Rebeca González Torres, a member of the MWC Faith and Life Commission, reflects on migration, including causes and compassionate responses, on the MWC website. She concludes, "Now, at the height of Globalization, human mobility demands that communities be moved to compassion and to see the multitudes of powerless people as sheep without a pastor." Read the full article: <https://tinyurl.com/yxkf3byn>

Project Promise

Project Promise will hold its annual chicken BBQ fundraiser 4 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 13, at Siloam Fellowship (61616 County Road 35, Goshen). Featuring High's Signature BBQ chicken with baked potatoes and homemade pie. Suggested donation: \$10 for dine-in or carry-out. Project Promise provides spiritual and social opportunities for people with disabilities.

MCC Great Lakes

MCC Great Lakes is looking for an **Appalachia Program Coordinator** to provide overall direction and supervision of MCC's work in the Appalachian region in eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia. Apply online for this opening by July 1 at mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/appalachia-program-coordinator. For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

Announcements (continued)

Bethany Christian Schools

Job opening: Bus driver for the daily Elkhart-Bethany route. Applicants must have first-aid certification and interpersonal skills to relate well to students and parents. CDL with school endorsement preferred. bethanycs.net/jobs.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Seeking an Admissions Counselor and Student Services Coordinator, a full-time position. See ambs.edu/jobs.

Sign up for a fall course at AMBS. Hybrid course options include Teaching and Learning for Transformation, and Spiritual Practices: Voice and Identity. Online options include Creation Care: Theology, Ethics and Spirituality; History of Christianity in Africa; Psalms. Also offered are 13 campus courses. Nonadmitted students get 50 percent off their first course for credit. ambs.edu/onecourse

Join the Journey program: Nurture leadership abilities. Deepen theological perspectives. Tend to spiritual formation. Journey offers

mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. The program is open to all who are exploring ministry: ambs.edu/journey

Goshen College

Goshen College offers summer camps for kids, including Musical Theater Camp (grades 9-12; June 16-22), 3D Art Camp (Grades 6-8; July 8-12), Write on Sports Camp (grades 7-8; July 8-19), high school boys basketball camps (Aug. 3-4) and McCracken Basketball Camps (Ages 8-18, June 24-27). Learn more and sign up at goshen.edu/summercamps.

Pathways Retreat Center, Goshen

Pathways Retreat (309 1/2 Hackett Rd, Goshen) invites you to spend time in nature this summer. We are a birding hotspot with 108 species sighted to date. Two prayer labyrinths, a wildflower meadow with comfortable seating to watch the bees and butterflies, and two miles of wooded walking trails are available to all. Visitors are welcome anytime from dawn to dusk with no need for a reservation. www.pathwaysretreat.org



Elkhart Advocates for Peace and Justice organized a witness against building up toward war in Iran on Wednesday, June 5, at the Elkhart Civic Plaza. Wendell Wiebe Powell, Valerie (who was resting at the plaza with her son—held by Louise), Louise Claassen, Mary Klassen and Charles Geiser participated. Others witnessed at a gathering organized by presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren at the RV/MH Hall of Fame. Several good encounters occurred, including sharing the witness with a supporter of President Trump and being interviewed by two women doing a project on love.



Buzzing at the Hive

It's hard to believe that the 2018-2019 school year has come to an end. Our students and families enjoyed an exciting last day, thanks to a visit from the Stevens Puppets, a fun-filled awards chapel, and a yummy picnic lunch. It was wonderful to be able to see how much each of the children has learned and grown over these past nine months. I appreciate the many volunteers and preschool board

members who helped make this day such a success.

We also said our good-byes to Julee Hay. Her impact on the preschool will not be forgotten. Please continue to lift her and her family up in your prayers.

— Amy Redar, director 

Hively calendar

June 12 and 26
July 10 and 24

6 pm
Prayer Choir

June 9 and 23
July 7 and 21

5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture

July 28

9:30 am
Hively hosts worship service, which includes Fellowship of Hope, Prairie Street and Southside Fellowship

August 25

Picnic at OxBow County Park following worship

Church-wide events

June 20-22

Central District Conference Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisc.

July 2-6

Mennonite Church USA Convention
Kansas City, Mo.

Hively Happenings
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Preschool students and family members get an opportunity to see how a puppet works following the performance of "Goldilocks and the three bears" set in Alaska.



A picnic lunch for preschoolers and their families followed the puppet show and awards chapel on May 17.