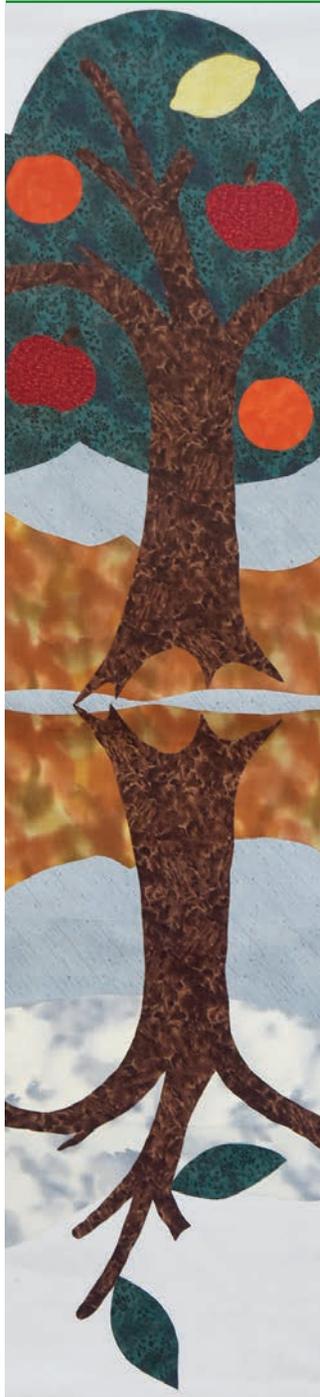




March 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

# Happenings



## **The sermon I should have preached (or my Monday morning quarterbacking of Sunday's sermon)**

*Tim Stair, pastor*

It's tempting to use this month to comment on the congregational discussions we've been having, but I'm going to save that for when we've had more opportunity to reflect on the input we've received. I'll just say that I'm very happy for the energy people have brought to them.

Funny things happen in the bathroom, especially on Monday mornings. This past Monday, while I was showering and getting ready to head to the church office, I came up with a different approach to the material on giving, praying and fasting from the Sermon on the Mount that I preached about on Sunday, March 4.

I should've entitled it "Loosening the Grip of Empire, By Getting A Grip on our Vices."

When I use the term "empire," I'm referring to the powers, seen and unseen, that want to keep us enslaved to the way of power in the world that works through coercion and fear, and "might makes right." In Jesus' time, Rome (the Roman Empire) was the primary earthly representative of this kind of power. In our time, it may well be our own country, or some combination of it with what we might think of as our "consumer culture," that calls on us to consume things and people, without giving much back.

Overall, "empire" wants to get a grip on our lives and egos, so that we want to control and manipulate things and people for our own benefit, rather than for God's purposes or any understanding of a "common good." Money, how we use our imagination, and our appetites are easy places of vice that Jesus addresses in the Sermon on the Mount.

First, "empire" wants to get a grip on our ego and money. So, Jesus says, we need to keep giving, but not for acclaim.

Second, empire wants to grip our imagination. So, Jesus says, we need to pray, but not for acclaim. We need to pray in a way that changes our imagination. Praying "Our Father" changes our relationship with God, and praying "your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," changes our imagination of what life is about.

Finally, empire wants to grip our appetites, so that we desire and consume what the powers want us to desire and consume. So, Jesus says, fast—take a break from the things that are most appealing, so that you loosen their grip.

*continued on page 2*

Vol. 35 No. 3

800 E Hively Avenue  
Elkhart, Indiana 46517  
574.294.3423

[www.hivelymennonite.org](http://www.hivelymennonite.org)

## The sermon ... (continued)

Loosening the grip of empire in these ways helps us make space for God's Spirit to work in us, to get our priorities and actions aligned with God's activity in the world.

So, I want to keep asking myself, "Where is 'empire' trying to get a grip on me?" "What spiritual exercises and experiments might loosen that grip, making space for God's Spirit and activity?" 🍃

## Hively's treasure trove of worship banners

Hively's collection of worship banners includes more than 30. This gives us a wealth of images, colors, themes and patterns to add to our experience of worship.

The banners are stored in a closet at the far west end of the upper level of the education wing. Recently the way the banners are stored changed, and it will now be much easier to know what we have and to pull out what we want each Sunday.

Helping with the project were Leroy Saner and Virgil Claassen, who mounted the vertical standards at the back of the closet. Elaine Frey and Annie Mohr then installed the brackets and organized the rolled-up banners.

In connection with this work, Tyler Klassen photographed each banner. The inside of the closet doors shows what each banner looks like and its location in the closet. In addition, the church office now has a binder with an image of each banner and what is known



about who created it and when it was made.

In addition to this collection of worship visuals, the closet across the hall from the sanctuary holds a large supply of fabrics, candles and other items. Pratik and Shabnam Bagh recently contributed a variety of fabrics and candle holders from India.

Thanks to all who helped with the closet project. And thanks to those who prepare the worship visuals for our Sunday morning services: Shabnam Bagh, Elaine Frey, Annie Mohr, Saejin Lee and Mary Klassen. 🍃

# Holy Week celebrations



## Holy Week and Easter at Hively Sunday, March 25, Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday Peace Parade begins at Hively at 2 pm. We will gather at the peace pole to center ourselves for our witness as we walk to the Civic Plaza in downtown Elkhart. There we will have a time of prayer and singing.



## Thursday, March 29, Maundy Thursday

Light meal at 6 pm, followed by worship with communion and the opportunity for foot washing or hand washing.

For the meal, people with last names beginning with A-J should bring sandwiches; people with last names beginning with K-Z should bring fruit (washed, cut and ready to eat).

## Sunday, April 16, Easter Sunday

Early service, 7:30 am

Breakfast, 8 am

People with last names beginning with A-J should bring fruit (ready to eat); people with last names beginning with K-Z should bring bread or rolls.

Worship service, 9:30 am

Children will have a shortened time of Sunday School. Youth will hide Easter eggs for the younger children to search for at the end of the morning.

## Easter play

The annual **Project Promise Easter Play** is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, at 3 pm and 6 pm, at Clinton Frame Church, 63846 County Road 35. Every year, Community Members share their acting and musical talents during the performance in a powerful faithful testimony of faith. Starting with the Lord's Supper, the drama follows events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Music always plays an important role. The Project Promise chime choir performs several songs, and audiences are invited to sing along on several hymns. 



# Announcements

## Goshen College

Publisher and science fiction writer Bill Campbell will deliver the **S.A. Yoder lecture** at Goshen College's Rieth Recital Hall on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 pm, speaking on "Social Justice and Publishing." This event is free and open to the public.

### **The annual International Coffeehouse:**

Saturday, March 24. Dinner at 5:15 pm in the College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall and a family-friendly international variety show at 7:30 pm in Sauder Hall (Music Center). Tickets for this fund-raiser are available from the Music Center (535-7566) or online ([www.goshen.edu/tickets](http://www.goshen.edu/tickets)).

On Wednesday, March 28, Michael Mears, English actor and playwright, will present "**This Evil Thing: Voices of Conscience in WWI**," a one-person dramatic performance that tells the story of conscientious objectors in Great Britain during World War I. The free performance starts at 7:30 pm.

## Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

### **Fully online graduate certificate program.**

Strengthen the biblical and theological foundation for your work through AMBS's fully online Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies. Develop a plan of study that matches your interests. Visit [ams.edu/graduatecertificate](http://ams.edu/graduatecertificate)

## Mennonite Men

### **Wounded Lovers: Embracing our Sexuality.**

This Mennonite Men retreat will create a safe space for men to reclaim God's gift of sexuality, address their shadow, and embrace who they are as spiritual and sexual men who long for loving union with others in life. Led by Steve Thomas, Coordinator for Mennonite Men, the retreat is Saturday, April 28, at Pathways Retreat in Goshen. For information, go to [pathwaysretreat.org/wounded-lovers-mens-retreat](http://pathwaysretreat.org/wounded-lovers-mens-retreat) or contact Steve at [SteveT@MennoniteMen.org](mailto:SteveT@MennoniteMen.org).

## Church Community Services

**Silent No More**, Soup of Success graduates' powerful and inspirational stories of hope in a monologue style performance takes place March 13 at AMBS Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, 3003 Benham Ave. Doors open at 6 pm, show begins at 7 pm. Due to language and content, this show is for adults only and tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets online visit [soupofsuccess.com](http://soupofsuccess.com) or call 574-523-1551.

### **Sounds of Celebration Community Concert:**

Church Community Services 50th anniversary celebration is April 26 at Trinity United Methodist

Church. Cake at 6 pm; concert at 7 pm.



**Help us stock our shelves!** Many of the families we serve rely on free breakfasts at school. Spring break is in early April this year, and we can use boxes of cereal to help families feed their kids breakfast during that week. Please consider donating cereals for our food pantry during the month of March.

### **Volunteers Needed!**

We are in need of volunteers who can work in the following areas:

- A 3- to 4-hour shift in the food pantry Mon, Wed or Thurs
- Groups of 6-25 to help with Soup of Success food production
- Experienced sewers for textile production
- March thru May: greenhouse assistance for Seed to Feed

For more information, please contact Gwen at [volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org](mailto:volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org) or 574-295-3673 x112.

## Announcements (continued)

### Jail Ministry of Elkhart County

---



The 2018 Elkhart County **Jail Ministry Banquet** is scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 24. Hively supports the jail ministry in our annual spending plan, so we are invited to sponsor a table at the banquet. There is no cost to sponsor the table and the only obligation is to fill a table of eight with people from Hively. Please contact Jake Hess if you are interested in participating.

The Jail Ministry banquet is an informal, dessert banquet where we hear from current and former inmates on how God started working in their lives while they were incarcerated at the Elkhart County Jail.  
WHEN: Tuesday evening, April 24, from 7-8:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm)  
WHERE: Maple City Chapel, 2015 Lincolnway East, Goshen, IN 46526

### Pathways Retreat Center

---

A **Bird Walk Series**, facilitated by Annie Aguirre, will take place at Pathways Retreat (309 1/2 Hackett Rd, Goshen): Sundays, March 18, April 8 and 15 at 4 pm. There is no registration; a donation of \$5-10 per walk is appreciated. See [www.pathwaysretreat.org](http://www.pathwaysretreat.org).

Pathways Retreat offers their annual **Stations of the Cross** during Holy Week, March 25-31. Come walk our wooded trails during daylight hours, no registration necessary. Stations of the Resurrection will begin on Easter Sunday. See [www.pathwaysretreat.org](http://www.pathwaysretreat.org).

### Mennonite Central Committee

---

**MCC Vietnam Storytelling Event:** Guest speakers—Doug Hostetter, current director of the MCC United Nations Office, and Thien Tran, Vietnamese intern in the MCC U.N. office—will share on Sunday, April 15, at 7 pm at Prairie Street Mennonite Church. In light of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, Doug will share from his first-hand experiences in Vietnam as a conscientious objector with MCC and his subsequent work. Thien will share about growing up after the war and the legacy it left behind.

[mcc.org/get-involved/events/storytelling-doug-hostetter-thien-tran-elkhart](http://mcc.org/get-involved/events/storytelling-doug-hostetter-thien-tran-elkhart)

**Friends of MCC International Potluck:** All are invited to join us for a Friends of MCC International Potluck at 6 pm on Friday, April 13, at East Goshen Mennonite Church, 17861 State Rd 4. Speakers will be Doug Hostetter, current director of the MCC United Nations Office, and Thien Tran, Vietnamese intern in the MCC U.N. office, sharing about the past and present work of MCC in Vietnam. Please RSVP by Apr. 10 at 574-534-4133 or to [img@mcc.org](mailto:img@mcc.org). Visit [//mcc.org/get-involved/events/friends-mcc-international-potluck-goshen](http://mcc.org/get-involved/events/friends-mcc-international-potluck-goshen)

### Hartwood's tree planting party

---

HartWood Tree Care is committed to planting at least one tree for every tree we remove in our community. Join in an afternoon gathering with friends, food and planting trees on Saturday, April 21. We'll gather at 1 pm at 126 Pottawatomi Dr, Elkhart. After an opening and instructions, we will split up to plant trees all over our community, then come back together to celebrate with drinks and snacks by the river. Contact Nick Simons at Hartwood if you want to ...

- request a tree
- join a planting team (and bring a shovel or help drive)

Please RSVP to Nick Simons at 574.361.0009, [nssimons@gmail.com](mailto:nssimons@gmail.com), or see more on Facebook.

## Buzzing at the Hive



### Hively calendar

**March 25**  
5:30 pm  
Spaghetti and Scripture

**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

The preschoolers visited Concord Fire Dept. #1 recently and learned some things about fire safety. Many of our parents also joined us on this field trip.

Our Jumbo Jelly Bean fundraiser has been a success! Thank you to all who ordered jelly beans.

Sincere thanks to all who gave sacrificially to our Scholarship Fund recently. A few of our families have experienced unexpected financial needs this winter. We are grateful to the church family for helping to keep these students in preschool.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on March 20 and 22. This

is an important time for teachers to communicate with parents about their child's progress.

Easter parties will be held on March 26. This is a special day to review the true story of Easter with our students. We make Resurrection biscuits, have an egg hunt, and attend a special Chapel time where we review the Easter story with the Resurrection Eggs.

Spring Break is coming! March 29–April 8!

— Julee Hay, preschool director 

### Area activities

**March 17**  
Central District Conference Regional Gathering  
10 am – 3 pm  
Eighth Street Mennonite Church

### New podcast available

**Holding it (,) Together**, a new podcast from The Mennonite Inc. and Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership, launches March 12. The podcast features stories of authentic people exploring a need to collectively hold together all that we carry in our journey of becoming ... because most days we're just holding it together. Episodes will be available on The Mennonite website, Apple podcasts and Stitcher.



### For Goshen residents

**GRID**—the Goshen Resident ID card—supports our immigrant neighbors at a time when they may feel vulnerable. The card will be most effective when a large number of Goshen residents have their own. Getting one is a simple, concrete step to express support and “to extend hospitality to strangers” *Romans 12:13*. All residents of Goshen are invited to the Center for Healing & Hope, 902 S. Main St., to register for a card. It takes only ten minutes. Call for your appointment: 574-524-4744. Details at [www.CHHclinics.org/GRID-English](http://www.CHHclinics.org/GRID-English).



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

### New address

Joyce and Tom Frey have moved to Southfield Village near Kern Road Mennonite Church. Their address:

Tom and Joyce Frey  
Arbors #201  
6450 Miami Circle  
South Bend, IN 46614