



March 2020

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

# Happenings



## Is your heart turned upward? Are your hands opened?

*Jake Hess, pastor (February 27, 2020)*

**“F**rom whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?” (Job 38:29) I am looking out on Hively’s playground, now freshly powdered in a blanket of delicate white. A few snowflakes are still sauntering down and the occasional gust scatters, in a cloud-like sprawl, the white-velvet coats slumped on the backs of tree branches. This, perhaps, is the most striking feature of the picturesque playground: the way the snow mounds in fluffy tufts on any surface that will welcome it. The rainbow rim of the playhouse. The tops of spindles. The crown of rope knots. On fence post, swing, and slide. Only the horizontal surfaces welcome the snow. Only the surfaces oriented upward—like hands expectantly opened toward a blessing—are coated in white.

We enter, again, the Lenten season and see in our surroundings the echoes of its call. There is an austerity in it, for sure. Not unlike the pale-gray dome of sky and the ashen stretch of leafless tree branches. This is the season of the cross. Austere indeed. But it is also the season of rejuvenation and resurrection. Like the white-capped limbs of oak and maple, those parts of us that reach out during this season, in hope-filled expectation, reorienting our hearts and our hands heavenward, may end up coated in the coming nourishment of spring.

In what ways are you turning your heart upward this Lenten season? What are you setting down so that your outstretched hands are free, again, to catch the soft-white of snowfall? Blessing upon blessing—too numerous to count—awaiting a welcoming place to land. Is your heart turned upward? Are your hands opened?

We brought out the wooden cross from the shed today, resting it on the sanctuary wall for the Lenten season. Literally carrying a cross is a startling physical (and spiritual) act. The feel of rough wood. The weight. The awkwardness of its size. We center it in our midst for a time, remembering the feel of splintered timber. Remembering the sadness of betrayal, the loneliness of abandonment. We see it and remember. But we will one day take it down again, tucking it into the tomb of the shed. Remembered, yes, but remembered from a distance. Though part of our lives, it is ultimately swallowed up in Life. *“Where, O death, is your victory. Where, O death, is your sting?”*

“Lent,” reminds our worship resources, “is a time to slow down and breathe in the life of Jesus.” For this reason, we are offered the Lenten theme: “Show us...” As we wait to be shown the life of Christ. A life that walked willingly toward death, so that death would be swallowed up in Life. Is your heart turned upward? Are your hands opened? May it be so.

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## New hymnal coming in September

The new hymnal, *Voices Together*, which is being created by Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada, will be released in September. Hively has ordered enough copies of the hymnbook for our worship services and also has ordered several copies of the worship leader edition.

The committee that has worked on this project, including SaeJin Lee, shares insights on the *Voices Together* and MC USA websites. Here are excerpts from recent posts.

**You love Hymnal: A Worship Book.** You are in good company! The Mennonite Worship and Song Committee working on *Voices Together* loves *Hymnal: A Worship Book* too, as well as *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*. There is a widely-sung and well-loved common core from the current books that forms the heart of *Voices Together*. More than half of the material in *Voices Together* comes from the current books, and that's a higher proportion than *Hymnal: A Worship Book* carried forward from *The Mennonite Hymnal* (the earlier brown-red hymnal). Even if one or two of your favorite songs are not included, you can still sing them.

*By Sarah Kathleen Johnson, who is the worship resources editor for Voices Together and the editor of the Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition. She is completing a PhD in theology at the University of Notre Dame. Read the full article:*  
[mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/reasons-not-to-get-voices-together/](https://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/reasons-not-to-get-voices-together/)

**The *Voices Together* collection** will include songs and worship resources in over 40 languages. This diversity represents more than two dozen languages used in Mennonite congregations in North America, plus many more by Anabaptist and other Christian groups worldwide. It includes languages no longer spoken today, such as Latin and ancient Greek, that represent the history of the Church.

There are many reasons, both material and symbolic, to include all these languages. *Voices*

# VOICES *Together*

*Together* is primarily an English collection, but it will also be a resource for bilingual and multilingual congregations, as well as regional and national gatherings where native speakers of a variety of languages gather. Even if a congregation speaks only English, they likely have relationships with people around the world .... English-speaking congregations can celebrate those connections, observe world events, and learn about other cultures through worship in many languages.

The Mennonite Worship and Song Committee reached out to Mennonite and Anabaptist contacts across North America and around the world to ask about heart songs from many musical traditions.

*By Katie Graber is an ethnomusicologist who studies race and ethnicity in a variety of contexts including Mennonite music, American music and European opera. She leads singing at her church in Columbus, Ohio, and chairs the Intercultural Worship committee for the Voices Together project. Read the full article:*  
[voicestogetherhymnal.org/2020/01/30/why-and-how-should-we-sing-interculturally/](https://voicestogetherhymnal.org/2020/01/30/why-and-how-should-we-sing-interculturally/) 

*Voices Together* will host two official launch events, one of these at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, November 13-14. The event will start Friday midafternoon and culminate with a community-wide worship fest on Saturday evening. The Saturday evening worship fest is free but registration will be required to attend any other part of the launch weekend. Watch for further announcements with information about how to register.

## Join in Rice and Beans Month to help HIV+ children

Esther Muhagachi in Dodoma, Tanzania, sent this message to Hively on March 1:

“Today we had a wonderful service and we have launched the Rice and Beans Month. We are praying together with our friends around the world, asking God to join our souls as we are meditating on Jesus’ suffering during this Lent. I am inviting you to pray with us at Grace and Healing Ministry. We have a boy (Nickson Jafari, 19 years old) who is HIV+ and was doing well with his school while using medicines, but recently has lost sight of both eyes. It started as a side effect but it persisted until he can no longer see. We are taking him to the specialist to see how they can help him. Kindly keep him in your prayers.”



Watch this video in which Esther tells how for Rice and Beans month she not only eats simpler meals but also spends less in other ways, and then finds meaning in sharing the savings with the vulnerable children in her community:

[eatriceandbeans.com/2020/03/simple-sacrifices/](http://eatriceandbeans.com/2020/03/simple-sacrifices/)

At Hively we are invited again this year to participate in Rice and Beans month. The primary emphasis is to eat simpler meals during Lent and contribute the money we save to Lahash, the organization that supports Grace and Healing Ministries and the HIV+ children of Esther’s community.

Read more: [lahash.org/2020/02/11/hunger-hope-and-harvest/](http://lahash.org/2020/02/11/hunger-hope-and-harvest/)



Nickson Jafari (Photos provided by Esther Muhagachi)

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## Ten Thousand Villages, Goshen, needs volunteers

Ten Thousand Villages in downtown Goshen is looking for volunteers. We are a not-for-profit, fair trade retailer and are powered by a strong team of volunteers. Volunteers improve the lives of creative business people around the world, many of whom are women seeking self-autonomy.

We will host a brief orientation to volunteering at our store on Thursday, March 19, 7-8:30 pm. Please RSVP by

phone (574-533-8491), email ([goshen@tenthousandvillages.com](mailto:goshen@tenthousandvillages.com)), or in person at 206 S. Main St., Goshen.

We are especially looking for volunteers to assist as sales associates on Friday afternoons and Saturdays, but have many other ways you can help. Please come and let us know how you want to get involved!

For information about our fair trade model, please visit [tenthousandvillages.com/goshen](http://tenthousandvillages.com/goshen).

## Everence Sharing Funds help Hively

Everence, the Mennonite financial and insurance organization headquartered in Goshen, provides matching funds for some of the assistance our Deacons Fund provides to Hively members. These funds are available, in part, because Everence does not pay taxes and uses the money instead for helping to meet needs.



In 2019, Everence Sharing Funds provided \$1,846.23 in matching funds to support needs in our congregation.

Elaine Frey is the Everence advocate at Hively. You can talk with her if you want more information. 

## Mennonite Central Committee celebrates 100 years

Mennonite Central Committee is celebrating 100 years of relief, development and peacebuilding in the name of Christ. This summer, several special events are planned. Mark your calendars for these:

### Saturday, July 25, 3:30 p.m.

Swords to Plowshares Children's Musical College Mennonite Church sanctuary, 1900 South Main Street, Goshen

### Saturday, July 25, 4:30 p.m. (picnic at 5 p.m.)

Centennial Celebration Potluck Picnic Goshen College (lawn north of Rec-Fitness Center)

Fun for the whole family with musical entertainment, kids' activities and ice cream.

### Sunday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.

Centennial Service of Celebration Prairie Street Mennonite Church, 1316 Prairie Street, Elkhart

More information about the centennial of MCC will come in the next months. 



## Thank you from Mennonite Central Committee

As we begin our centennial year, on behalf of the 453 partners of Mennonite Central Committee in 53 countries around the world, we thank our friends and supporters at Hively Avenue for the many ways you assist in the relief, development and peace work of MCC. We recognize the value of your prayer support, your assistance with material resources and volunteering at thrift shops, meat canning, and relief sales—and are grateful for your financial contributions of \$1,416 in 2019.

Thank you for all your support as we look forward to the next 100 years of sharing God's love and compassion in the name of Christ. Please visit [mcc.org](http://mcc.org) for more inspirational stories of hope provided by your assistance in this work.

– Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes 

## Join CAPS fundraising event

Help fight child abuse and neglect in Elkhart County by registering for and running in the CAPS Superhero 5K. Families, pets and all superheroes are welcome to run or walk!

The Superhero 5K includes a costume contest for kids and adults, and a side-kick kids run before the start of the race.

CAPS Superhero 5K  
Saturday, April 25  
8:30–11 a.m.

New starting location: Elkhart Health & Aquatics, 200 E Jackson Blvd. in downtown Elkhart.

To register and/or donate, visit:

<https://give.capselkhart.org/event/2020-caps-superhero-5k-run-walk/e272896> 



# Announcements

## Mennonite Church USA

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Mennonite Church USA is inviting everyone to focus on climate justice this month through its **“Learn, Pray, Join”** initiative. Discover how you can get involved at [mennoniteusa.org/news/climate](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/climate).

**“What’s your creation care story?”** This is the question Katie Isaac, a Climate Futures Fellow for the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions in Harrisonburg, Va., asks in her blog, as she challenges us to reframe our conversations about climate justice from politically polarizing discussions to biblically based stewardship language. Read more: [mennoniteusa.org/caresstory](https://mennoniteusa.org/caresstory)

Douglas Kaufman, a director of pastoral ecology at Goshen College’s Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, feels called to engage Mennonite churches on climate change. Read why he is so committed to this calling in his blog, **“Climate change as a spiritual crisis.”** [mennoniteusa.org/spiritualclimate](https://mennoniteusa.org/spiritualclimate)

**Why is climate change a social justice issue?** Christy Miller Hased of Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas, answers this question in her blog, “Why Jesus would care about climate change.” Read more: [mennoniteusa.org/jesusclimatechange](https://mennoniteusa.org/jesusclimatechange)

**Read about Wild Church**, an ecclesial experiment in Fresno, Calif., founded by Katerina Friesen, that challenges us to widen the communion table to include all of God’s creation—human and non-human alike. [mennoniteusa.org/wildchurch](https://mennoniteusa.org/wildchurch)

Lent is a time of purposeful turning toward God. Remember God’s faithful, loving presence and connect with the Rock of our salvation using the free, downloadable **Lent At-Home 2020 Worship Guide**: [mennoniteusa.org/resource/lent-at-home-2020/](https://mennoniteusa.org/resource/lent-at-home-2020/)

**Plans are already underway for MennoCon21**, the biennial convention of Mennonite Church USA, which will be held July 6-10, 2021, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Meet the Worship Planning Committee, read about the group’s first meeting and learn more about the convention’s inspiring #BringThePeace theme.

[mennoniteusa.org/news/worship-planning-committee-mennocon21/](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/worship-planning-committee-mennocon21/)

## Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

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**Take an intensive term course at AMBS.** Hybrid and on-campus options beginning in May and June include History of Christian Spirituality; Religion and Peace Processes; Biblical Storytelling; and Practicing and Embodying Nonviolence. Nonadmitted students get 50 percent off their first course for credit. See our audit options for campus courses. [ambs.edu/onecourse](https://ambs.edu/onecourse)

**Free concert:** The Bethel College (Kansas) Concert Choir, directed by Dr. William Eash, will give a mini-concert in the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount at AMBS, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, on Tuesday, March 24, from 2:50 to 3:15 p.m. All are invited!

**AMBS online short course:** Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 15–May 26. Join Betty Pries, Ph.D., to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online course. No grades, no papers. CEUs available. Save \$50 if you register by March 25. [ambs.edu/shortcourses](https://ambs.edu/shortcourses)

## Buzzing at the Hive



### Hively calendar

**March 8, 15, 22, 29**

5:30 pm  
Spaghetti and Scripture

**April 9**

6 pm  
**Maundy Thursday**  
Meal and service

**April 12**

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

As I sit in my office, I can hear the squeals of delight as our preschoolers enjoy some outside recess time. What a wonderful surprise during the last week of February. I love the pure joy I see on the faces of the children as they climb, run and swing. Oh, to have half of their energy!

It is hard to believe that spring is right around the corner. The teachers are getting ready for upcoming parent conferences. It will be a wonderful chance to remind the parents that God has blessed each of their children with so many wonderful talents and abilities. It is exciting to see the physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual growth that has taken place in the building.

Enrollment has already started for the 2020-2021 school year. I am enjoying touring perspective families. It is a busy time of the

year. It is exciting to see small glimpses into God's plans for next year.

Our spring fundraiser kicks off on March 6th. Our preschoolers will be selling jumbo jelly beans and specialty chocolates from Wakarusa Dime Store. The products will be ready for pick up on April 1st. This is just in time for Easter.

On a personal note, I would like to thank so many of you for your prayers, cards, and support over the past two weeks. My family and I rejoice that my mother is now cancer free and without any pain. Your care and compassion have meant so much to me.

God's Blessings,  
Amy Redar, preschool director



Hively Avenue Preschool's spring fundraiser is jumbo jelly beans and chocolate items from Wakarusa Dime Store. Eight options are available for \$6 per bag. The bulletin board in the church hallway has details and an order form. Orders are due by March 23, and delivery is on April 1.

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### In Memoriam

We extend our sympathies to Kathee Kime Kirchner, whose mother, Virginia Kime, died on Thursday, Feb. 20. Please keep Kathee, her father, and other family

members in your prayers.

The peace lily, pictured on page 1, is a gift from the family following the memorial service on Feb. 25.

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