



November 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings

Family ... and more family

Jake Hess, pastor

I remember the high-pitched squeal of his hearing aid when we (the grandkids) bear-hugged his neck. I remember the hoarse rumble of his voice, low and comforting. The way it sounded when he called me *Hagop* (Armenian for Jacob) or *Hog*, for short. I can see the brownish fade of his teeth, compliments of drinking sugar-packed Mellow Yellow for years. (His house was the only place that our mom allowed us anywhere near that tooth-rotting elixir!) I remember the old house on the lake, the flaking dock, the Minnesota mosquitos, the fishing boat, and the feel of a northern pike on the line.

These are the childhood vignettes of my grandpa: a flawed but fatherly man. Kenneth Keith Kurrasch, Jr.— always “Poppy” to us grandkids— passed away on October 30, 2019. My mom was with him in the hospital that night, as his breathing changed, slowed, and then peacefully ceased. He was 91.

In the wake of his passing, my only regret is how few memories I gathered with him. Always living states away, our lives crossed shamefully little, especially as I grew older. Sadly, that is a hole I cannot patch. I can, however, embrace the light that has shown through that opening. There’s warmth in the light. Warmth and gratitude. I’m thankful for my Minnesota cousins, for the geographic and relational closeness they’ve shared with Poppy their whole lives: fishing trips, hunting season, holidays, the shack. I’m thankful for his church community and the way he became a surrogate grandfather to other children. He was “Poppy” to more than his own.

Similarly, I’m thankful for our church community. The way we’ve been adopted as surrogate children, grandchildren, and siblings. Tools borrowed from Leroy. Childcare offered by Elaine. Winifred’s meals. Using the Claassen’s car, or the Fast’s, or the Underwood’s, or the Odhiambo’s. Who could count the Suderman’s innumerable acts of love? I didn’t get to learn hard work, service, and loyalty on my grandpa’s knee, but I’ve watched Walter, Marlyn, Virgil and John care for our church as if it were their own home. And so it is: *a Home*. The place where the light shines through the cracks in our lives and we are made more whole. We are made into a family, a new people. The church doesn’t replace the family of our birth, it simply expands it out further into creation.

So even in the midst of loss, and some regret, there is still the steadfast light streaming through. There is the love of God. There is the Church. And there is more family than we—my grandpa and I—could have ever hoped for.



Vol. 36 No. 11

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Deb Byler reports on ministry in Guatemala

Deb Byler is on a short leave from her ministry in Guatemala and worshipped with us at Hively on October 13.

She preached in the worship service, sharing stories about three women named Maria with whom she works in her assignment of empowering women in the Kekchi Mennonite churches. During the Christian education hour, Deb answered questions about life, faith, economics and culture among the people with whom she works and lives.



One feature of her recent ministry

is facilitating a trauma healing workshop for women. After studying scriptures about self-worth, they moved through exercises to explore pain, grief, messages they learned in childhood and positive messages about who they are as women today. "I didn't know if it would work among Kekchi women because they are so reserved," Deb explained. However, with affirmation from the first 12 participants, Deb will continue working with the women to offer this workshop to others.

Deb expressed her strong gratitude for the prayer and financial support from Hively. "Those are both so important to me in my ministry. God has really worked in some amazing ways in some of the things that happen," she said.

Listen to her message by visiting www.hivelymennonite.org/services/october-13-2019. 

Mennonite Women meeting Annie Mohr combines quilting and costume making

Annie Mohr shared with Hively's Mennonite Women how she uses quilting skills in her volunteer work with costumes for Premier Arts. "God gave us this gift of being creative to help keep us centered and to share with other people," she said.

She brought samples of her work to the October 23 meeting, including a owl costume and tunics for "Spamelot" knights. For "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," the director gave Annie the assignment of making a coat that



Amanda Fast and Rhonda Landgraf help Annie Mohr display the coat she made for the Premier Arts production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

would rival Broadway. She incorporated pieces of costumes from many different shows as she pieced the coat. 

22 new trees at Hively

On Saturday, Oct 26, the rain waited until 22 newly planted trees were in place, watered and protected by munch. Maple and oak saplings came from the campus of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and are now on the Hively campus.

Look for these new trees along Pleasant Plain and next to the wooden fence leading toward that street. Several others are north of the playground, on the west side of the playground and on the north edge of the property.



The planting was completed by Walter Sawatsky, Norm Cender, Ed Kauffman, Chris Habegger, John Alter, Greg Suderman, Marlyn Fast, Jake Hess, Asher Hess, Asa Hess and Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley. The next work requires faithful volunteers who will water the trees two or three times a week.

Walter concluded, "Over the years we hope for blessed shade."

Trees are indoors, too

Hively preschool children decorated their trees with paint, using broccoli as paintbrushes. Enjoy their creations in the lower level of the education wing.



Soup of Success announcements

Soup and Stories

A fund-raiser for Soup of Success is Thursday, November 14, at Trinity on Jackson.

- 6 pm: sampling and shopping
- 7 pm: SOS graduates' stories;
- 8 pm: desserts and discussion

Open house

December 7, 9 am to 2 pm. An opportunity to purchase items for your gift lists.

New soups available

For the past year, Charmane Skillen, founder and CEO of s.a.l.t. sisters (a healthy lifestyle company), has been working with us to

develop a line of healthy, clean-eating soups. Our Soup of Success program is pleased to announce these new products:

- Tuscan Bean Soup
- Coconut Curry Soup
- Farmhouse Chicken Noodle Soup
- Sun-Dried Tomato Vegetable Soup
- Spicy Tortilla Soup
- Hearty Potato Soup

Each soup features a s.a.l.t. sisters seasoning packet. As always, proceeds from the sale of Soup of Success products are returned to the program so we can help more women reach their goals.

Working toward Hively's congregational goals

Each of us who attends Hively has had opportunity to name individual goals as we contribute to the goals our congregation has adopted. The themes are **hospitality**, **cultural diversity** and **creation care**, with these four specifics:

- Rooting ourselves in the biblical story with teaching, preaching and worship on these themes.
- Reflecting these themes in various aspects of our congregational life.
- Reaching out into the community in ways consistent with these gifts.
- Recognizing our place as guest and steward in God's creation and working toward reconciliation with the diversity of all that God has created.

Following is a sampling of individuals' goals documented earlier this fall. They are reported here anonymously; if you wish to know who is doing something listed here so that you can join in or learn more from that person, please contact one of the pastors.

Occasionally serving meals at Faith Mission

Find ways to reach out to those in need and invite new people to Hively

Contribute to the church as verbally, musically and voluntarily as possible

Incorporate more of my artistic abilities into the church

Integrate more praise songs into the service

Coordinate my neighborhood's effort to care for the earth by participating in the Leaf Collection Competition

Does anyone want to have a music group once a month?

Practice hospitality by inviting people to our home for a meal once a month

Facilitate sharing information about who needs help and who can do different things

Find a way to identify and promote other people's talents so as to develop their well-being and for the growth of our congregation

Help foster worship services that are more welcoming to younger attenders and those that don't come from a Mennonite background

Increase my knowledge of Spanish

Become more informed about immigration systems

Up my recycling game and decrease waste output for my household

Pray for others, individually and during Prayer Choir

Work at initiating conversations with people I meet

Become more involved with the community, such as the Spanish church that worships at Hively

Participate with MCC projects, Comforter Bash, preparing kits, etc.

Engage more with political leaders on the environment, immigration and other issues

When people talk with me I will try to be more present

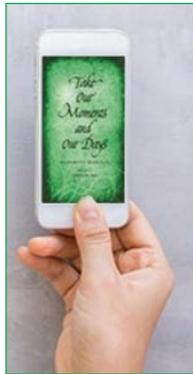
Continue to encourage our youth

In some cases this is work that continues from Hively's long-standing traditions and in some cases these are courageous new steps. Ask God to bless this work and keep challenging us as we challenge and affirm each other. 

Announcements

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Try the free Anabaptist Prayer app: Let Jesus' words fill your day through morning and evening prayer services with an Anabaptist flavor. *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer App* includes Scripture-saturated prayers and space for reflection. The free, easy-to-navigate app covers Advent through Pentecost and Ordinary Time. Available for iPhone or Android.



ambs.edu/publishing/anabaptist-prayer-book

Strengthen leadership skills. Focus on chaplaincy, Christian formation, biblical studies, history, theology, ethics, peace studies, global Anabaptism or environmental sustainability leadership. Learn more: ambs.edu/academics

Take a spring course: AMBS's online and hybrid courses include Anabaptist History and Theology; Biblical Understandings of Migration; Christianity in Latin America; Church and Race; Spiritual Practices—Play and Rest; and Understanding the Church's Contexts. Nonadmitted students get 50 percent off their first course. Sign up by Dec. 31. ambs.edu/onecourse

Mennonite Church USA

#BringThePeace is Mennonite Church USA's call to action for individuals and congregations to extend God's peace in our communities. Learn more about this important initiative at MC USA's new web page: mennoniteusa.org/bringthepeace

MC USA has issued a statement commemorating 1619 and the ongoing impact of slavery. This year marks 400 years since 1619, the year when for the first time a ship carried enslaved people from West

Africa to the British colony of Virginia. Learn more: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/statement-1619-slaverys-ongoing-impact

Menno Snapshots: As the leader of Mennonite Creation Care Network, Jennifer Halteman Schrock finds God's peace through "a geeky obsession with record-keeping." Read how patience, prayer and journaling can be an important part of your faith journey at Menno Snapshots blog: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/peace-through-record-keeping

Mennonite Disaster Service

Celebrate another year of service and community through Mennonite Disaster Service. Plan to attend the All Unit Meeting (AUM) February 7-8, in Goshen. The AUM is a time for volunteers, leaders, donors, and staff to come together and explore this year's theme, "Seeing Jesus Among Us." Brenda Phillips from Indiana University is the featured speaker. There also will be workshops and area tours. Registration and more information at mds.mennonite.net

Mennonite Mission Network

The Mission Network is seeking to fill several positions:

- Executive Director
- Coordinator of the Church Relations department
- Finance Assistant

See position descriptions at www.MennoniteMission.net/about/employment

Church Community Services

The food pantry is calling for canned soups, meats and vegetables; cereals; rice; crackers; peanut butter; personal care and hygiene products and diapers. Cash donations are always welcomed so the pantry can purchase additional items. Place your donations in the basket below the mailboxes in the foyer or designate a contribution for CCS.



Buzzing at the Hive

The poinsettia fundraiser will run from November 4 through November 18. The plants will be ready for pick up on Friday, December 6.

The color choices are red, white and marble. We are offering three sizes. A single plant in a 4.5-inch pot is \$5.00. A single plant in a 6.5-inch pot is \$10.00. A double plant in a 7.5-inch pot is \$15.00. We are not able to offer the triple plants this year. A portion of the proceeds will help cover the cost to purchase a new mobile storage shelf for our

larger toys.

You can order your flowers by signing the order form on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please give payments (checks payable to Hively Avenue Preschool) to John Alter or to Mary Klassen in the church office.

Blessings,

Mrs. Amy Redar, director 

Hively calendar

November 13 and 27

6 pm
Prayer Choir

November 18

Orders for poinsettias for the preschool fund-raiser are due

November 13

Mennonite Women meeting
7 pm

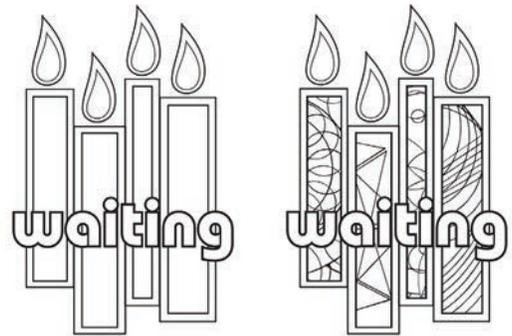
Spaghetti and Scripture

generally meets each Sunday at 5:30 pm, with a game night at church one Sunday evening each month



Advent art for bulletins

The theme for our Advent worship services this year is "waiting." Mary Klassen has created coloring pages with the theme word, and anyone who wants to may take one of these, color it and turn it in for possible use on the bulletin cover for one of the Sundays in December. If you want to create your own design with the theme, that is welcomed, too. Please talk with Mary Klassen for helpful details.



Choose the simpler or more detailed design, color it and turn it in to the church office for our Advent worship bulletins.

Hively Happenings
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