



October 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

# Happenings



## “Praise is due to you, O God”

*Jake Hess, pastor*

“Does the universe have an end, daddy?” questioned our curious seven-year-old the other day. (Ah, so nice to start the morning with such easy questions!) We wrestled with the thought a bit and resignedly concluded that both options seemed strangely unlikely.

If it has an end, what’s it like? Is it some kind of wall you crash into and then bounce off? Is it flat or curved, bumpy or smooth, hard or Jell-O-like? Is it really the end or is there something beyond it, outside of it?

On the other hand, if there is no end, how can it just keep going? Is there anything beyond the far flung galaxies or is it just tiringly empty, forever? But endless nothingness? Our minds aren’t particularly suited to grasp concepts like “nothingness” and “endlessness,” especially when combined!

All this to say, father and son had to make peace with mystery that morning. Creation’s wonder and grandeur—which only seems to grow the more we study it—is aglow with such mysteries. And to confess that there is a Creator behind the mysteries of our cosmos is an act of deep humility, akin to the psalmist’s words: “When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have set in place; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” (Psalm 8:3-4). Good questions, indeed.

The wow and wonder of God’s creation has been our sermon focus this summer, but autumnal winds are blowing in new themes. The slow fade of green from the leaves outside—replaced by breathtaking hues of yellow, red, and orange—is not the only transition this Fall.

Our sermon series is now turning a corner in the biblical story toward God’s liberating acts. Creation to liberation. Of beauty broken and shackled; then healed and set free. We will be reminded of God’s presence amidst the darkness, of prayers piercing the night, of God responding, and thanksgiving rising. “Praise is due to you, O God... O you who hear prayer” (Psalm 65:1). Praise, indeed, is due. We look forward to worshiping together this new season, praising the Creator who also sets the captives free.

Vol. 35 No. 10

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## Hively Avenue Mennonite Church: 1958-2018 Anniversary celebration, September 30



*In our anniversary worship service, four readers shared a portion of the sermon text in their original languages and Lara Claassen read the text in French to remind us of our connection to Neal and Janie Blough, missionaries in Paris; Jake Hess read in Spanish.*



*Marcia Yoder-Schrock, pastor from 1982 to 1991, preached during the 60th anniversary worship service.*

Our celebration of 60 years of Hively began with worship, which featured former pastor Marcia Yoder-Schrock and a choir accompanied by instrumentalists. Marcia chose a portion of Ephesians 3 as her sermon text, and Hively members from and representing different areas of the world read Ephesians 3:14-15 and 18-19 in six languages.



In the second hour, Rich Preheim, Hively's historian, interviewed two charter members who are current members of Hively: Marilyn Klassen and Hulda Classen. Recordings of the worship service are posted in Hively's website. A recording of the Sunday School hour interview and discussion is available on request; talk to Mary Klassen for the link. 🍃



*Rich Preheim talked with charter members Marilyn Klassen and Hulda Classen about the beginnings and early years of the Hively congregation.*

Photos by Tyler Klassen



### Thank you, Agnes

Agnes Odhiambo was our church and preschool custodian for six years. She now is working at the Courtyard Healthcare Center in Goshen.

On September 9, Walter Sawatsky, trustee, honored Agnes for her work. The certificate he presented to her included these words of commendation:

- You enabled Hively people for a ministry of hospitality.
- You were invariably reliable and diligent.
- You were gracious even when special events required more time and effort.
- As a congregation we have relied heavily on you; too often we failed to notice what you had achieved.

We thank you, Agnes, for all of your work and care for our facilities. 

### Hively's contribution to My Coins Count



Hively's My Coins Count contribution added up to \$1,163.62. The total collected in My Coins Count at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale was more than \$130,000. Thanks for your contribution, from every penny to the larger gifts.

These funds are used to help families gain access to water. With good sources of water, children are better fed and are healthier, families can garden and generate income, and they have less conflict and spend less time focusing on scarce resources. Read more about MCC water projects in the latest issue of *A Common Place*, MCC's magazine: [mcc.org/stories/acp/fall-2018](http://mcc.org/stories/acp/fall-2018) 

### Deb Krawiec featured

Deb Krawiec, who has been attending Hively for several months, was featured recently by Church Community Services.

Deb has been a volunteer in the CCS food pantry since 2011. The feature, "Food with a side of hope," is at this link on the CCS blog: <https://bit.ly/2NFiltv>

In the story, Deb says:

"Guests come from all walks of life. Many are not the 'stereotypical' down on their luck people you might expect. Often guests look like you or me. Anyone can hit a bump on the road. There are car repairs that come up, illness or injury, any number of things. No matter what life throws at you, you still have to eat, and if we can help out once in a while or every month, we want to be there for our neighbors. We really are the hands and feet of Jesus."

Deb's granddaughters, Amanda and Dorothy, often come with Deb for worship and Sunday School. Amanda is in the middler class and Dorothy is in the primary class. 



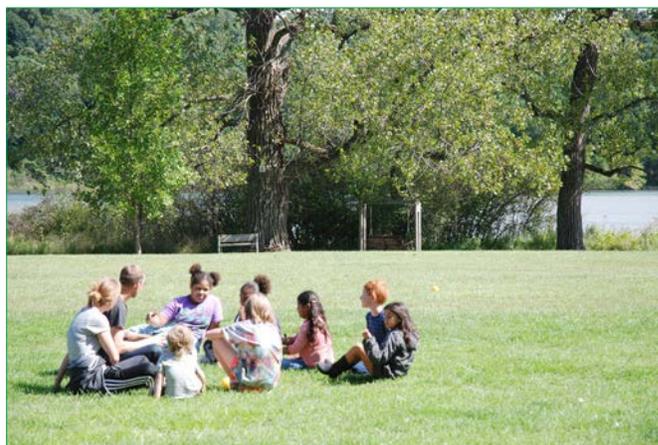
## Church retreat at Camp Friedenswald, September 9 Worship, play, discussion



*Worship at the annual congregational retreat on September 9 focused on hospitality with Tyler Klassen, Febri Kristiani and Melanie Quinn sharing reflections. The youth, assisted by Hillary Harder and Terry Zehr, led one song.*



*Adults divided into groups according to their birth month to discuss proposed goals for the congregation.*



Photos by Mary Klassen

*The afternoon was divided between recreation and a discussion for adults of congregational goals. While the adults gathered in the Cottonwood Center, the children played games with Sara Klassen (daughter of Tyler and Mary) and her friend Chris Klassen.*

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## Walter Sawatsky contributes to major book

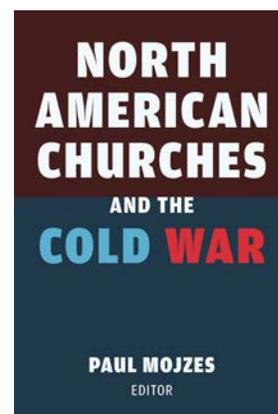
**W**alter Sawatsky is a contributor to *North American Churches and the Cold War*, published in August by Wm. B. Eerdmans.

The book includes chapters by 34 people examining the role of churches during the Cold War. This project draws on work done earlier in a journal of CAREE (Christians Associated for Relations with Eastern Europe) that Walter edited.

Walter notes, "Since I wrote the chapter on the Historical Peace Churches and the Cold War, I particularly welcome responses and critiques from members of the Mennonite, Brethren and Quaker communities.

Hopefully in some places it will result in group discussions, especially in the context of the renewed cold war dynamics today."

The library at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will add the book to its collection and community borrowers can check it out there. It also is available through Walter for a reduced cost of \$42. 



## How to influence the Indiana hate crimes bill

Proposals for legislation against hate crimes will be considered this fall in the Indiana legislature. To voice your support of this, you can contact the leaders of the Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code:

Rep. Thomas Washburne  
Tom@TomWashburne.com  
317-232-9648 or 800-382-9841

Sen. Michael Young  
17-232-456735@iga.in.gov  
800-382-9467 or 317-232-9400

You also may contact Governor Eric Holcomb to thank him for supporting hate crimes legislation and to ask him to make this a legislative priority in 2019:

Email via the governor's website:  
[www.in.gov/gov/2752.htm](http://www.in.gov/gov/2752.htm)  
317-232-4567

For mailing addresses, see Mary Klassen in the church office. 

## Women doing theology

The annual conference that focuses on women's voices in theology meets this year at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Nov 8-10.

The event builds on the history of Anabaptist theologians, ministers, teachers, activists, creatives and others gathering do to theological work born out of women's experiences. Register at <http://mennoniteusa.org/wdt18> 



## Survey for *The Mennonite*

Mennonite Church USA is proposing a merger of its publication, *The Mennonite*, with *Mennonite World Review*, a biweekly newspaper. The new publication would no longer be an official publication of Mennonite Church USA, and the merged publication would serve a variety of Anabaptist faith communities.

Mennonite Church USA is seeking input on this proposal through an online survey that all members of MC USA may complete. Find the survey at

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMIdissolution](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMIdissolution) 

## MEDA events

Mennonite Economic Development Associates is holding several special local events in the next few weeks:



## Region 2 Annual Regional Meeting

October 26-27

College Mennonite Church  
1900 S. Main Street, Goshen

Speaker: Cleo Koop, head of the disaster management program at Hesston College. He will be accompanied by a student in the program.

Other highlights: Reports from each region, input from binational staff, preconference tour of KZ Inc.

Register by October 20. See Mary Klassen for a registration form.

## Annual banquet and meeting of the Indiana/Lower Michigan Unit

November 5, 6:30 pm  
East Goshen Mennonite Church  
17861 State Road 4, Goshen  
RSVP by October 28:

[dgfrey@frontier.com](mailto:dgfrey@frontier.com)  
574-534-1386 

## Buzzing at the Hive



### Hively calendar

**October 18**  
**November 11, 25**  
5:30 pm  
Spaghetti and Scripture

**November 4**  
Congregational meeting  
following carry-in meal

**November 7**  
7 pm  
Hively Mennonite Women  
work project

The recyclable waste that Hively has collected for TerraCycle has resulted in almost \$6,000 for Hively Avenue Preschool since 2011, when we started collecting for TerraCycle.

The items we collect and send in earn points, which can be redeemed for cash. So the benefits are two-fold: items are diverted from landfills and incinerators, and the preschool receives almost \$1,000 a year.



*Improved shelving for the collection bins for Hively's TerraCycle program—a program that diverts waste from landfills and incinerators.*

### What and how can you contribute to the TerraCycle program?

Once or twice a year, Melody Claassen, who coordinates Hively's program, sends out a list of items collected by TerraCycle. Copies of the list are available and are posted by the low table inside the Hively entrance. The list occasionally changes, so please check it carefully and ask Melody if you have questions. Remember that if you turn in something that isn't on the list, you are asking Melody to take care of your trash!

Currently the list includes cereal bags, energy bar wrappers, snack bags, oral care products (including toothbrushes), hair and skin care product packages, Brita products and packaging, and more. Consider sharing the list with your neighbors and friends so Hively's preschool can earn even more.

The collection area is at the bottom of the stairs in the education wing. This summer, Mark Claassen and Melody set up shelves for the collection bins to make them easier to organize and handle.

The bins are well labeled, so when you bring items, sort them yourself. If you have extra time, grab some items from the general storage bin (the blue one in the photo) and sort what someone else has contributed.

### What happens to the recycled items?

The TerraCycle company has partnerships and corporate donors who turn the items into raw material to be used in new products. The company licenses its name to manufacturers of roughly 200 products made using its raw material. 🌱

*Hively Happenings*  
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