



October 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings

From Paul's Witness to Can I Get a Witness? to What Are You Waiting For?

Tim Stair, pastor

For the past number of weeks we've explored the apostle Paul in both Ephesians 3:14-21 and his letter to the Colossians. We've heard how **we are to be rooted and grounded in Christ's love**. We've explored how that affects our life as a diverse community of followers of Jesus; **God breaks down dividing walls and calls us to live in the mystery of Christ—the way of vulnerable, sacrificial love instead of grasping power**. We've learned **how to deliver a "POW!" to oppression through praying**, with alertness and gratitude, for open doors to speak of Christ's way in the context of **a web of supportive relationships**.

Between now and Advent, we are going to ask, **"Can I get a witness?"** to this God in Christ Jesus who breaks down dividing walls with sacrificial love. (Now through the last Sunday in November.)

Nannie Helen Burroughs, who lived from 1879 to 1961, was a Christian social activist in both the women's movement and the civil rights movement. She helped popularize the phrase, "Can I get a witness?" When someone in one of her women's rights meetings would give a testimony, she would have the women ask at the end, "Can I get a witness?", a phrase sometimes used by preachers. It was a way to begin engaging the audience in telling their stories that might affirm and compliment the speaker's.

We will use the phrase to explore stories in scripture that help us tell our faith stories and connect them with God's story and the Good News of Christ Jesus' way of sacrificial love. At the same time the adult Christian Education hour will use the book, *Upside Down Living: Sharing Faith Stories*, by April Yamasaki to continue the theme.

We hope this will prepare us for Advent when we begin anticipating God breaking into our world in Jesus. Maybe it will even build some impatience in us, during this turbulent time in history, and we'll find ourselves asking God and each other, **"What are you waiting for?"** This will be our advent theme.

This progression of themes can prepare us to act and speak out of God's love into our world in ways that are hospitable, that break down dividing walls, and care for all of God's good creation.

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Ricki Johnson reports on time in Benin

Requiyah Johnson—we know her as Ricki—reported on her year in Benin during the Sunday School hour on September 29. She was in the Service Adventure program with Mennonite Mission Network.

She started by showing some of the art she created while she was there. First was a woman's form carved from wood on which she painted the village, the sky and the universe. There is no face, however, because "women have many faces in Benin," Ricki said. Another painting was the outline of Africa with a tree located where Benin is on the continent.

Ricki was assigned to Casa Grande, a school and orphanage in a rural village, started by Mennonites in Burgos, Spain. She had a variety of jobs while there and what she liked best, she said, was working with the children and teaching English. She also worked in the kitchen for a period of time and enjoyed teaching them how to make new foods—like wood-fired pizza—with ingredients they were already using.

Some aspects of the year were very difficult, Ricki shared. She was the only North American on the staff most of the time, and often felt lonely. She found learning French from someone who didn't speak any English was very difficult. However, she also was able to build on some of her strengths. The staff took turns preaching for a week at a time in the daily devotional services at the school. Even though having a woman do this was not accepted by many in that culture, after they heard Ricki, they wanted her to do it for a month, instead of just a week.

Ricki said she was changed physically, mentally and spiritually by her experiences in Benin. "I will never be the same," she said. She added, "I'm glad I did it. I wouldn't have changed my ways or how I was without it. God knew that and that's why I was there." 🍃



Ricki Johnson shared some of the artwork she created during her year in Benin. Above she shows a painting with images of Africa superimposed over an outline of the continent. The area where a tree is growing in the upper left of the painting is where Benin is located. At right is the carved figure of a woman with scenes of the village, sky and universe.



Growing Hively's trees

Watch for new trees coming to the Hively campus. The Stewardship Commission and trustee Walter Sawatsky have been working toward a plan to add more trees on the Hively property.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary has trees available that we can move to our property. Earlier this summer, Walter moved two as a test—one to the row along Hively Avenue and one closer to the building.

Later this month, about 20 trees will be moved from the seminary to Hively. Anyone wanting to help with this work can talk to Walter. After the trees are planted, they need generous watering every few days, so willing helpers are needed for this work, too.

This work is one step we are taking in our congregational goal of caring for God's creation.

For a delightful introduction to Hively's trees and thoughtful reflection on what they teach us about ourselves and God, listen to the sermon by Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley, "Becoming a congregation of trees," on June 30. The recording is on Hively's website: www.hivelymennonite.org/services/june-30-2019



This tree, toward the west edge of the lawn in front of the church building, was transplanted this summer as a test.

Help raise funds for Soup of Success

A promotional poster for the 'Soup & Stories' event. The background is orange with a white chevron pattern. On the left, there is a teal bowl icon with the text 'a benefit for SOUP OF SUCCESS'. The main text reads: 'Join us! Soup of Success Graduates' powerful inspirational stories of hope and courage in a monologue style performance. Thursday, November 14. Trinity on Jackson, 2715 E Jackson Blvd, Elkhart, TLC Center in the back of the building. 6:00 Doors open for sampling and shopping. Come check out our new soups, candles and clothing, as well as other classic favorites! 7:00 Performance begins. 8:00 Desserts and discussion. Tickets \$25 (must be 18-years-old or older). A teal starburst graphic says 'Sample our six new healthy soups!'.

Join Church Community Services for Soup and Stories, a benefit for Soup of Success, a program that empowers women. Hear Soup of Success graduates' powerful inspirational stories of hope and courage in a monologue style performance.

The event is Thursday, November 14, at Trinity on Jackson, 2715 E. Jackson Blvd., in the TLC Center in the back of the building. Doors open at 6 pm for soup samples and shopping. Performance begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$25 (must be 18 years old or older).

Purchase tickets at www.soupofofsuccess.com. Go to "Get Involved," then "Events" and click on "Soup & Stories," or call 574-523-1551.

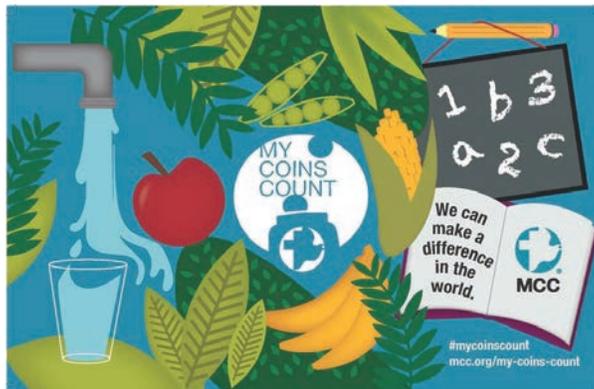
If you prefer, you can also go directly to: <https://secure.givelively.org/event/church-community-services-inc/soup-and-stories>

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale, Sept 27-28

My Coins Count report

Thank you to all the children and adults at Hively Ave. for your generosity and enthusiasm in supporting My Coins Count this year at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (MMRS) with **your contribution of \$1299.41**. Congregations, along with matches from local businesses, raised more than \$121,000 for MyCC—helping families gain access to life-giving water.

Available water in Nairobi, Kenya, helps kids improve their health and gives them a better chance to succeed in school. In Afghanistan, available water makes kitchen gardens possible, with better nutrition and health for the whole family. Clean water in Haiti reduces the spread of deadly cholera. Water is life and its availability improves lives



and reduces conflicts over scarce resources.

The MMRS total this year will be more than \$445,000. Thank you for your work and support of the sale, and for sharing your resources in the name of Christ, so other families can have their basic necessities met through Mennonite Central Committee and our partners around the world.

— John Martens, MyCC Coordinator, MMRS

Hively donations to the Relief Sale

The Hively congregation took responsibility for the baked potato bar at the Relief Sale. Deb Krawiec and Amanda Fast coordinated the effort and many others worked in shifts.

Other donations included:

- Baked items: loaves of bread and pans of sweet rolls
- Plants
- Wooden items: a turned bowl and 21 wooden boxes
- Decor pillows and crocheted items

- Quilt auction pieces: a small quilt, a wall hanging and a quilt created collaboratively with a Quilt Guild
- Stuffed animals
- Painting by Winifred Waltner for the silent auction.
- Tools and other items for the garage sale

Thanks to all who contributed, who worked and who made purchases. 

Mennonite Church USA announcements

Introducing PeaceMail: PeaceMail will deliver all of MC USA's news and blogs in one weekly e-newsletter. Subscribe at mennoniteusa.org/PeaceMailSubscribe.

Get to know some of the staff of Mennonite Church USA's newly renamed office of Church Vitality: mennoniteusa.org/news/church-vitality-office-focus-peace-making.

Join in the MC USA **Faith Formation fall webinar series on Anabaptism and American Politics**. The second session, Tensions: Seeing Beyond the Partisan Divide, will take place on Tuesday, October 15. Sign up and find more information at thegatheringplace.us. 

Announcements

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

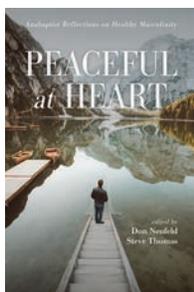
Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
Oct. 23—Dec. 10. Join Safwat Marzouk, Ph.D., and Drew Strait, Ph.D., to study pertinent biblical passages and reflect on how these texts form practices of peace and justice today. This online AMBS short course lasts six weeks. CEUs available.

Goshen College

Goshen College Professor Emeritus of Art Abner Hershberger will exhibit his mixed-media paintings in the gallery that carries his name from Sept. 22 to Nov. 10. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

New book

What does Anabaptism have to teach us about healthy masculinity? Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas of Mennonite Men have edited a collection of essays, *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity*, with support from AMBS's Institute of Mennonite Studies, to answer this question. Jamie Pitts is a contributor.



Order from publisher Wipf and Stock:
wipfandstock.com/peaceful-at-heart.html

Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace

Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace is honored to welcome Lesley Williams, a member of the coordinating committee for Jewish Voice for Peace in Chicago, to the fall lecture series on Christian Zionism. Her talk, "Progressive Except Palestine: Rescuing Judaism from Israelism," will take place at 7 pm Thursday, October 10, at College Mennonite Church, Room 300. The event is free and open to the public.

MCC Great Lakes

Join us for a Comforter Bash! Make plans to join us on November 8 and 9 for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen. People of all ages are invited to knot comforters at Pleasant View Mennonite Church (58529 County Road 23). For more information about the event visit mcc.org/comforter-bash or contact Carol Honderich at 574-536-9062. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

Mennonite Arts Weekend

Mennonite Arts Weekend occurs every other year in Cincinnati. The theme for 2020 is "The way home" and the event is scheduled for February 7-9 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church.

The event includes presentations, performances, worship and fellowship. For more information, visit mennoniteartsweekend.org/

The poster features a central image of a map of Pennsylvania with a row of trees along the top edge. The text 'Mennonite Arts Weekend 2020' is at the top, and 'THE WAY HOME' is in the middle. Below the map, it lists the dates and location: 'February 7-9, 2020 • Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church Cincinnati'. At the bottom, it lists the featured artists and their roles.

www.mennoniteartsweekend.org

Mennonite Arts Weekend 2020

THE WAY HOME

February 7-9, 2020 • Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church Cincinnati

FEATURING

DaCapo Chamber Choir directed by Leonard Enns • Freiman Stoltzfus (visual artist)
Ted Yoder (musician/hammered dulcimer) • Julie Swarstad Johnson (writer/poet)
Benjamin Bergey (conductor) • Sandra Birdsell (writer/novelist)
Dennis Maust (visual artist/ceramics) • Evie Yoder Miller (writer/novelist)
Lora Jost (visual artist) • Ingrid De Sanctis (actor) • Kat Luginbuhl (jewelry artist)
Brooke Rothshank (visual artist) and Justin Rothshank (visual artist/ceramics)
Marilyn Houser Hamm (pianist) • Jeremy South (visual artist/ceramics)



Buzzing at the Hive

It's hard to believe that it is October already! We have so many fun things happening at preschool this month. Our families have been busy selling tickets for our Nelson's fundraiser on October 12. We will have such a wonderful assortment of baked goods available that day for purchase. Thank you to all of the Hively members for your ticket purchases as well as bake sale donations.

Our first field trip of the year is just around the corner. We will be making our annual visit to Kercher's Orchard. We are praying for good weather.

Beaded work by Ken Crook

Ken Crook creates beaded jewelry and has these items available for purchase.

Necklaces: \$7-8

Bracelets: \$5-6

Rings: \$2

If you are interested in these, please talk with Ken.



Hively calendar

October 9, 23
November 13

6 pm
Prayer Choir

October 12
Hively Preschool Chicken
BBQ and Bake Sale
Fundraiser

October 23
Mennonite Women
meeting
7 pm

Our boys and girls will have a chance to show off their cute smiles during picture day at the end of the month. We continue to add new students into all three of our classrooms. It is such a joy to see so many eager learners each day!

Thank you for your continued prayers for the safety and health of all the staff and students.

Blessings,

Mrs. Amy Redar, director 

Camp Friedenswald Retreats

Men and Boys Retreat:

Oct 18-20

I Am: Radical Self-Awareness

Speaker: Benjamin J. Tapper, chaplain for Indiana University Health as well as the cofounder of the Hear Me Project. Ben manages a blog called Invisible Truths and has written articles for *The Salt Collective*, *The Mennonite* and *Christianity Now*.

Craft Retreat:

Nov 1-3

For people who scrapbook, sew, quilt or craft.



Winter Retreats, 2020

High School Winter Camp:

January 3-5

Junior High Winter Camp:

January 10-12

Family Winter Camp:

February 14-16

Hively Happenings
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