



September 2019

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings



God's call to thanksgiving

Jake Hess, pastor

"Therefore," says Paul to the church in Colossae, "as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him ... *abounding in thanksgiving*" (Col. 2:6-7). A flood of gratefulness—is this how you would describe your life, your faith, your walk in this world? Are your days stitched with a border of gratitude, a kind of encompassing frame that embraces everything else? Are you surprised to find yourself, so often, praying—*"Thank you, thank you, thank you. Amen."*?

Paul, it seems, ranks gratitude among the chief disciplines. To the church in Thessalonica, he names thanksgiving one of God's principle callings for Christians. "Be joyful always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for *this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*" (1 Thess. 5:16-18). It's worth noting that, according to Paul, this is not something God wants *from* us, but rather what God wants *for* us. It is a gift. It is grace. Rejoice, pray, give thanks in all things: these are not commands, but invitations. Or, better yet, they are symptoms, the visible signs, of a life infected with God's grace. When the Good News goes viral in your system, these are the tell-tale markers; this is the fruit that grows when you are rooted in Christ.

Paul's words to the Colossians ring timely for us, in these days, at Hively. With the dawning of our personal and communal commitments toward our church goals, we need to be attentive to the fruit produced in our lives. Is it sweet, bitter, tasteless? Are we marked by the symptoms of a life infected with God's grace? Or are we obligation-driven, overcommitted, exhausted, and spiritually emaciated? Pay attention to your heart. Taste the fruit. Are you joyful, prayerful, grateful? If not, join the rest of us in the struggle! And together we can check our roots, seeing if they've strayed from the rich soil of God's grace in Christ. We can remember, together, that God's grace is sufficient, God's love unconditional. We can remind each other of Paul's words—"as you received Christ Jesus, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him ... *abounding in thanksgiving.*" We can rest awhile. Breathe deeply. Work joyfully again. And, most of all, we can pray together—*thank you, thank you, thank you. Amen.*

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Photo at left: Worship at Camp Friedenswald, Sept 8, by J. Tyler Klassen

Reflections from SSTT in Guatemala

Home is whatever you want it to be

Valeria Rosales

The amount of love I witnessed was abundant, pure, and rich. I appreciate every moment spent with these amazing individuals I now call friends. They alleviated the homesickness and anxieties I had when out of my comfort zone—which was most of the time, by the way. However, the feeling of uneasiness only meant I was placed in a position of growth and that is what I did. I grew. I grew spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and well ... physically is a different story—a heads up on the four flights of stairs in higher elevation would have been nice.

The pilgrimage journey of Guatemala created a better version of me. I told myself I would be authentic throughout the whole trip and for the most part I was. It was challenging to be more in tune with my mind and actually speak about my opinions. Once I did, though, there was no going back. We had theological discussions about abortion laws, sexual orientation, wealth inequality, immigration, environmental issues, etc. Nearly everyone shared their piece of mind. Listening to the various points of views definitely helped diminish (some) stubbornness of my needing to be right all the time. It was a trait I needed to work on. I knew I was improving when I

wasn't spitting facts at them like a lunatic. I had to hear them out, understand why they believed this, and then relay my thoughts in a non-condescending manner. Yes, I managed to do so. There were smiles exchanged even after a discussion with a bit of heat.

Another area I blossomed in was my idea of love. Before the trip, love to me was a given if you were in my life. It was something I didn't think I needed to enforce or call out—communicating my feelings isn't exactly my forte—for it to be real. My parents show me love through their actions whether that was disciplining me for letting my grades slip or kissing me on the cheek and blessing me before a big trip such as this one. My siblings show me love by cracking jokes all day with me and defending me. My friends show me love with support. But in Guatemala love was spoken. Vulnerabilities were shown. I had never felt so in touch with my feelings. "I love you"s being shared whenever we had a sudden hit of appreciation. Our friendships deeper than any other in ways I can't describe. I experienced a different type of love and through this type of love I finally felt Him. I felt His presence within me and I felt true joy for the first time in a long time; weight I didn't even know I had being lifted off my shoulders. I felt free. I felt home.

Valeria Rosales, Lara Claassen and John Vargas participated in the Goshen College Study Service Theology Term in Guatemala in June. Lara and John shared reflections in the worship service on August 11. Listen to the recording at www.hivelymennonite.org/services/august-11-2019

Goshen College is seeking high school applicants SSTT in Guatemala in June 2020. This is the fourth year that students will be provided with the opportunity to explore their understandings of Jesus' life and mission in light of contemporary challenges and their own sense of calling. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2019. Learn more at goshen.edu/sstt.



Hively family and friends at the send-off for Lara, John and Valeria for the Study Service Theology Term in Guatemala.

Relief Sale, September 27-28 Announcements



Baked potato bar—Hively's project

Hively is managing the baked potato bar at the Relief Sale, with Amanda Fast and Deb Krawiec leading the effort. They still need a few people to sign up to fill all the shifts.



Composting and recycling

The Relief Sale Composting and Recycling Committee is excited about the growing commitment at the Sale to maximizing good ("sharing God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ") while also minimizing the impacts of unnecessary waste. We are especially grateful to the commitment to purchasing compostable food containers, which makes this initiative possible. Volunteers are needed to help attendees place refuse in correct containers. Contact Aaron Gerber at agerbman83@gmail.com to sign up:

<u>Friday, Sept 27</u>	<u>Saturday, Sept 28</u>
5:30-7 pm	10-11:30 am
7-8 pm	11:30 am-1 pm
8-9 pm	1-3 pm
	3-5 pm

Volunteer opportunities

Children's Activities: Child-friendly volunteers needed for one- or two-hour time slots. Contact Patti MacGregor, Children's Activities 630-776-6849.

Ten Thousand Villages needs 70 volunteers to help set up and to help customers during the sale. Length of shifts vary. Contact Tami Schlabach at tamischlabach70@gmail.com.

Donations

Garage Sale

Contact Phil Yoder, 574-294-2033

Plant Sale

Contact Leonard Harms, lenharms@comcast.net.

Baked items

Contact Anna Miller, millergaryok@msn.com or call 574-538-7726.

Sewing box

Call Anita Snyder, 574-642-4422

Children's auction

Contact Patti MacGregor, 630-776-6849

Scenes from Hively's retreat at Camp Friedenswald, September 8



Lara Claassen was baptized during the morning worship service. Tim Stair, Jake Hess and Esther Muhagachi (at back) led this part of the service.



Youth and adults wrote how they are planning to support the congregation's goals then posted these and signed a poster with the goal statements.

Children and youth Sunday school classes

Early Childhood

Asa Hess
Rolene Otieno
Louisa Scharf
Everett Vandrick

Teacher:
Crystal Underwood

Grades K-2

Billi Jo Grouette
Kaylee Grouette
Asher Hess
Dorothy Krawiec
Isabella Medina
Narkiso Odhiambo
Tiana Potts
Layliana Potts
Maya Castillo Vielman

Teacher:
Jan Stair

Grades 5-7

Aniah Branch
Kamauri Branch
Amanda Krawiec
Leylia McCartney
Lucile Odhiambo
Ryan Potts
Neveah Wilson

Teacher:
Kathee Kirchner

Grades 8-12+

Lara Claassen
Rachelle Claassen
Rose George
Grace Muhagachi
Peace Muhagachi
Andres Nogales
Joyce Odhiambo
William Odhiambo
Fabian Rosales
Junior Rosales
Valeria Rosales
Jacob Underwood
Christopher Vargas
John Vargas
Josué Vielman

Teacher:
Melanie Quinn
with rotation
of other adults

Church officers and commissions for the 2019-2020 year

Leadership Council

Sueann VonGunten, moderator
Leroy Saner, moderator elect
Theo Odhiambo, member at large
Trish Habegger, member at large
Amanda Fast, senior deacon
Non-voting members:
Jake Hess, pastor
Tim Stair, pastor
Mary Klassen, administrative secretary

Witness and Caring Commission

Jamie Pitts, co-chairperson
Annie Mohr, co-chairperson
Jake Hess
Linsey Vandrick
Mark Claassen

Stewardship Commission

Chris Habegger, chairperson
Walter Sawatsky, trustee
Marlyn Fast, treasurer
Virgil Claassen, assistant treasurer

Worship Commission

Elya Hess, co-chairperson
Margaret Sawatsky, co-chairperson
Melanie Quinn
Karen Cender
Leroy Saner
Tim Stair

Christian Education Commission

Melanie Quinn, chairperson
Carol Kotva
Brenda Summers
Eric Vandrick
Verna Kaufman
Mary Klassen, librarian

Deacons Council

Amanda Fast
Greg Suderman
Carol Troyer
Jake Hess
Tim Stair

Keep these students and teachers in your prayers through this coming year. 

Announcements

Goshen College

An exhibit featuring a collection of antique colored engravings that depict Anabaptists in Switzerland, Alsace and the Palatinate from c. 1700 to 1900 is on display in the Good Library Art Gallery from Sept. 1 through Nov. 17. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

Tickets for Goshen College's Performing Arts Series concerts are on sale now. Upcoming performances include Bruce Cockburn on Sept. 24, and Cirque Mechanics on Oct. 1. Learn more at goshen.edu/tickets.

All are invited to Goshen College's upcoming Rieth Recital Series concerts, including Friday, Sept. 20, featuring winners of the 2019 Fishchoff Chamber Music Competition, Aruna Quartet. Tickets can be purchased online at goshen.edu/tickets or at the Box Office in the Music Center.

Mennonite Church USA

Can Anabaptist theology provide a different paradigm for engaging government without falling into partisan polarities? Make plans to join three free webinars that will explore how Anabaptist theology can create a different paradigm for engaging government. thegatheringplace.us

Sept. 17 | Oct. 15 | Nov. 19
5 pm Pacific | 8 pm Eastern

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 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. Early registration by Oct. 2.

Mennonite Central Committee

Policy updates

Central America: The Trump administration

is moving forward with plans to transfer funds intended for Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, backing off of initial threats to cut aid worldwide. The three countries have faced extreme violence, limited opportunities, and weak government systems, contributing to an increase in migration to the United States. Support foreign assistance: <https://bit.ly/2kO5uSZ>.

Gun violence: After a private conversation with the National Rifle Association's Wayne LaPierre, President Trump has backtracked on support for background check legislation. Talks continue between members of the Senate and the White House about the possibility of passing gun violence legislation.

Immigration: Immigration raids in Mississippi ensnared 680 workers. Under public pressure, the Homestead children's shelter closed and SunTrust Banks announced it would stop financing private prison companies. Read more in the latest MCC immigration update: <https://bit.ly/2IZNaq0>.

Mennonite Disaster Service

MDS has an urgent need for volunteers, due to a rise in natural disasters and inclement weather. We are thankful for the many leadership volunteers who are ready to rebuild and restore homes. Even so, we need the help of weekly volunteers who are the physical hands and feet of Jesus in Texas, South Dakota, California and more. We hope you will join us in our ambitious endeavor to bring more people home. For more

information or to serve, please visit mds.mennonite.net or call 800-241-8111.

Left: MDS Summer Youth Project volunteers help to rebuild in Conway, S.C., after Hurricane Michael in 2018.





Hively calendar

**September 25
October 9, 23**
6 pm
Prayer Choir

**September 29
October 13, 27**
5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture

October 12
Hively Preschool Chicken
BBQ and Bake Sale
Fundraiser

Area events

October 6
1:30 pm
CROP Hunger Walk

Buzzing at the Hive

It has been a busy week here at the preschool! We kicked off the new year with 44 eager students. Our first days of school were filled with lots of creative play, plenty of movement, and vast amounts of curiosity. Our preschool Facebook page has some photos posted that show a few of the activities from the first week. Recess has definitely been the highlight of the day. The building is full of lots of laughter and excitement. I am so thrilled that God has brought all of these wonderful children to our program this year. I can't wait to see what great things He has in store for the preschool this year.

God has also been at work behind the scenes at the preschool. A last minute staff change has turned out to be an immense blessing. Ms. Shana Quirk has joined our staff as our morning and afternoon 3's teacher. Shana is excited to be working again in a Christian preschool setting. Ms. Val and Ms. Sheryl continue to amaze

me with their talents when working with our 4- and 5-year-old children.

Thank you to all of the church members who helped the teachers in their classrooms the first week of school. It certainly takes a village to have a successful start to the year. Your prayers and support for the preschool are greatly appreciated.

Blessings,
Mrs. Amy Redar, director



Ms. Shana and the morning class of three-year-olds.

Information and a call from Mennonite Central Committee Addressing climate change

Mennonite Central Committee's partners around the world detail in no uncertain terms how climate change makes impacts on their communities. A cruel irony about climate change is that the communities most harmed by its effects are the least responsible for its origin—and the least

able to respond and adapt. The United States bears a great responsibility not only for reducing our own emissions but also for helping those affected.

Read the full issue of MCC's Fall/Winter newsletter:
https://washingtonmemo.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/wm_2019_fall-winter.pdf



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