
HOPE HEADLINES

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“ 1/4 ”

One quarter :

Buys parking meter time or a gumball (*best part is watching it traverse the spiral track), can be used to operate a coin laundry machine, or an older arcade game.

A quarter mile is about two city blocks, can be run in a minute or less by a well-conditioned quarter miler, and can be driven in 15 seconds or less in a car.

And a quarter is one-fourth of a schoolyear. Nine weeks.

In nine weeks, a 1st-grader might learn to identify the parts of a plant, how to add and subtract within 20, describe how people are both producers and consumer, and analyze characters in a story through their actions, words, thoughts, and feelings.

In nine weeks, a summer garden will yield cucumbers, a puppy can be potty-trained, one can become proficient at basic ballroom dance

steps, and a dedicated reader can mark nine titles off their book list.

At nine weeks a newborn will startle less and move with more control and intention, and in nine weeks one can usually find a job, buy a house, or even fall in love...

Time is a gift from God.

*So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart. -Psalm 90:12
(NRSV)*

During Randy's holiday/Sabbath, the gift of time with Hope is a delight and blessing for me and my family.

Thank you for asking.
Thank you for serving.
Thank you for loving.

In Christ.

Pax et bonum,

Heidi





An Evening of Fun, Snacks & Music...

Care and Nurture is delighted to invite you to an evening of fun and inspiring music Sunday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. You will be entertained by the lead vocalists of Everyday Lights, Paul Austin and Jennifer (Hope) Chlumsky from Salina, KS. They combine a variety of musical styles including folk, bluegrass, jazz, country, and traditional hymns. Many of their songs are original. The band recently performed at the Smokey Hill River Festival in Salina, The Farm in Minneapolis, KS and various private parties.

As you listen to the concert, a dessert and snack bar with sweet and salty snacks will be available.

No tickets are necessary but a free-will donation will be gladly accepted with the proceeds going to Camp Mennoscah.

Paul is Director of Worship Ministries at the First Covenant Church in Salina. He is married to Kandi and they have 4 awesome, talented children. Jennifer is the choir director at First Covenant. She also happens to be married to Christopher, (a former Hope Mennonite member) a mother to 4 amazing children, a music educator, and a Tabor College Grad. Please share this opportunity with your friends and family!

You can preview their music at <https://www.everydaylightsmusic.com/> or [facebook.com/everydaylights](https://www.facebook.com/everydaylights), iTunes, Spotify, and Soundcloud.

Church HVAC system and programming

Over the years, groups and individuals have sometimes encountered issues with the AC and/or heat throughout the building. The hope is that this information informs you of how our HVAC system works and when/if you need to get help for adjusting temperatures.

The church AC and heat is controlled in two different ways. First, the HVAC computer, located in the back office, and maintained by the church office, controls whether the units are running or are off. It does not control temperature settings. The temperature settings are programmed on each individual thermostat with either an occupied temperature setting or an unoccupied temperature setting. The thermostats are designed to help us control, as much as we can, the energy use in the building.

Different areas of the church are controlled by their own units. The different areas upstairs include: the sanctuary; fellowship hall; library/nursery; office/kitchen. The two downstairs units includes rooms 3-7 and rooms 1,2,8,9.

The upstairs rooms, minus the sanctuary, are set to run from 4:30 am to 9 pm 7 days a week. The temperature in any of those rooms can be manually adjusted with the thermostat and does not need the override button. The sanctuary is programmed to run on Wednesday evenings (choir) and Sunday mornings. If you use any of the upstairs areas outside of their programmed and occupied times, then you do need to use the override button, or contact Scott Luty to adjust the thermostat settings accordingly.

The downstairs rooms are programmed to run on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School year and are totally turned off during the summer months. If you need to use downstairs rooms, then the HVAC computer needs to turn those areas on and you can contact the church office for that.



Life Enrichment Program at Bethel College

The Life Enrichment program at Bethel College for Fall 2024 begins August 23 and ends November 15. No Life Enrichment sessions will take place on October 11 due to Bethel's Fall Festival week.

Brochures with the program schedule for Fall on are the Lecture Table in Fellowship Hall.



This program is designed especially for persons 60 and above, with average attendance being 180. If you are interested in presenting or have ideas for presenters, we would appreciate hearing from you.

If you have questions or suggestions please contact Gary Rediger, Chair of the Life Enrichment committee at 316-772-1965 or email at gary.rediger@gmail.com or contact Ben Lichti, coordinator for alumni and church relations at 316-284-5251 or email blighti@bethelks.edu.

What I learned while Chairing MennoMedia Board

"Will you chair the MennoMedia board, the publishing agency for MC USA and MC Canada denominations?"

That's the phone call I received ten years ago.

MennoMedia is an agency of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Both denominations oversee the agency by appointing representatives to the board, naming the chair and vicechair of the board, and affirming the appointment of the executive director.

MennoMedia's **mission is to engage faith communities and individuals in going deeper with thoughtful Anabaptist resources to enrich Christian faith in a complex world.** This mission is carried out by delivering relevant Anabaptist resources in three areas:

1. **Church life resources** (examples):
 - Voices Together: More than 750 songs and 300 worship resources
 - Rejoice! Daily devotional
 - LEADER magazine: practical, hands-on ideas for effective ministry in your church with feature articles, new resources, and worship series for the church calendar

- "—ing" podcast: focusing on leading, growing, and being a people of God (FREE)
- Anabaptism @ 500 including Anabaptist Study Bible

2. **Christian formation curricula:** Shine for children, PEACE TABLE Bible Storybook, youth and adult SS, Vacation Bible School
3. **Herald Press Books:** publishing 18-21 annually – focused on inviting readers to engage Anabaptist faith and values in a complex world.

During the past decade, I've learned that faith-based publishing is very challenging and most publishers are much larger than MennoMedia. I also learned that the market (individuals and churches) for Anabaptist resources -- especially themes of social justice, peace, and following Jesus --

is much larger than Mennonites.

It has been a blessing to participate in Hope's Thursday evening Women's group which has studied numerous books published by MennoMedia. The authors invite us to wrestle with the injustices around us and to grapple with what it means to live our faith and values as we follow Jesus. Our group is an example of the powerful impact MennoMedia is having on individuals' lives.

In September the Thursday evening women's book group will tackle a new book focused on social justice. All women are invited to join this journey of engaging faith and values in a complex world – with your beloved sisters.

Over the past ten years, it's been my privilege to have an up-close seat at the table where the focus is living into MennoMedia's VISION "**that individuals and communities are transformed by engaging Anabaptist faith and values as they follow Jesus.**"

My time as board chair wrapped up this month. It was a rich experience and I gained more than I gave to MennoMedia.

More of my discoveries and impressions about MennoMedia are listed below:

- A lot is accomplished with a very small staff (fewer than 20 FTE) – and they tackle huge projects like Voices Together and a study Bible. The staff is small in number but large with talent, creativity, commitment, and focus on mission.
- Most publications are a 18-24 month process: securing authors, writing, editing,

designing, printing, and finally releasing the product to the market.

- Cash flow is a big challenge because 90% of the cost of a book or curriculum is expensed long before it's available for sale.
- Creative and innovative leadership, supported by a strong board, is key. In addition to leading the organization and developing the staff, the small management team keeps many balls in the air all the time: imagining new products, managing different production stages of products, and launching products to the market. I am in awe.
- As an Anabaptist community of faith, Hope is fortunate to have MennoMedia as a partner in our journey to carry out Hope's mission of "calling and making disciples who bring Christ's love and peace to our world."

MENNOMEDIA STORY TO DELEGATES

At MennoCon23 on July 8, 2023, Amy Gingerich, Executive Director and Publisher of MennoMedia presented her report to the Mennonite Church USA delegates. She shared *the journey of the Women's Thursday evening bible study group* at Hope Mennonite in Wichita, KS, to illustrate MennoMedia's **mission and vision in action**. Below is this story as told by Amy based on her interview with Ruthie Goering.

Ruthie Goering found herself at home more often in the early days of the pandemic and with more time on her hands. As a longtime member at Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita, KS, Ruthie had not previously considered joining the congregation's women's Bible study because of timing. The Bible study met Tuesday mornings and, as a preschool teacher in the suburbs, it didn't work for her to attend.

Enter Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, another member at Hope Mennonite Church. Brenda reached out to Ruth and the other women from the church in those early days of the pandemic, asking if they'd be interested in joining an evening Bible study via Zoom.

Now more than three years later, these Thursday night Bible studies via Zooms have become an important part of Ruth's weekly rhythms, something she looks forward to and doesn't want to miss. Affectionately these women call themselves the "Beloved Sisters."

"We have continued via Zoom because many of us come from 20-30 minutes away from our church," Ruthie says. "[Because it's continued on Zoom] is probably one

of the reasons I have stayed as connected with it as I have."

Ruthie credits Brenda as the group's leader with the vision for getting the group started, for being the facilitator, and for keeping it going.

In their weekly sessions, they have now read at least 7 books—all on topics related to racial justice, marginalization, or peacemaking. Ruthie says: "We are middle-aged to older white women, and we have learned so much. It has been an incredibly eye-opening experience."

The lineup has included two books by Drew Hart, *Trouble I've Seen* and *Who Will Be a Witness, Dear White Peacemakers* by Osheta Moore, *How to Have an Enemy* by Melissa Florer Bixler, and more. All but one of the books are published by Herald Press—the book imprint of MennoMedia.

Ruthie says: "We have learned so much about the history of race, racism, and its systemic roots that we then continued to want to learn more and found books that continued to help us grow in our knowledge. We regularly ask ourselves, 'What can we actually do to change the system and not contribute to racism and social injustice'"

So what's the impact—the effect—of reading all these books together? Ruth shared story after story about how the individual women in the group and the group as a whole have carried their readings into daily life. Of how they have led worship on topics they read about, of how they participate in food distribution efforts, visit museums, and more. Together they continue asking themselves, "What can we do in our lives to make a difference?"

For Ruthie, as a preschool teacher, the difference she's personally making is in the lives of young children.

Ruthie started by introducing new books of topics of antiracism and justice into her preschool curriculum and by selecting new kinds of stories to share—with more stories of people of color and of different cultures. She has the support of the preschool's director and the other teachers have gotten on board too. Together they are working to be more inclusive and diverse in their curriculum, to intentionally broaden the stories told, to host a multicultural week to talk about people's uniqueness and to celebrate cultures and the beauty of all people.

Ruthie says: "People have kind of wondered about whether we should call ourselves a Bible study group or a book study group. But all the books we read are based on Jesus and the Scriptures and living out our faith."

~~Lee Schmucker



Hello, my friends!

Happy summer! We're enjoying the lovely Calais summer weather, which is significantly different from the summer weather we're used to. It's extremely humid here by the sea. Thankfully the temperatures don't rise too high, so we typically stay in the 65-75 degree range. Even so, it can feel fairly miserable because of the high humidity. A few days it has gotten above 80, and it seems like we're being steamed in a basket like vegetables. Also, no one has air conditioning, so on days like that sleeping can be difficult. At least the summer season is short here.

Summer provides us with other opportunities as well. We try to plan excursions for the guests, so that they can get out of the house and have some fun to get their minds off the tremendous stress they are constantly under. We often go to the beach or to the park, where they love the French fries and sea breeze. At one point we took a longer trip to a beach where seals are present in large numbers.

We continue trying to build relationships with the French Mennonite church. We have been in contact with some of their leaders, and we will likely be going to share our work at some churches starting in the fall. This will both be an excellent opportunity to build interpersonal relationships with them and a good opportunity to practice our French.

As for how things are going in our day-to-day lives at the Maria Skobtsova House, some days are very quiet, and we spend our time doing normal house keeping and chatting with the guests, getting to know them better. As we've mentioned many times before, this relationship-building is one of the best parts of our work, as we get to meet amazing people from all over the world, all of whom have intriguing, sometimes depressing, stories. They have a strength we can't even imagine.

Other days are crazy. Someone needs to go to the doctor, a family is leaving to take their chances on the ocean, Refugee Women's Centre comes to bring donations or meet with some of the women, children are playing, and somehow we have to have a serious conversation about an issue that can't wait. Such is the duality of life in a community house.

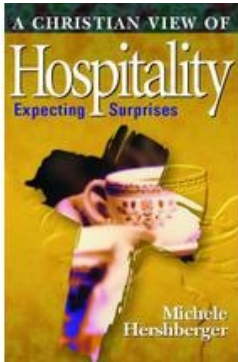
Our boys will be finished with their first school year in France soon; then for one week in July we will be going to the Taize community in southeastern France to spend time in reflection and prayer. Many of our volunteers hear about MSH from this community, and it has deeply impacted hundreds of young people across Europe for Jesus over the years. We will be joining them for a family week, when they have activities for children while still placing an emphasis on prayer and reflection. Pray that this will be a fruitful, restful time for us as a family, and that we encounter Jesus during our week there.

I'll end with a major prayer request. I probably shouldn't share too many details at the moment, but I will say that the mayor's office has begun applying pressure on MSH again. It is obviously their goal to close the house, and so we need to be creative about how we respond and what we do next. We have no intention of ending the work here, we just may need to change some things about it. Please pray that we follow God's guidance in our decisions and that hearts at the mayor's office would be changed. After all, God loves government officials too.

Thank you for your continued prayers, my friends. We pray that you all have a blessed summer.

Two exciting women's Bible studies will start this fall. All members, visitors and friends are invited to attend one or both groups. Women of all ages are invited to join in. Find out more below about our **Tuesday** and **Thursday** studies!

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study begins September 12 at 10:00 am. We will be meeting concurrently. You have the option of joining us via Zoom or in person in the church library. We will be studying the book, **A Christian View of Hospitality: Expecting Surprises (The Giving Project Series)**, by Michelle Hershberger. This book is an "oldie but a goodie." Please let the church office or Brenda Glanzer Lilliston know if you plan on attending by August 27. Since the book is out-of-print, used books will be purchased and the price will be divided among participants. The cost will not be more than \$10.



What does it mean for Christians to be hospitable? Hospitality is often seen as a bland practice of politeness or an invitation to be harmed by a stranger. God's call to love the stranger is neither boring nor dangerous. Biblical hospitality is different. It is an invitation to experience God in a new way. Not in a way that depletes our energy, but always in a way where two become three, as God joins us at the table. People usually don't expect surprises. Yet biblical hospitality, the call to love the stranger, guarantees that a surprise is just around the corner. The guest becomes the host. Givers receive more than they give. God is seen in the most unlikely people. In the process, we become guests of the most gracious Host of all.

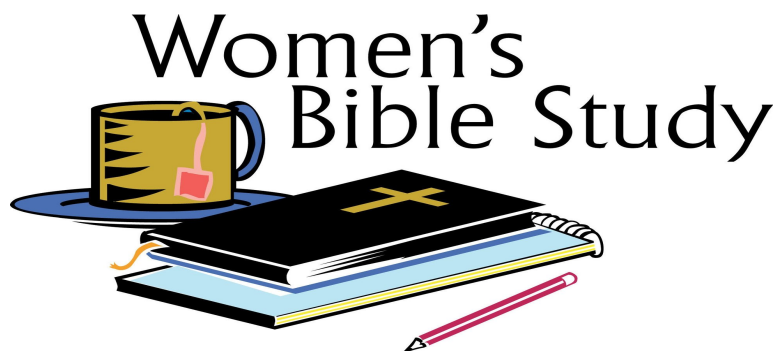
The Women's Thursday evening Bible Study will begin meeting on Sept. 14 at 7 pm on Zoom.

We will be studying [Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration](#), by Karen González. Please purchase your own book. Please let the church office or Brenda Glanzer Lilliston know if you plan on attending.



Many American Christians have good intentions, working hard to welcome immigrants with hospitality and solidarity. But how can we do that in a way that empowers our immigrant neighbors rather than pushing them to the fringes of white-dominant culture and keeping them as outsiders? That's exactly the question Karen González explores in *Beyond Welcome*.

"*Beyond Welcome* is an invitation to re-read Scripture through the eyes of the people at the center of the story--immigrants who find their identity in God's family. Karen González has offered us the opportunity to unlearn the habits of colonized hospitality and to know the beloved community God makes possible in the fellowship of those who know this world's systems are not their home. It's an invitation for all of us to find our true home by reimagining the spaces we inhabit."





Worship

August 6
Worship Leader-Connie
Scripture-Lee
Pianist-Ruthie
Song-Galen
Tech-Scott
Zoom-Brenda

August 13
Worship-TBD
Scripture-Donna B.
Pianist-Cynthia
Song-Galen
Tech-Mike V.
Zoom-Lee

August 20
Worship-TBD
Scripture-Margaret
Pianist-Vicki
Song-Trae
Tech-Randy P.
Zoom-Kendal & Marjie

August 27
Worship-TBD
Scripture-Wendy
Pianist-Laurie
Song-Lowell
Tech-Michelle J.
Zoom-Barb

Sanctuary Prep

August 6-Heidi
August 13-Connie
August 20-Lori M.
August 27-Russ

Nursery

August 6-Greg & Leah
August 13-Jordon & Emily
August 20-Kevin & Taylor
August 27-Donna H.; Lily

Greeters

August 6-Jerold & Donna
August 13-Marcus & Cynthia
August 20-Jared
August 27-TBD

Coffee

August 6-Galen & Cindy
August 13-Scott & Connie
August 20-Bob & Delaine
August 27-Travis & Charity

Memorial Garden

August 6-Marcus
August 13-Marcus
August 20-Joanna
August 27-Joanna

Mowers

August 6-Grant
August 13-Jim
August 20-Scott
August 27-Jerold

Newsletter thoughts...

While putting this newsletter together, my thoughts went to:

- Is this a good newsletter overall?
- What can we do to make it better?

With those two questions I went to google to search for what makes a good church newsletter. Here are some questions...

1. Is it useful?
2. Do we include the basics you want as a reader?
3. Do we provide a variety of content?
4. Do we avoid being too serious?
5. Does the newsletter need a different look after 38 years? Especially since things are much more digitally driven then hard copy driven.
6. Do we empower you? Examples...
 - Help at least one person this week
 - Pray for a stranger they've seen lately
 - Start a prayer and/or gratitude journal
 - Memorize scripture
 - Volunteer, either at church or in the community
 - Share one inspiring story on social media or face-to-face
7. Do we still need a newsletter? If so, going totally digital and only making hard copies for a few without internet (as we do now, but lowering the hard copy amounts)
8. Would you like to see a more colorful newsletter?

The office would like your feedback on any or all of these questions, or if you have another suggestion(s) . We will compile and put our findings in the September newsletter. For at least through the end of the year, we will continue as it, so if we get good suggestions, we have time to go through them and decide what we will do! We will keep you updated for sure.

**Reachrightstudios.com* for some of the content of these article.



Two interesting questions found online, how would you respond?

**Chuck Lawless, from "Twelve random questions to ask your church this week"*

1.If your church disappeared today, would your community know the difference?

2.If God sent revival to your church, would you be ready to grow the new believers He gives you?

