

East Union Mennonite Church

5615 Gable Ave. SW (319) 656-2590 www.eastunionmennonite.org

Interim Pastor: Sonya Stauffer Kurtz

Elders: Paulette Hershberger, Larry Detweiler,

Lauralee Kauffman, Jeff Swartzentruber

Mission Statement:

East Union Mennonite Church is a community of love and worship where the Scriptures and the Spirit guide all to faithful living, all are welcome to grow in the way of Jesus, and we share God's love with others in word and service, so that we are a light of hope here and around the world.

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| Vol. LXII | March 16, 2014 | No. 11 |
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| Worship Leader: | Marvin & Betsy Slabaugh |
| Sermon: | Sonya Stauffer Kurtz |
| Pre-Service, Offertory, Postlude: | Stirred |
| Congregational Singing: | Stirred |
| Children's Time | Trent, Lisa, Sam |

WORSHIP

Call to Worship - back of bulletin
 Opening Prayer - back of bulletin
 Congregational Singing
 Old Testament Scripture - Genesis 12:1-4a
 Confession & Assurance - bulletin insert
 First Fruits Offering
 Business of the Community of Faith
 Children's Time
 Sermon Scripture - John 3:1-17
 Sermon: "Encountering God ... What Have We Witnessed?"
 Song of Response
 Sharing of Testimony and Concerns, Prayer
 Parting Song
 Sending & Postlude
 Dismissal

15 minutes of coffee/fellowship time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Toddler Room Staff during Worship Service:

Today: Grace Rempel & Drew Blauvelt

Next Sunday: Rebecca & Tom Miller

Toddler Room Staff during Sunday School:

March: Beth Swartzendruber & Elvesta Hochstedler

April: Derek & Nici Bontrager

For Parents/Caregivers of Young Children:

The Nursery Rooms at the back of the church (located to the right as you enter the sanctuary) are available as quiet rooms for infants during the worship service. This area is not staffed during the worship service, but is staffed during the Sunday School hour. If you have a "noisy" infant, we suggest you take the child to the Toddler Room (room #47 up the back hallway). This room is also available for children (up to 3 years of age) for play during the worship service and is staffed during both the worship service (after the opening songs) and Sunday School hour.

PRAYER REMINDERS

Pleasantview Home Residents: Jeanette Yoder & L. David Yoder

College Students: Cameron Gingerich, Landon Slabaugh, Emma Yoder

We intercede to God on behalf of East Union brothers and sisters who are lonely, grieving, in pain, need healing or employment, or are carrying heavy burdens.

From Last Week's Sharing: Karen Harvey (healing after knee surgery); Ken Yoder (7-year-old relative of Anna's with brain tumor/cancer concerns); Mitch Siemens-Rhodes & Lora Nafziger (upcoming marriage).

Global Concerns

Serving in MCC in Canada: Jen, Kerry, Idonea & Halid Saner-Harvey

Iglesia Centro Cristiano & Pastor Martha Hernandez

From Central Plains Conference: Pray for the Constituency Leaders Council meeting next weekend and for Executive Conference Minister David Boshart as he, along with members of the Executive Board Task Force, provides leadership to the discernment process there.

Carol Detweiler will be going in for surgery on Monday, March 17 to have a pelvic mass removed. Remember Carol in your prayers as she goes in for surgery and remember the Detweiler family as they anxiously await the results of the biopsy.

From Mennonite Mission Network: Thank you for praying for the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo mediation process that took place in December. Praise God for a good outcome and for the cooperation among the three Mennonite denominations in the country. Pray that church unity would continue to grow.

Phone Numbers

Jeff Swartzentruber: 656-4542 Paulette Hershberger: 656-3208
 Lauralee Kauffman: 354-3304 Sonya Kurtz: 585-831-6722
 Larry Detweiler: 828-4461

Sonya's office hours: Tuesday - Friday mornings (afternoon by appt.)
 You can reach her at the church number during those times, at her cell phone number at other times, or via email sonyakurtz@gmail.com.

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| Attendance Last Sunday: | |
| Morning Worship: 143 | Sunday School: 131 |
| Giving through 3.9.14 | |
| March 9 Giving | \$ 6,400.00 |
| Year-to-Date Giving | \$ 57,222.00 |
| Roof Fund YTD | \$ 370.00 |
| Average Weekly Giving Needed: | \$ 6,071.68 |

Bulletin announcements should be in the office by 9:30 a.m. on Fridays.
 E-mail address for bulletin announcements: eucares@kctc.net

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today, Sunday, March 16

- IMS' 19-voice Touring Choir, consisting of junior and senior women under the direction of Josh Tyson, will present a program of music at Faith Baptist Church in Washington. They will sing a variety of music; all are invited to attend either of the two morning services (8:30 or 10:30 a.m.).
- Two IMS students - Alaina Beatty and Nicole Roetlin - will present their Senior Recital in a joint effort at 3:00 p.m. in Celebration Hall. Alaina, daughter of Susan & Mark Beatty (Washington), and Nicole, daughter of Tess & JT Roetlin (rural Kalona), will present works on the violin and piano, respectively. They will also share vocally, along with friends. The recital will be followed by a reception; all are welcome!
- Women's Bible Study, 3:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

Monday, March 17

- Crowded Closet Association Spring Meeting at Wellman Mennonite Church, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 20 - Sunday, March 23

- Sonya will be out of the office. She will be attending Constituency Leaders Council for MCUSA in Hesston, KS. If you need pastoral assistance during this time, please contact one of the elders.

There was a phone found in the Toddler Room, a small black Verizon phone. Please contact the church office if you wish to claim it.

Be intentional. Be transformed! Serve for a year with DOOR. Dwell in urban areas like Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, LA, Miami, or San Antonio. Join other young adults (ages 19-30) from many Christian backgrounds! www.mennonitemission.net/Serve

Save The Date!! Ladies, jot down the evening of April 30 in your calendars for the Annual Spring Women's Banquet. More info to come!

Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed!! Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer or ask Carrie or Sarah for details.

Interviews with the Roadmap Listening Group: On Saturday, April 5, Tim Detweiler, Central Plains Conference Minister, and a listening group from outside East Union will be available from 9am - 4pm for personal and couple interviews. These timeslots will give you a voice into the Roadmap process for our time with Firman Gingerich. Sign-up sheets for those timeslots are on the table outside the library. Contact an Elder if you have questions.

Roadmap Survey Documents: Survey documents were placed in your mailboxes last Sunday. These will help us develop the priorities for our time with our Transitional Pastor, Firman Gingerich. The cover letter also gives instructions. Please complete and return them to the box marked "Roadmap Surveys" under the mailboxes by Sunday, March 23. Contact an Elder if you have questions.

Crowded Closet News: A baby quilt has been set up on the sales floor. If you enjoy quilting, bring a quilter friend and consider coming to work on the quilt for as long a time as you wish. The quilt will be given to a lucky customer.

CHOW will next meet on Wednesday, April 2. Mike Zahs, a great historian and story-teller, will share his 120-year-old movies and magic lantern slides with us. This is made possible by a grant from Humanities of Iowa. Supper will be served from 6:00 - 6:30, with activities for all ages beginning at 6:45.

You have an opportunity for a Sunday School elective class as the Shekinah class will continue viewing the NOOMA DVD's today. The NOOMA DVD's are a series of short films (10-14 min.). They use experiences of our lives to teach about fullness of life through Jesus, tackling issues like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love. Today's film is entitled "Lump". Many of us have done things in our lives we are ashamed of. They might be small things or really big things. Sometimes we keep these things to ourselves to avoid dealing with them. Is that the best choice or does God have a better plan? You are welcome to join us in the choir room as we discuss these and other topics.

Confessing Our Sin:

Leader: We think that who we are makes us heir to God's kingdom:

North: the family we are born into,

South: the name game we play.

Leader: We think that what we have done makes us citizens of God's nation:

North: which school we went to,

South: what agency we volunteered with.

Leader: We think that what we look like will make us worthy of God's blessing:

North: the marks we do (or don't) put on our bodies,

South: the clothes we wear.

Leader: We think that what we believe will save us from death:

North: the laws we follow to the letter,

South: the certitudes we're confident we know because we've verified them.

**All: We want who we are,
where we come from,
what we have done,
what we believe
to be enough.**

Like Nicodemus, we do not understand how to be reborn.

We speak only about what we know,

testify only to what we can prove.

Lord, hear our prayer. [Silence]

Claiming our assurance

Leader: Let go of who you are,
let go of where you come from,
let go of what you have done,
let go of what you believe.

Receive new birth;

open your hands to God's gift of a transformed life.

**All: For the gift of Jesus Christ is the gift of rebirth as a child of God,
an heir to the heavenly kingdom,
and is ours through faith and not our works.**

Mark Your Calendars now for this year's Iowa MCC Relief Sale, May 30-31 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds.

- Two persons are needed to serve on the Iowa MCC Relief Sale food committee. Call Wilbur Yoder (319-646-6835) for information regarding this position.
- Now is the time to be sharing books that you have read that others may enjoy reading. Begin the process now of examining your bookshelves for books that could be resold at the Iowa MCC Relief Sale.

The IMS Culinary Arts Class will again be serving meals in the lobby outside Celebration Hall. United Café, featuring regional food of the United States, will be open March 19 (New England), March 26 (Pacific Hawaiian), April 2 (Western US), and April 23 (Southern US). Serving will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the cost is \$8 per person. Reservations are required and seating is limited; please call the office at 656-2073 or 683-2586. Ranee Brokaw instructs the class.

Urgent Need for Pencils: The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Material Resources Center in North Newton, KS currently has an urgent need for pencils for school kits. Based on feedback from kit recipients, MCC increased the number of pencils in school kits from four to eight. This much-needed change has created an urgent need for pencils, since many kits arrived at our warehouse with fewer than eight pencils. Your gift of pencils or your donation of funds designated for "Central States Kits" will help us complete hundreds of incomplete kits and send them to countries including Jordan, Afghanistan, and Kenya. Pencils should be sent to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS, 67117, checks should be sent to MCC US, PO Box 500, Akron, PA, 17501. Questions? Call (316) 283-2720 or visit mcc.org/kits.