

Call to Commitment

Leader: God turns things upside down and inside out by letting us in on the big picture.

People: God, even when following is hard, we will stick with You and wait expectantly to see what else You have in mind.

THIS WEEK AT EAST UNION

Tuesday, March 3

- Mennonite women meet. Devotions by Jane Miller, The topic will be: Practicing Presence: with Positive Regard and our project will be cash for HIV/AIDS to teach teens in Ukraine the dangers of Aids and drug & alcohol abuse. Sack Lunch.

Wednesday, March 4

- **CHOW** with meal beginning at 6 pm and program for all ages beginning at 7 pm
Meal: Stewards Class
Adult Program - All are welcome to hear Ken & Wanda Yoder share insights and reflections from their MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) trip to Ethiopia last November.
- Choir practice following CHOW

Thursday, March 5

- Transition Advisory Team Meeting 7 pm

Friday, March 6

- Annual World Day of Prayer Service at Pleasantview Home starting at 9:15 am with coffee & treats in the Friendship Center. Service starting at 9:45 in the Chapel.

Next Sunday, March 8

- Daylight savings time begins
- 8:55 - 9:15 am - Prayer ministry for our Pastoral search.
- Adult Membership Exploration Class during Sunday School hour

East Union Mennonite Church

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

Our Mission:

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.

Our Motto: Growing in the way of Jesus, sharing God's love, Word & hope.

Vol. LXIII	March 1, 2015	No. 9
------------	---------------	-------

Worship Leader	Denny & Becky Yoder
Sermon	Firman Gingerich
Pre-Service, Offering, Postlude	Bruce Harvey
Congregational Singing	Beth Swartzendruber
Children's Time	Josh Lundberg
Reader's Theatre	Jeff, Jenna, Jacob & Julia Boller

WORSHIP

"Upside down, inside out"

- Prelude
 - Candle lighting by Worship Leaders
 - Call to Worship
 - Congregational Singing / Prayer
 - Announcements
 - Discerning members of our Pastoral Search Committee
 - First Fruits Offering
 - Reader's Theatre
 - Hearing God's Word: Mark 8:31-38
 - Children's Time
 - Sermon: Jesus, "Take up your cross and follow Me"
 - Song of Response
 - Our Call to Commitment *see insert
 - Sharing Time, Testimony and Concerns
 - Congregational Prayer
 - Sending Song
 - Benediction
- 15 minutes of coffee & fellowship time
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

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 and their parents during the worship service. The Toddler Room (room #47 up the steps to the back hallway) is available for children (up to 5 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.

Toddler Room Staff during Worship Service:

Today: Joe Schmidt & Sam Yoder
Next Sunday: Wanda Yoder & Sheila Niemeyer

Toddler Room Staff during Sunday School:

Today: Tim & Denise Litwiller
Next Sunday: Tim & Denise Litwiller

PRAYER REMINDERS

Oaknoll Retirement Home: Edna Yoder
College Students: Justin Boller, Rebecca Rhodes, Laura Stoltzfus
Serving in MCC in Bangladesh: Jen, Kerry, Idonea & Halid Saner-Harvey
Praying for God's Healing and Hope: Joyce Schrock
Iglesia Centro Cristiano & Pastor Martha Hernandez
Central Plains: Today Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo dedicates their new building in Muscatine, Iowa. Pray for the church and for Pastor Alejandro Huesca as he recovers from a recent stroke.
From Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Mennonite Mission Network personnel in Paris, France - Janie and Neal Blough, Linda Oyer, and Brand and Brenna Steury Graber - as they help youth and adults in their congregations and communities make sense of the recent violence. May they help provide a Jesus-centered perspective to the outrage and anger.
Mennonite World Conference: In the next two months, hundreds of people in Zimbabwe, India, Colombia, Indonesia and many other countries will apply and interview for their US visas so they can participate in PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference, Pray that the visa process will go smoothly for them, so that PA 2015 can be a truly global Anabaptist gathering!

East Union Mennonite Church	
5615 Gable Ave. SW Kalona, Iowa 52247	Phone: (319) 656-2590 E-Mail: eucares@kctc.net www.eastunionmennonite.org
Congregational Leader Contact Information:	
Firman Gingerich, Transitional Pastor	FJGingerich@gmail.com.....319-855-8379
Jeff Swartzendruber, Elder	jeffbev0604@gmail.com.....656-4542
Karen Harvey, Elder	bkharvey@kctc.net.....656-3009
Lauralee Kauffman, Elder	nkauff224@yahoo.com.....354-3304
Larry Detweiler, Elder	ldetweiler@southslope.net.....319-828-4461
Greg Schmidt, Moderator	schmig1@kctc.net.....656-3812

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Breakfast - Traditionally the MYF hosts a breakfast on Easter Sunday. It is nearly impossible to accomplish this event with the small MYF we have this year and we are asking for people to volunteer to help the MYF with the breakfast. Easter is Sunday, April 5; if you are willing to help the MYF, please talk to Catrina Miiller. - Worship Committee

Pastoral Search Committee Ballot Please prayerfully discern and select 5 persons and a Chairperson from the group you believe should serve with an Elder and a Church Council Member on the Pastoral Search Committee. We will receive your completed ballots today in worship. Formal ballots are available on paper as well as on our website: www.eastunionmennonite.org

CENTRAL PLAINS and MENNONITE AGENCIES

Mennonite Central Committee Freezing temperatures and snow are adding another layer of deprivation to Syrians and Iraqis who have been forced from their homes to escape violence from the Islamic State group and battling armies in Syria. Mennonite Central Committee is calling for financial donations as it provides heating fuel and blankets this winter and continues to address basic needs of food, shelter and education throughout the year. In addition, MCC welcomes contributions of blankets and comforters to replenish the more than 18,500 that were sent to Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria for the winter months. You can donate to the Syria and Iraq crisis response and learn how to contribute blankets at mcc.org.

Don't miss this once-in-a-generation event! Make plans now to attend PA 2015, the Global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference. Prepare to be transformed as you worship and fellowship with Anabaptist brothers and sisters from around the world. Experience the global Church through five days of great music, inspirational speakers from different countries, small sharing groups, tours, workshops, and much more. PA 2015 will be held July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, PA. Register online now at <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015>

Call for Worship and Contemporary Art. Art of many kinds will be on display at PA 2015, the global Assembly of Mennonite World Conference that will be held July 21-26 in Harrisburg, PA. Artists are invited to submit contemporary art for a juried exhibit. Churches are invited to display worship art (banners, tapestries, or other visual pieces) that represent their congregation. There will also be displays of children's art & historical art. For further information visit: https://www.mwc-cmm.org/sites/default/files/website_files/art_call_en.pdf
https://www.mwc-cmm.org/sites/default/files/website_files/banners_call_en1.pdf

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As is tradition, the rosebuds in front of the sanctuary this morning are in honor of Declyn Dean and Evelyn Elizabeth born to Neil and Karenza Yoder on December 2nd and Garrett Isaiah born to Chase and Angie Gingerich on February 19th.

Thank you. Rich and I would like to thank everyone who expressed their condolences, phone calls, and cards since the death of my father. It is truly wonderful to be a part of such a caring congregation. - Laurie Droll

Directory update: Ken Hochstedler's new email address is HKHochstedler@yahoo.com. His new cell# is: 319-333-2575

Gone Missing If you accidentally picked up a coat Sunday evening and found it wasn't yours, please return it to the church so it can be reunited with its owner.

Help Needed The IMS Alumni Association and the Washington Township Optimists are again hosting the annual Turkey Steak Supper at IMS on Saturday, March 14. East Union has been asked to provide 6 workers (4:15 - 6:00 p.m. shift) and 10 pies. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the library for each of these categories. If you have any questions, please talk to Nici Bontrager. I'm not above tapping shoulders to get these blanks filled, but please just sign up on your own! Thanks!

Pastoral Search Brainstorming: Through various conversations in the past few weeks, Elders have heard a theme from some in the congregation a desire to explore/consider the options of a pastoral team. We are open to that counsel from you. It is the hope of the Elders that a meeting with the Search Committee, soon after the committee is formed, to discuss and discern this possibility as we move forward with the search(s) process(es).

Continuing our discernment practices

Because of a weather cancellation and Lent schedules we canceled one of our afternoon discernment conversations. The Transition Advisory Team is planning a round-table Town Hall conversation on the theme of homosexuality in the near future. We are meeting with Tim Detweiler, our Conference Minister this week to do the planning and then we will announce plans for that upcoming conversation. We also anticipate several more Town Hall forum discernment conversations in the Spring and into Summer as our congregational delegates to Central Plains Conference and to Mennonite Church General Assembly prepare to participate on our behalf with our larger church bodies. Thanks for your engagement and participation. Firman Gingerich

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everence Join Everence for a special evening with Christian artist Marc Thomas Eckel. Marc will lift up the name of Jesus Christ with his amazing artistic performance called "Splat Experience." Part of an annual Everence pastor and advocate appreciation event, the public is invited as well. Join us Monday, March 16, 7 p.m. at Iowa Mennonite School's Celebration Hall, 1421 540th St. S.W., Kalona. Admission is free. For more information, contact Cheryl Martin Miller at (877) 656-4242, (319) 656-4242 or cheryl.martinmiller@everence.com.

Mush Fry The Wellman Mennonite Annual Mush Fry will be Sunday, March 8. This old-fashioned meal of fried mush, sausage, liverwurst, tomato gravy, scrambled eggs and applesauce will be served from 11:30-1:00. Donations will benefit the Wellman Mennonite youth. Everyone is welcome!

Passion Play Day Trip A one day bus trip has been planned to attend the Passion Play in Bloomington, Illinois on March 28, 2015 Leaving Kalona at 7:30 AM and returning at approx. 10:00 PM. The cost is \$67.50 per person and includes travel and ticket to the performance. For information contact Don and Ila Yoder at 319-656-2774 or 319-530-4490 If interested you may want to contact them soon as the bus is filling.

Sister Care Seminars Do you want stronger relationships with other women? Do you wish that you knew how to more deeply care for each other? If you answered yes to these questions, then please consider coming to the Sister Care Seminar. Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen have traveled all over the world to present this workshop that empowers women to walk alongside one another during some of life's most challenging struggles. You can now have access to these life-changing skills when you attend Sister Care Seminar April 17 and 18 at Kalona Mennonite Church. Registration information coming soon!

Mennonite Disaster Service The Iowa Unit annual MDS meeting will be held today at 2:00 pm at Kalona Mennonite Church.

Kalona MOPS will be having their annual fundraiser meal on Sunday, March 15th at noon at Kalona Mennonite Church. The meal includes turkey, potatoes, green beans, fluff, salad and dessert.

Aging Well Group On Tue. Mar. 10th at 10:00 the Aging Well Group will meet at Pleasantview in the Friendship Center. Wanda Yoder, Volunteer Coordinator at Pleasantview, Ryan Schlabach, Kalona City Administrator and Betsy Slabaugh, Manager of Crowded Closet will be talking on "Volunteering" They will share about opportunities and the benefits of volunteering. All are welcome.

Iowa Mennonite School

* Anne Buckwalter, daughter of Tom and Paula Buckwalter, will present a senior recital of piano, vocal, and clarinet works on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 pm in Celebration Hall. The program will consist of music from a variety of musical time periods. She will be assisted by friends and family. All are welcome.

* IMS *Culinary Arts* students are once again hosting, preparing, and serving breakfasts in the lobby of *Celebration Hall* over the next couple of months. Featuring cuisine from around the globe, the "restaurant" will be open 8:30-9:30 am by reservation only, on the following dates: March 18 (French); April 1 (Chinese); April 22 (Australian); and April 29 (English). Reservations must be made through the IMS front office, at 656-2073. The cost is \$8 per person.

* Students (and parents) interested in attending IMS for the first time in the fall of 2015 are invited to an informational session on the IMS campus, on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 pm. Teachers and administrators will be present, and will answer questions and provide valuable information about registration, curriculum, etc....and will be available to discuss options with prospective families. Refreshments will also be served. Please contact the school for further information.

* Kaylin Brokaw, daughter of Joel and Karma Brokaw, will present a senior recital on Saturday, March 7 at 7 pm in Celebration Hall. She will be assisted by friends and family, and the program will consist of piano and vocals in a variety of styles. All are welcome.

* The IMS Alumni Association and the Washington Township Optimists will collaborate to host and serve the annual Turkey Steak Supper at Iowa Mennonite School, on Saturday, March 14. Serving will be held in the cafeteria (lower level of the gym) from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. The meal, to include turkey steak, baked potato, tossed salad, dinner roll, and homemade dessert, will be donation only. Please contact the school for more information.

* IMS graduate Abbie Miller ('09) has her drawings on display in the school's art gallery. Entitled "Architectural Portraits", the exhibit will run through the rest of the semester. Abbie graduated from Goshen College in 2013 with a BA in Art, and is currently living in Pittsburgh, PA. Her show is open during public events on campus, and also by making arrangements with the IMS office.

Crowded Closet Spring meeting of the Crowded Closet Association will be held Monday, March 16, 7:00pm at First Mennonite Church, Iowa City. ALL volunteers and interested persons are invited to attend and learn of the latest happenings at the Closet.

Attendance Last Sunday:	
Morning Worship: 138	Sunday School:
Giving through 2.22.15	
February 22nd Giving	\$ 5,271.00
Year-to-date Giving	\$ 41,446.00
Average Weekly Giving Needed:	\$ 5,767.48

