

## Call to Commitment

**Leader:** God turns things upside down and inside out growing us to maturity through the message of the cross.

**People:** God, even when we struggle to make sense of it, we will rely on your foolishness and depend on your weakness.

### THIS WEEK AT EAST UNION

#### *Today, Sunday, March 8*

- The Stewards Sunday School class is in charge of the services at Pleasantview Home this morning.

#### *Tuesday, March 10*

- Church Council Meeting 7 pm

#### *Wednesday, March 11*

- Mennonite Women quilting 1 pm
- Choir practice 7 pm

#### *Next Sunday, March 15*

- 8:55 - 9:15 am - Prayer ministry for our Pastoral search.

<b>Attendance Last Sunday:</b>	
Morning Worship: 158	Sunday School: 117
<b>Giving through 3.1.15</b>	
March 1st Giving	\$ 5,460.00
Year-to-date Giving	\$ 46,906.00
Average Weekly Giving Needed:	\$ 5,774.63

# 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.*

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Worship Leader	Denny & Becky Yoder
Sermon	Firman Gingerich
Pre-Service, Offering, Postlude	Beth Swartzendruber
Congregational Singing	Susan Gingerich & Quartet
Special Music	Choir & Children's Choir
Children's Time	Larry Detweiler
Reader's Theatre	Jeff, Jenna, Jacob & Julia Boller

## WORSHIP

**"Upside down, inside out"**

- Prelude
- Candle lighting
- Call to Worship
- Congregational Singing / Prayer
- Announcements
- Children's Choir
- Mission sharing - Jennifer & Kerry Saner-Harvey
- First Fruits Offering
- Hearing God's Word: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- Reader's Theatre
- Children's Time
- Sermon: Jesus, "What foolishness!"
- Song of Response
- Our Call to Commitment \*see back of bulletin
- Sharing Time, Testimony and Concerns
- Congregational Prayer
- Adult Choir: *Mercy Still, STJ 34 Loving Spirit*
- 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: Wanda Yoder & Sheila Niemeyer  
Next Sunday: Josh & Jill Lundberg

## Toddler Room Staff during Sunday School:

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

## PRAYER REMINDERS

**Pleasantview Home:** Charlotte Winborn, Marguerite Zook  
**College Students:** Vince Rhodes, Aimee Moberly, Carmen Fernau  
**Praying for God's Healing and Hope:** Joyce Schrock  
**Praying for Peace:** for Christian's around the world, persecuted for taking up their cross and following Jesus  
**Praying for:** Pastor Max Villatoro and his family. Max is Pastor of Torre Fuerte Mennonite Church and is being held in jail prior to likely deportation to Honduras.  
**Central Plains:** Next Saturday, the Pastoral Leadership Committee meets in Des Moines. Pray for them as they conduct credentialing interviews.  
**From Mennonite Mission Network:** Freddy & Margrit Kipfer Barron of Mennonite Mission Network are using Alpha courses in Bolivia to strengthen existing Mennonite congregations and to lay the groundwork for new ones. Pray that God will water the seeds they are planting and that people will receive Jesus' healing and hope in their lives.  
**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!

<b>East Union Mennonite Church</b>	
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Larry Detweiler, Elder.....	ldetweiler@southslope.net.....319-828-4461
Greg Schmidt, Moderator.....	schmig1@kctc.net.....656-3812

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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 Schlabaugh, 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.

***Everence*** What are the ways you can support the things you care about - like your congregation or church missions? For many, planned giving - like bequests, gift annuities, gifts of assets and more - offer many advantages. Learn more from your faith-based Everence financial advisor or at "Charitable giving" at everence.com.

### ***Iowa Mennonite School***

\* The Search Team for Iowa Mennonite School's next principal has met several times in recent weeks, and invites continued prayers from the community. Please direct questions, comments, suggestions to any of the team members: co-chairs Stacy Ropp Miller (sroppmiller@iowamennonite.org) and Greg Yoder; and Don Miller, Sheila Ours, Perry Miller, and Pam Gerig Unruh. Thank you for your continued support of the process!

\* 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.

\* 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.

## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Church Office Help Needed*** Crystal will be out of town most of the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> and we are looking for someone with computer experience to come in and help with the bulletin for a few hours the end of that week. Please let us know if you are interested. Thank you!

### ***Update on Pastoral search committee formation***

In response to your affirmations, the following persons have been called to form our pastoral search committee: Nyle Kauffman chair, Janet Geyer, Will Miller, Phil Yoder, and Wanda Yoder. Larry Detweiler will serve as an Elder representative. Church council will appoint their representative at our next meeting.

We thank you for the many ways you have been participating in calling this group. Your prayers and suggestions for nominations are appreciated. We give thanks as well for all who considered serving, and for those we called. Let us continue to surround this group with our prayers and our counsel as they lead us in calling a pastor to serve as a leader among us at East Union Mennonite Church.

- From discernment group Greg Schmidt, Pam Stoltzfus, Jeff Swartzentruber, Denny Yoder and Firman Gingerich

### ***Continuing our discernment practices***

The Transition Advisory Team is planning a round-table Town Hall conversation on the theme of homosexuality on April 12 at 5:00 pm. We also anticipate several more Town Hall forum 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

***Mennonite Women*** Because Mennonite Women was canceled again last Tuesday, we are asking ladies to come out each Wednesday at 1 pm until the quilt is finished. The quilt is set up in the sewing room and can be worked on at your convenience if you cannot come on Wednesdays. Thank you for all your work.

### ***NEXT SUNDAY IS THE LAST FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION!***

After church next Sunday EU kids will sort all the items collected and count the money donated, then deliver it to the United Christian and Baptist Church in Kalona. Thanks for all your donations in these last 2 Sundays! Great job, East Union!

## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Save the date** The Women's Fellowship Spring Banquet will be held April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls and older are welcome to attend. More details coming soon!

**Next Sunday,** March 15, our Everence Church Relations Representative Steve Bustos will give the sermon in the worship service. In the Sunday School hour Steve, together with local Everence Financial Advisor Kent Blossom, will lead a session on integrating faith and finances. You can learn about and ask questions about Everence's history and mission, plans and services.

**Journey Wall Update** You will notice we have removed our "Journey Wall" from the entry this week. We are in the process of transferring all the items you recorded on it into an electronic and print document. We will use this in future worship and learning experiences over the next months. As someone helpfully noted, a problem with it was that it stopped in 2014, and God is still working, calling us to love and serve Him in 2015. Thanks to Nyle Kauffman for providing us this opportunity to name and see our place in God's story here at East Union Mennonite Church.

**Easter Breakfast-Can you help?** - The MYF is still hoping to host a breakfast on Easter Sunday. A few people have offered to assist the MYF with this event, but we need more volunteers. Easter is Sunday, April 5; if you are willing to help the MYF in any way, please talk to Catrina Miiller.  
- Worship Committee

**Upcoming birthday** Jen Saner-Harvey's birthday is March 18. Jen and her family are serving in Bangladesh thru Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Please shower her with birthday greetings either via postal mail or email. Her addresses are:

[jen4harvey@gmail.com](mailto:jen4harvey@gmail.com). or

4/10 Iqbal Rd. Mohemmadpur, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh

You can mail a regular card with stamps totaling \$1.15

**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!

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **MCC Sale**

\* Donations of new and gently used items are needed for the Relief Sale Children's Auction. Suggested items are toys, books, games, sports equipment, etc. Items can be auctioned individually or put together into themed baskets such as family game night, family movie night, arts & crafts, sports, reading, etc. Donation boxes are located at/in (List the location for your church) .

\* We are collecting gently used books to sell at the MCC Sale. Bestselling books include Children's books, "Bonnet" books, recently published books, mysteries, and newer appearing books. We welcome children's and family DVDs and music CDs. We are not including magazines, or VHS and cassette tapes. Your MCC sale representatives will put out a collection box for your donations or your books can be brought directly to the Book Booth at the south end of Building B on Thursday afternoon or by noon on Friday of the Sale. If you would like to work at the Book Booth, let your MCC rep know.

**Community Choir** This is an open invitation for people of all ages to sing in the Celebration Community Choir! Our upcoming concert is at 7pm on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> in Iowa Mennonite School's Celebration Hall. The choir will be engaging a variety of music including selections directly influenced by the cultures and backgrounds of those who choose to sing in it. Kalona Mennonite Church will host rehearsals on Saturdays March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2 at 7pm. Please contact Nathaniel Yoder if you are interested in participating or have any questions: [nathanielyoder@gmail.com](mailto:nathanielyoder@gmail.com) and 319-325-3059.

**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 540<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cheryl.martinmiller@everence.com).

**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.

## CENTRAL PLAINS and MENNONITE AGENCIES

**Action alert!** We need your help to support Mennonite Pastor, Max Villatoro, of Iowa City who was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and is facing deportation. ICE arrived unannounced at Max's home at 6:30 a.m. yesterday and didn't even give him a chance to say goodbye to his wife and children. Max has four U.S. citizen children, Anthony, Etna, Angela, and Aileen, and his wife, Gloria, who love him dearly and depend on him as a pillar for their family.

Please take time to call the ICE Field Office at 888-351-4024 (choose option 2) and tell them to grant Max Villatoro a stay of removal, and explain how separating families breaks our community. Tell them that Max might be eligible for DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans), and he should be granted enough time to stay to apply once it is available. Explain to them why keeping families together is important to you, and to stop Max's deportation immediately. Max's A# is 094-338-085. You may be directed to call another number and make the case for Max to a different agent. Please call them too! The more people who hear about Max and our support of him, the better!

**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](http://mcc.org).

**Service doesn't have to wait!** Join Youth Venture this summer to serve and learn with Mennonite youth from Lithuania, Ecuador, Japan, and France. Apply by April 1 for international locations. Ages 16-22 can apply at [MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://MennoniteMission.net/Serve).

**Mennonite Central Committee Central States** is hiring for a regional Human Resources Coordinator. This position is available starting on April 1st. Location can be flexible and some travel is expected. Check out the job description at <http://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/human-resources-coordinator-central-states> or contact Melissa Waltner at [MelissaWaltner@mcc.org](mailto:MelissaWaltner@mcc.org) for more information.