

## Our Call to Commitment

- Leader: God turns things upside down and inside out, writing a new way of being into our very DNA.
- Congregation: **God, we will watch and wait for your new thing to bear fruit within & among us.**

### THIS WEEK AT EAST UNION

#### *Wednesday, March 25*

- Mennonite Women quilting 1 pm
- Choir practice 7 pm

#### *Thursday March 26*

- Pastoral Search Committee and Elders, 7 pm Conference Room

#### *Friday March 27*

- Elders at Karen Harvey's 7 pm

#### *Saturday, March 28*

- Mentor/Advocate Spring Party 7 pm

#### *Palm Sunday, March 29*

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

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

#### *Palm Sunday Worship March 29 at 9:30 am*

This service will include a children's parade of palms.

*Maundy Thursday Service - April 2nd at 6:30 pm.* Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal and remembrance of Jesus' last supper.

*Community Good Friday Service - April 3 at IMS at 7 pm*

*Easter Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection - April 5th at 9:30 am.*

<b>Attendance Last Sunday:</b>	
Morning Worship: 158	Sunday School:
<b>Giving through 3.15.15</b>	
March 15th Giving	\$ 3,483.00
Year-to-date Giving	\$ 58,630.00
Average Weekly Giving Needed:	\$ 5,770.37

# 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 22, 2015                      No. 12

Worship Leader	Marv Rempel
Sermon	Firman Gingerich
Pre-Service, Offering, Postlude	Steve & Ella Groenewold
Congregational Singing	Nici Bontrager
Special Music	Adult Choir
Reader's Theatre	Jeff, Jenna, Jacob & Julia Boller
Children's Time	Larry Detweiler

## WORSHIP "Upside Down - Inside Out"

Prelude  
 Candle lighting  
 Call to Worship  
 Congregational Singing / Prayer  
 Announcements  
 A Celebration of Faith & Discipleship  
     Welcoming Beth Swartzendruber as a Member  
 First Fruits Offering  
 Choir  
 Hearing God's Word: Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Reader's Theatre  
 Children's Time  
 Sermon: "Bone Deep"  
 Song of Response  
 Our Call to Commitment \*see back of bulletin  
 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:                      Norman Schrock & Jacob Boller  
 Next Sunday:        Judy Showalter & Sarena Gerber

## Toddler Room Staff during Sunday School:

Today: Nursery: Denise Litwiller  
 Toddler Room: Gaylord & Shirley Yoder

## PRAYER REMINDERS

**Pleasantview Home:** Dorothy Rhodes, Dorothy Helmuth  
**College Students:** Gretchen Geyer, Anya Slabaugh, Mariah Swartzentruber  
**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. Max is Pastor of Torre Fuerte Mennonite Church and was deported to Honduras on Friday. Pray for his wife Gloria, Children Anthony, Edna, Angela and Aileen.  
**From Mennonite Mission Network:** Passionfest, held in New Zealand last month, is an annual celebration of Jesus, community, and justice. Pray for Mark and Mary Hurst of Mennonite Mission Network, based in Australia, as they follow up on contacts they made during the festival.

East Union Mennonite Church	
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This disappointing news creates a firestorm of emotion in each of our hearts. If you are like me, you are experiencing feelings of shock, grief, rage, and betrayal.

This is the time we pray the Psalms of lament: *I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. I cry to you, Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me. Psalm 142 Even as we lament, let us not be consumed with grief. For as Lamentations tells us, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22)*

In these past two weeks, I have been so proud of our faith community and the way so many people devoted themselves to this ministry of prayer and action, consistently expressed in the spirit of Christ's love. I am sure that none of us will regret one moment of the time we have given to support Max and Gloria. This experience has changed us. And our cause is not over with Max's deportation. An injustice has been done, and we can continue to bear witness to our broken immigration system.

Many of you are asking what can be done. Max's deportation has been the national test case for whether the director of ICE would follow the directives of the Obama administration or not. There will be opportunities for further advocacy for President Obama to impose the consequences he talked about for those in ICE that have not followed the directives outlined in the memo issued by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson last November.

More immediately, we will need to support Gloria and her children. Central Plains Mennonite Conference is launching a fundraising campaign today to raise funds for Max's legal fees and to provide a strong financial foundation for this family in the loss of the children's father and all the ways he was able to support his family. **You may donate to this fund in two ways: 1) You can go to our website: [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) and click on the "Donate" button on our homepage. You can donate to the Villatoro Family Fund by credit or debit card using the Paypal button. Or you can send contributions in the mail to: Central Plains Mennonite Conference PO Box 101 Freeman, SD 57029** May each gift that is given be infused with the love we feel for the Villatoro family. May God open the windows of heaven and pour down an overflowing blessing upon this family. May we continue to pray in faith, hope, and love.

David Boshart, Executive Conference Minister

## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**To our East Union Church family:** Words cannot express how thankful we are for your kindness. Thank you so very much for the phone calls, visits, food & prayers during Mom's illness and since her death. May God bless each of you. - The family of Mary K. Hochstetler. Frank Hochstetler, Lori, Jim and Trish & Steve Billups

**Wedding Shower!** Please join us for a wedding shower in honor of Landon Slabaugh and Emily Gibbs on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 in the afternoon. Landon and Emily are registered at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, & JCPenney.

**Gift Discernment** The Gift Discernment suggestion forms were placed in each mailbox last Sunday. Prayerfully consider who could fill each of the positions and return them to the Gift Discernment box under the mail boxes by next Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Holy Week at East Union Mennonite Church

- **Palm Sunday Worship - March 29 at 9:30 am**  
This service will include a children's parade of palms. Josh Lundberg will be preaching.
- **Maundy Thursday Service - April 2nd at 6:30 pm.**  
We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal and remembrance of Jesus' last supper. For our meal together, please bring a plate of fruit, cheese and bread to share with those seated at your table. This service includes communion. Child care for children ages 4 and under will be available in the Toddler Room after the meal.
- **Community Good Friday Service - April 3 at IMS at 7 pm**  
All the churches in our area Mennonite Church Cluster are joining in this Good Friday Tenebrae Service. Youth from each of our congregations will speak. Jenna Boller is representing us.
- **Easter Service - April 5th at 9:30 am.** Please bring flowers to contribute to the living cross as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection together! There will be no Sunday School in anticipation of an extended worship service.

**CALLING ALL KIDS!!!** Come join us for Vacation Bible School this summer from July 17-19. We'll have lots of time for crafts, games, skits, yummy snacks, and most importantly LEARNING ABOUT JESUS. Invite a friend and be prepared to have fun! Watch this space for more information to come....

**You are invited to a French Toast Benefit Breakfast on Saturday, April 11th,** from 6:30AM - 10:30AM at Kalona Mennonite Church in memory of our daughter, Ivy Jane Yoder. Come join us as we raise money to support El Comedor, a mission of the Peruvian church Luz y Vida that feeds 50 - 60 children living in poverty every day and the location of Gretchen Geyer's service term last year. With your help, we hope to provide meals for 6 months (approx. \$4200). The menu will include French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, and homemade rolls. There will be a free will donation and carryouts are available. Questions? Call Trent and Tammy Yoder at 656-3743.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Crooked Creek Christian Camp***

\* Lenten Quiet Day is March 26<sup>th</sup>. Register for this free event by calling the camp office or online at [crookedcreekcamp.org](http://crookedcreekcamp.org). Helen Yoder and Lois Gugel look forward to leading anyone wanting to take time out of their busy lives to focus themselves during this Lenten season. Register in advance as lunch is provided.

\* 2015 summer staff applications are being accepted. Please visit [www.crookedcreekcamp.org](http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org) for information and to apply.

\* CCCC is happy to announce that on March 13 camp became debt free. We celebrate this great achievement and are thankful for the donations we received that made this possible. Thank you to everyone who prays, volunteers and contributes financially to our camp ministry.

\* Our theme for summer is *God...Naturally* with an emphasis on water, wind, earth and fire. The four elements have been said to make up everything in this world, what we can see, smell, touch, taste and feel. We'll explore how they affect one another, play into our lives and what they teach us about God. We'll dive into scripture and unpack each element unveiling how God speaks through water, wind, earth and fire and we can learn to see God...Naturally!

Tim Friesen; CCCC Director

***Pathway Christian School*** Annual Fish Fry - March 27  
Serving 5-8 PM Donation Basis Everyone is invited!

***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. You can now have access to these life-changing skills when you attend Sister Care Seminar April 17 and 18 at Kalona Mennonite Church. Turn in registrations and East Union will pay \$25 towards the \$38 registration fee. Please see Lauralee Kauffman for details.

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

\* Please keep the students and faculty of Iowa Mennonite School in your prayers this week as they begin a week of Interterm. Groups will be scattering across the Midwest to experience another culture, do service work, and learn outside the traditional classroom. Please pray for safety, good attitudes, and positive learning experiences.

***Mark Patton from Habitat for Humanity*** will be holding a meeting on March 24 at 7:00 PM at the Kalona United Methodist Church to provide information on the house on A Avenue in Kalona that needs to be prepared for a family. He will be looking for volunteers to work on Saturdays in April. Anyone who might be interested in this project is welcome to attend the meeting.

***The Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale*** needs your help. Individuals and businesses can help support the sale with a donation of furniture, a household item, or children's toy or item that can be sold on auction. If an individual or business has no item to donate or if a cash donation is preferred, monetary sponsorship is possible. Individuals and businesses can provide sponsorship at the following levels.

Relief Sponsorship: \$100 - \$249

Justice Sponsorship: \$250 - \$499

Hope Sponsorship: \$500 or more

All donors' and sponsors' names will be listed in the sale booklet given to each sale attendee. Contact MCC sale reps Bruce Harvey or Rebecca Beachy Miller for more information.

***First Mennonite Church of Iowa City will be offering GriefShare***, a 13-week discussion/support group for persons who have lost a loved one, on Tuesdays from 6:30 until 8 p.m. beginning on April 14. Each participant will receive a workbook to use during the week. Topics to be covered include: living with grief; the journey of grief; the effects of grief; your family and grief; why?; the uniqueness of grief; when your family member or spouse dies; God's prescription for grief; feelings of guilt and forgiveness; stuck in grief; top twenty lessons of grief; and heaven. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact either Marian Schwabbauer (319-466-3094) or Marilyn Rose (319-887-5285),

***International Student Aid Fund:*** The Seekers Sunday School Class of Kalona Mennonite Church invites you to join us for a fundraiser meal at noon, on Sunday, March 29. We will be serving homemade scalloped potatoes and ham (note change of menu). We will feature a Sundae bar. The proceeds will go to the International Student Aid Fund. Our project this year is helping Rudi Mucaj attend Goshen College. Thank you!

### ***Update on deportation of Pastor Max Villatoro - Friday March 20, 2015***

*Dear Friends,*

Our hearts are broken at the news that our Brother Max Villatoro has been deported to Honduras, arriving this morning. This is utterly unfathomable. We will not know for some time how God's hand has been at work in this situation. But we do know that God has not abandoned us or Max. Thirty-six times in the Psalms we are reminded that God's steadfast "love endures forever." Let us pray that this love will be a source of comfort and courage for Max, Gloria, Anthony, Edna, Angela and Aileen.