

IMPORTANT NOTES

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Extraordinary Ordinary Stories: The Provocative Parables of Jesus

Message Rhonda Yoder

Scripture Matthew 13: 45-46

Breaking Bread Groups

The BBG Scripture for this week is Matthew 13: 45-46

May God bless each of these groups to be spaces for deep connection with God and one another. If you are still interested in joining a group, please contact Dru Mack, Dorothy Mertz, or Barb and Arlen Welty.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry

This week on Tuesday, January 18, The Food Pantry served 9 families and 23 individuals this week. The Food Pantry will remain open each Tuesday morning from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Please continue to pray for our guests and the faithful volunteers who brave the cold weather to distribute food each week.

Last Week by the Numbers - January 16, 2022

Thank you for sending your tithes and offerings by mail or online. The mail is collected regularly and a deposit made each Wednesday. Working together enables us to continue to support the services we provide.

General Fund	\$7,445.97
Food Pantry	20.00
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Total	\$7,645.97
Amount needed per Sunday for 2022 General Fund	\$7,705.40
Amount currently below projected budget	(\$8,035.23)



WELCOME!

Worship Service
Online 10:30 a.m.

Pastoral Team
Merle Hostetler
574 849-4654
merleh@eastgoshenmc.org

Naomi Yoder
865-924-3983
naomiy@eastgoshenmc.org

You are welcome to call anytime to make an appointment. Occasionally pastoral responsibilities take pastors away from the office.



www.eastgoshenmc.org

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Goshen, IN 46528
egmc@eastgoshenmc.org

Church Staff
Office Administrator
Carol Birky

**Church office hours are 9:00am
-12:30pm office each weekday
morning.**
carolb@eastgoshenmc.org

Custodians
Ray & Jenny VanDaele

Church Treasurer
Ina Kauffman

Assistance Available
There are large print hymnals available on the Welcome Center. For a hearing assistance device, stop by the tech booth in the northwest corner of the sanctuary.

Please send information items for the *Pathways* newsletter to the church office by Thursday morning. The email address is egmc@eastgoshenmc.org.

IN OUR CONGREGATION

Worship Sunday, January 23:
Our 10:30 worship service will be on Zoom this week using our usual EGMC link.

Pandemic Stress & the Power of Resilience
The current pandemic is undermining the mental and emotional wellbeing of many individuals, families, organizations, and churches. Combined with the rising tide of anger and division in society, debilitating levels of stress and anxiety are being reported. We need proven strategies and effective tools to successfully manage life and serve others. Join us as we bring the best of scientific research and biblical concepts together to develop a lifestyle of resilience and peace. Mennonite Health Services (MHS) will host an online workshop Feb 8 from 2:00-3:00pm, [Pandemic Stress and the Power of Resilience](#). If you cannot attend at that time, have no fear, if you register MHS will send you a link to watch at your convenience. MHS webinars are offered as a service to our broader community and there is no charge to attend.

JANUARY 23, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

PATHWAYS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Men's Fellowship Lunch, every Thurs, 11:30am. Currently meeting on Zoom, So contact Roger Mertz for the link to join the group.

Birthdays & Anniversaries this week

- Jan. 24, Jensen Meikle
- Jan. 26, Levi Schlegel
- Jan. 28, Matthew Holsopple

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our congregation, growing as passionate followers of Jesus.

Elkbar County and our healthcare facilities, as they contend with COVID-19 challenges.

Schools, families, and all communities navigating the ever-changing landscape of caution and care in this season of the pandemic.

Bill Sexton, Judy Gerzeski's brother, hospitalized with Covid.

Vern and Diane Heacock, former EGMC members, as they mourn the death of their son Loren. May God comfort all who grieve Loren's loss. See the obituary and service plans at reppertfuneralhome.com.

The Goshen Church of God, our East Goshen neighbors, in the sorrow following the accidental death of one of their food pantry volunteers.

Maurice Smith has returned home from his recent rehab stay. Please pray for healing for Maurice as well as strength and encouragement for him and the Hanna family.

Our Food Pantry: Sara Chupp and other volunteers as they offer hope through distribution of food and gracious interactions.

Remembering those in other places:

- **Rosa Powell** is attending The Wilderness Way Girls' School Camp in South Carolina.
Rosalinda Powell
c/o Wilderness Camp
175 Camp School Lane
Fair Play, SC 29643
- **Caleb & Nina Longenecker Fox** in Quito, Ecuador, Serving as leaders for GC students there now for the Study Service Term
- **Adrian, Susie and family**, dealing with illness as they continue to settle into their life and ministry in Djibouti.

Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference Weekly Prayer Focus:
Fairhaven Mennonite Church, Fort Wayne, IN

Thank you: We appreciate and thank you for your prayers and support for us and our neighbor, Darrell, during his final days of life.
Wilbur and Elizabeth Hershberger

IN OUR CONGREGATION

COVID Advisory Team Update: We continue to pray about, discuss and evaluate the next steps for our congregation moving into the next weeks and months. COVID continues to be prominent and has become a fixture in our community.

Several months ago our EGMC advisory team recommended that decisions regarding future congregational activities be based on the [Indiana color coding map of COVID](#) activity. Unfortunately, the color has remained at red since then, leading to decisions by church leadership to not meet in person, but continue with Zoom for our worship services. The numbers of COVID infections, hospitalizations and deaths are as high as they have ever been here in our county with the introduction of the highly contagious Omicron variant.

Meeting by Zoom has seemed to be the safest way, desiring to protect the more vulnerable among us and in our community from serious illness.

We are aware that COVID has become a constant fixture in our lives and adaptations to living with it are needed. With that in mind, a high risk remains for some of us in the congregation. We are in the process of considering what this may mean for safe possibilities for our worship services. What can we do to keep our risk low, but meet our needs for fellowship and communal worship? What adaptations can be made to our current plan?

The COVID Advisory Team has been using the latest data and science in our decision-making. What are your questions and thoughts for us? Please know that we want to hear from you. An email has been created for this purpose, covidteam@eastgoshenmc.org. All correspondence will go to the COVID Advisory Team, including Merle and Naomi. You are also welcome to contact any of the team individually if you would prefer.

We continue to pray for God's guidance for our congregation and ask you to do the same.

EGMC COVID Advisory Team
Bethany Boese
Sheila Graber
Merle Hostetler
Beth Miller
Ellis Shetler
Judy Yoder
Naomi Yoder

OUR CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY

Pathways Retreat will be holding their annual Candlemas and Crepes celebration via Zoom on Wednesday, January 26 at 7pm. Ash Wednesday prayers will be held at noon on March 2. Daily prayers have resumed and are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

Anabaptist World: Money, Faith & You: an online study group

Who do you talk with about money? Who helps you figure out what you really value and how to apply that to your faith and your life? Especially now, in the midst of economic challenges caused by the global pandemic, many of us are confronting decisions we've made (or haven't made) about money and lifestyle.

We have an invitation for you: *Money, Faith and You* is a six-week online study group for anyone who has ever wondered how to more deeply integrate Christian faith into choices about money, working, and lifestyle. The next group will meet for six Wednesdays, January 19 through February 23 via video conference, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. E.T. (There's also a group starting in March!)

We're limiting the group size, so we can have plenty of time for discussion and interaction. Each week, we'll discuss a reading (from leading thinkers like Ched Myers and Walter Brueggemann) and review a writing assignment. And of course, because this is a "virtual group," you'll need access to an Internet-connected desktop computer or laptop with video camera. Registration is \$99, which includes the 57-page PDF study guide. (Scholarships are available, so don't hesitate to apply!)

[Learn more and apply for Money, Faith and You today.](#)

Peace, Mike Little
Executive Director, Faith and Money Network

After 35 years as **Christian Peacemaker Teams**, CPT adopted Community Peacemaker Teams as its new name. This decision was not made lightly and is the result of a long discernment process in consultation with our teams on the ground. You may have questions about this process and this change, so we want to give you the opportunity to dialogue directly with our teams. We are inviting you for a conversation around Community Peacemaker Teams on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 11am Chicago time. Click [here](#) to join.