

JOIN US for Easter Breakfast next Sunday, April 1, 7:45-8:45 in the Assembly Room as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. At 8:45 the Hospitality Committee would welcome as many hands as are available to help with clean-up prior to the Worship Service.

AMC WOMEN: The AMC Women's Retreat brochure that was put in your mailbox was missing an important piece of information: the location of the retreat. The retreat will be held in the AMC Assembly Room on Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

AS WE GATHER for worship on Maundy Thursday this week, the Agape Fund offers us a particular opportunity to serve one another throughout the whole year. Funded largely through the offering taken during the Maundy Thursday service, the Agape Fund was created as a practical way for us to lend spiritual support to one another and to ease unusually heavy financial burdens. Any family/individual is invited to request help from the Agape Fund by contacting their Deacon or anyone on the Deacon Leadership Team or the Pastor. In 2017, \$8,490 was distributed to ease financial burdens among us. If you are unable to participate in the Maundy Thursday service, please consider contributing to the Agape Fund directly. Let's rejoice that we can be present with one another in this way!

ONLY ONE MORE WEEK to make your coins count! The My Coins Count donation jars will be in the foyer through April 1 (Easter). They will be taken to the PA Relief Sale the following weekend.

YOU ARE INVITED to decry a culture of death during Holy Week by expressing your opposition to the militarized drone command center at the Horsham (Pa.) Air Guard Station. Philadelphia's Circle of Hope church will be leading the liturgy on Saturday, March 31. Lancaster County participants in this "witness amid endless war" will leave the Akron Mennonite Church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return by 4 p.m. Contact H.A. Penner at penner@dejazzd.com or 717-859-3529 so sufficient transportation can be arranged.

TONY BROWN CONCERT: Meet your friends and new people working for peace on Friday April 6, at 7:00 pm. Anthony Brown, from Pittsburgh, will present a program of "Spirituals: Songs of Struggle and Hope" at Community Mennonite Church, 328 West Orange St in Lancaster. Give to support Tony's planned peacemaking trip to Colombia. Gain energy for the Poor People's Campaign and Lancaster's Peace Action Network. Expand your network of justice and peace activists. Tony's website: <http://www.anthonybrownbaritone.net> Information: John Stoner 717 859-3388 or Community Mennonite Church 717 392-7567

GIVING & BUDGET

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 5,238	\$ 82,333
2018 Budget Goals	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 9,800	\$ 107,900
2018 Income Budget:	\$ 510,000	
Attendance Last Sunday:	170	

Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
 Church Office: (717) 859-1488 || 1311 Diamond Street || Akron, PA 17501

AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH
March 25, 2018
Covenant: God's Story of Love
Lent 6 – Between Me & You & an Alternative View

Chapter One – God initiates covenant with us

Prelude music Amy Burkholder

Chime & lighting the peace lamp
 Welcome & call to worship (screen)

HWB 238 (blue) *Hosanna, loud hosanna*
 STS 74 (purple) *Hosanna! Hosanna!*

Chapter Two – God woos us with covenant

Scripture Mark 11:1-8 Dot Hershey, Chris Martin
 STS 73 (purple) *Jesus is coming* children & congregation
 Scripture Mark 11:9-10 (screen)
 Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Jim Shenk, Linda Frey, and
 Janessa Zimmerman

Sermon *Triumph and Tragedy* Dennis Ernest
 (screen) *I have decided to follow Jesus*

Chapter Three – We respond to God's covenantal love

Confession
God of covenant,
We struggle to comprehend the expansiveness of your covenant.
Nothing is left out –
not us,
not our hesitation or misunderstanding,
not even our desire for conformity.
We struggle to comprehend that kind of love,
never mind joining it and living it.
To make it more manageable,
we demand a savior we can understand.
We create a comfortable kingdom.
We limit love.
Have mercy on us, O God.
Have mercy on us. AMEN

STJ 47 (green) *Oh, Lord have mercy (stanza 1)*
 Words of assurance

Chapter Four – We join God’s covenant sharing God’s story

Offering and offertory
Offertory prayer

Amy Burkholder

Prayers of the people
STJ 57 (green)

Mayenziwe (Your will be done)

Karyn Nancarvis

Introduction of guests & Announcements

HWB 239 (blue)
Benediction

Ride on, ride on in majesty

**We are covenant people.
We go in God’s love
to extend God’s love
and live in God’s love.**

+++++

Song Leader
Worship Leader

Herman Bontrager
Karyn Nancarvis

Scripture next week: John 20:1-18; Rachel Nolt, preacher

PLEASE JOIN US (10:15 – 10:40)

Everyone is welcome to participate in coffee/tea fellowship following the worship service. Guests, please sign the guest book in the foyer next to the Welcome Desk.

SECOND HOUR FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (10:40 – 11:40)

Adults

Adults and MYF are invited to join in a time of congregational discernment as we continue to process staffing, and hear Rachel Nolt’s thoughts on AMC now and in the future.

Children and Youth

DSECC teachers and MYF who wish to help will provide child care during second hour so that adults who normally teach AMC’s youth can participate in the congregational discernment meeting. Nursery and Preschool will be combined and will meet in the Preschool Room. KG – Grade 8 will meet in the **MYF Room** following the service. Parents, please pick up your children from the **MYF Room** after second hour.

AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Ray & Agnes Hacker, Helena Dueck

Sound/AV Operator: Marv Horst

Nursery Worship: as needed

Nursery DH: as needed

Coffee Servers: Linda & Gerry Horst

Mug Washers: Tim Langeman & Ron Guenther

Ushers: Dale Herr (Head usher), Amy Herr, Lloyd Chapman, Nancy Chapman, Eileen Byler

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 25	Today	Congregational discernment meeting during second hour
March 29		Maundy Thursday meal and service @ 6:30 pm
April 1		Easter Breakfast @ AMC @ 7:45 am
April 1		Adult Choir rehearsal @ 8:15 am; sing for 9:00 am worship
April 3		Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
April 4		Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm
April 5		Men’s breakfast @ 7:00 am @ Udder Choice; Jerry Meck, presenter
April 5		Spring mulching @ AMC 5:00 – 7:00 pm; pizza provided
April 8		Adult Choir rehearsal @ 8:00 am; sing for 9:00 am worship
April 11		Landis Homes residents’ gathering; 10:00 – 11:30 am; Kirkview Lounge
April 11		Luther Acres residents’ gathering; 12:00 – 1:00 pm; The Round
April 11		Connect! @ AMC 6:00 – 7:30 pm
April 12		AMC Council meeting 7:00 pm
April 14		AMC Women’s Retreat; 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in AMC Assembly Room
April 17		AMC Women’s Brown Bag Luncheon 11:00 – 1:00
April 18		Landis Homes residents’ gathering; 10- 11:30 am; Hybrid #1 Comm. Room
April 18		DSECC Friendship Concert (time TBA)
April 22		Men’s Choir rehearsal @ 8:00; sing for 9:00 am service
April 22		55+ meets at noon; Rolando Santiago, presenter

Save these Dates:

May 5	Final Safe Church training for those who work with children and youth 8:15 am – 12:30 pm @ AMC
October 26-27	ACC Fall Assembly @ AMC; details to be announced
	Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF - Grades 9-12):
• April 20-21	MYF Lock-in @ AMC
• June 17-23	DOOR service project in Denver, CO

PRAYERS

Nelson and Susan Blessing appreciate our prayers as Nelson gets ready for radiation and chemo treatments to begin.

Chris Hostetter had carpal tunnel surgery on both wrists on Wednesday. He appreciates our prayers as he recovers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE PLEASED to be using Eco-palms this morning in our worship service. They are sustainably grown and harvested in Guatemala and Mexico. Learn more at ecopalms.org.

OUR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE is March 29 at 6:30 pm. On this evening we practice Jesus’ command to love one another by eating a simple meal together, washing hands or feet, contributing to the Agape Fund of the congregation, and sharing communion.