

**THE AGAPE FUND** offers us a particular opportunity to serve one another throughout the whole year. Funded largely through the offering 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, \$8490 was distributed to ease financial burdens among us. If you were 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!

**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY** to contribute to My Coins Count. Both jars are nearly full! They will be taken to MCC's PA Relief Sale next weekend.

**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

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** at Friendly's: April 2- Support No Longer Alone Ministries (NLAM) by dining out at Friendly's Restaurant, 1521 Oregon Pike, Lancaster on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, from 5:00 to 8:00pm. 15% of the proceeds from the entire evening's service during that time will be contributed to NLAM.

**TED AND CO.** are familiar favorites at AMC. Their production, "Discovery: A Comic Lament", finds unexpected humor at the intersection of justice and land use, offering comic and challenging glimpses into European settler maltreatment of Native Americans. Take this opportunity to learn about love, loss, and land at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church. There is no cost for attendance.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to the Franconia-Lancaster Choral Singers' concert Sunday, April 22, at 3:00 p.m. at Lititz Church of the Brethren. The music featured is Haynd's *Seven Last Words of Christ* and Forrest's *In Paradisum*. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door. See Tim Langeman, Patricia Martin, or Cheryl Zook Justice if you would like tickets.

**GIVING & BUDGET**

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 10,600	\$ 91,933
2018 Budget Goals	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 9,800	\$ 117,700
2018 Income Budget:	\$ 510,000	
Attendance Last Sunday:	197	

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

**AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**April 1, 2018**  
**Covenant: God's Story of Love**  
**Easter – Nothing Between Us**

**Chapter One – God initiates covenant with us**

Prelude music Patricia Martin

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

HWB 278 (blue) *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!*  
HWB 273 (blue) *Low in the grave he lay*  
HWB 267 (blue) *Christ has arisen*

**Chapter Two – God woos us with covenant**

(screen) *God's love is for everybody* Rachel Nolt  
Children's time

Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Angela Zimmerman, Dot Hershey, and Hibist Siyoum

*The Lord is risen indeed* Adult Choir

Scripture John 20:1-18  
Sermon *Resurrection: Nothing Between Us* Rachel Nolt

STS 89 (purple) *Christ is alive*

**Chapter Three – We respond to God's covenantal love**

Baptism of Liam Magill  
Congregational Response screen

STJ 27 (green) *God of the Bible*

**Chapter Four – We join God's covenant sharing God's story**

Offering and offertory Lizzie Hoffman & Claire Magill  
Offertory prayer

Prayers of the people Karyn Nancarvis  
*This joyful Eastertide* Adult Choir

Introduction of guests & Announcements

HWB 282 (blue) *Proclaim the tidings near and far*  
Benediction

Musicians  
Song Leader  
Worship Leader

Diane Gehman & Leon Myers  
Patricia Martin  
Karyn Nancarvis

**Scripture next week:** John 20:19-31; Ginny Hartman, 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)**

Formation classes will not meet today, but will resume next Sunday.

**AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**Greeters:** Don & Elaine Brubaker , Marilyn Langeman  
**Nursery Worship:** as needed  
**Coffee Servers:** Marilyn & Ken Langeman  
**Ushers:** Steve Hartzler (Head usher), Marvin Nolt, Helena Dueck, Jane Hartzler, Clyde Martin

**Sound/AV Operator:** Dale Hershey  
**Nursery DH:** as needed  
**Mug Washers:** Ira & Dottie Nolt

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 2 Church office is closed  
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 @ Agnes Hacker's home  
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  
April 28 Bangladesh fund-raising dinner c/o Richard Sarker

**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 15 Supper Club @ John & Lizzie Hoffman's 5 – 8 pm
- April 20-21 MYF Lock-in @ AMC
- June 10 Senior Recognition Sunday
- June 17-23 DOOR service project in Denver, CO

**PRAYERS**

Nancy Chapman experienced a severe allergic reaction to medication and spent several days in Hershey Med Center. She is recovering at home. She appreciates your thoughts and prayers during this time, and sends her thanks for the flowers from AMC.

Chris Hostetter appreciates our prayers as he recuperates from carpal tunnel surgery.

Nelson Blessing begins radiation and chemo treatments on Monday. Let's hold Susan and Nelson in our prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for spring mulching at AMC this Thursday, April 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes to help spread 34 cubic yards of mulch on AMC's grounds and playground. Pizza will be provided. Thanks in advance!

**ON BEHALF OF** our MYF and our Mennonite college students, thanks for another fantastic auction! We raised around \$30,000 this year (donations and payments are still coming in) – an amount well beyond expectation, and perhaps rivaled only by one other year. The generosity of this congregation and its support for its youth continue to amaze. What a fun evening celebrating our community and our youth! David Wise – Auction Coordinator

**AMC OFFICE AND STAFF SCHEDULE** next week: The AMC office will be closed Monday, April 2. Rachel Nolt will be out of the office through Thursday, April 5. Melody Rupley (phone 717-892-2982) will cover pastoral care needs during that time. There will be no Lectio Divina or Congregational Prayer during the week of April 2-6.

**THE AMC SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT** will be held Saturday morning April 14, from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM in the Assembly Room. The topic for the morning will be "The Stories We Live", with Rachel Nolt as our presenter. The morning will feature coffee, tea and a delicious lunch prepared by our AMC men. Bring a picture book or novel that has been important in your life. Please register with Ruth Weaver ([rsweaver1440@gmail.com](mailto:rsweaver1440@gmail.com) or 717-581-3812) by Sunday April 8. --Women's Retreat Committee, Agnes Hacker, Sarah Eby, Ruth Weaver, Melanie Baer-Drescher

**NOTE OF THANKS:** Dear Church family, Thank you very much for all the support I have received from you over the years. You have shaped me into the person I am today. Know that your love is appreciated and returned. --Chelsea Brubaker