

Connecting with Lester and Eileen Graybill

Lester and Eileen have been attending AMC since Lester retired as Pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church in 1997. Their journey to AMC was a circuitous one via Argentina, Elizabethtown, Goshen, and Orrville.

Eileen was born in Lancaster, but spent most of her early years in Argentina, where her parents, J.L. and Mary Rutt, were long-term Mennonite missionaries. Spanish became her first language, and she spoke it even at home. She was an only child.

Her parents had a baby girl who was born and died in Argentina several years before Eileen was born. Eileen attended the local Argentine public schools, and eventually graduated with a high school diploma from Argentina.



When she was eleven, her parents returned to the States on furlough. They lived in Elizabethtown, PA, and she attended E-town Junior High. Although she did not know him at the time, a boy named Lester Graybill attended the same school. The year in the U.S. was very different for her, but she found it fascinating. She was soon speaking English fluently, and enjoying many new experiences. She especially loved snow, and Christmas in winter was a welcome change from the hot summer weather in Argentina during the holidays.

She returned to Argentina with her parents and spent another five years there, in a different town from the one where she had lived as a child. At that time, it was expected that all missionary kids would return to the States for their education. Just before her eighteenth birthday, Eileen flew alone from Buenos Aires to New York. She did not expect to see her parents for two years. A favorite aunt and uncle met her, took her to Lancaster, and a few weeks later to Goshen College.

College was a new world, with customs and culture that were very different from anything she had experienced, and it required a period of adjustment.

Her aunt had told her that a young man from E-town was enrolled at Goshen. That young man turned out to be Lester Graybill.

Lester was born and spent his childhood in Juniata Co., PA. Unlike his cousins, all of whom lived on farms, his family lived in a small village, where his father had a garage and serviced cars as an auto mechanic. Lester attended a one-room school that was just a block away, so he could always go home for lunch. He was an only child until he was nine-and-a-half years old, when his little sister was born. He had a happy childhood, playing ball with his friends, fishing in the creek, and going to visit his cousins.

When he was in seventh grade, the family moved to Elizabethtown, PA. Lester remembers seeing a certain young girl with long blonde hair at E-town Junior High, but he did not meet her until years later.

He was an honors student in high school, and excelled in many of his classes. After high school, he found a good

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job working in a local bank. During the year following his high school graduation, he had a spiritual experience that changed the focus of his life. He decided to enroll at Goshen College, although he had no vocational goal in mind.

Goshen gave him the opportunity to develop leadership skills through the Y.P.C.A. (the major Christian organization on campus.) He was also asked to room with a blind student and help him find his way around the college. Lester decided to major in Bible. He was interested in Christian service, although not in the ministry.

Two years later, he switched to the seminary track. His faculty adviser then suggested a degree in Elementary Education, which would help him if he needed to earn a living while in some type of service.

Eileen had noticed how helpful and kind Lester was to his blind roommate. That spring, he invited Eileen to a major event at the college: Spring Fest. She was pleased, but considered it only a casual date. Christmas of their junior year, they had their first "real" date, a trip to Ann Arbor to hear a presentation of Handel's "Messiah." After that, they began dating regularly.

Lester and Eileen discovered many common interests. Even though she loved music, Eileen had decided to major in Elementary Education. She and Lester were able to take several courses together. Lester earned a B.A. in Bible, and a year later, a B.S. in Elementary Education.

Eileen had hoped to return to Argentina as a missionary, but it became clear that Lester, although interested in Christian service, did not share that calling.

After a time of indecision, Lester and Eileen broke up for several months. When they got back together, things moved very quickly. Three months after announcing their engagement, they were married.

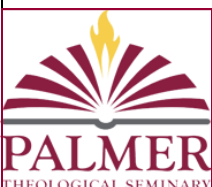
Because Eileen's aunt and uncle were charter members of the Monterey congregation (which became Forest Hills), they were married at the Monterey church. They were married by Eileen's father, who had returned to the States to retire.

A week after their wedding, they moved to Orrville, Ohio. The following year was very frustrating for both of them. Eileen was an inexperienced teacher with 35 first graders, many of whom had not been in kindergarten (which was not required at the time.) Lester was to be an assistant to the elderly retired pastor, while the lead pastor took a year's leave to continue his education. He was also expected to spend some time working in a lumber yard. Unfortunately, the elderly pastor's family experienced serious health problems, and Lester found himself needing to take on more of the work. He had preached only three or four times in his life, but now found himself needing to prepare a sermon every week. Somehow, they survived the year and moved back to Goshen for Lester's last two years of seminary studies. Their first child arrived that fall.



They had been thinking in terms of a small mission church, and had started to explore several options. Then, to their great surprise, they were asked to consider returning to Orrville, this time with Lester as lead pastor. The current pastor had accepted a position as pastor to students at Goshen College. Even though they had not expected to serve in an established congregation, they decided to accept the call and moved back to Orrville.

Some busy years followed. In addition to preaching every Sunday, Lester was expected to plan and lead all worship services, teach a Wednesday evening Bible class, chair several church committees, visit the sick, be available for counseling, and officiate at weddings and funerals. Two more children came along, and Eileen found her life full as a mother and pastor's wife.



After 10 years in this setting, Lester requested and was granted a one-year sabbatical. They moved to King of Prussia, PA, so he could attend Eastern Baptist Seminary (now called Palmer Seminary) in Philadelphia. He commuted to classes every day. Eileen was employed at the Berlitz School of Language, teaching classes in both Spanish and English. It was a refreshing year, and Lester was awarded another graduate degree.

They returned to Orrville, where they continued to serve the same congregation. In addition to his pastoral duties, Lester was active in the Executive Committee of Ohio Conference, and later of the Atlantic

Coast Conference. He also mentored several seminary students, who served as summer associates while they developed their gifts. All of them later became Mennonite pastors.



Eileen started teaching, usually on a part-time basis. She was a Title 1 Reading Teacher in a public school, and also taught Spanish at Central Christian High School. She started singing with several groups: the Symphony Chorus of the University of Akron, Ohio; Blossom Music Center; and later the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. After their move to PA, she continued singing with the Chamber Singers, the Lancaster Symphony Chorus, and Franconia- Lancaster Choral Singers.

As they approached their 20th year in Ohio, they began to think in terms of a more permanent move. Their children were through high school, and they had no binding commitments in Orrville. In addition, Eileen's father had passed away, and her mother was alone in Lancaster. Lester's parents, still in their own home, lived in Elizabethtown.

They were especially intrigued by a call from the Forest Hills Mennonite Church (previously Monterey) where they had been married. Though they had once said they would never return to live in Pennsylvania, circumstances had changed. They accepted the call, and moved to Leola in June 1979.

The next years were enjoyable and productive. The church grew in attendance and membership. A new wing and sanctuary were added to accommodate the steady growth.

After eight years, Lester again felt the need for a "refresher" and was given a three-month sabbatical. He attended classes at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, D.C. The focus of these studies was the development of the inner life and spiritual disciplines. Several years later, Lester and several other local persons formed the Kairos School of Spiritual Formation which still continues. During this time, Lester was also active as an overseer, and served a term as moderator of Atlantic Coast Conference.



While Lester pastored at Forest Hills, Eileen was a Reading Tutor and Teacher of English as a Second Language in the CV School District. She was also very active in Sunday School and Bible School, teaching a variety of ages from kindergarten through adult.

As he approached his 65th birthday, Lester announced his retirement, after a total of 40 years in pastoral ministry. He was invited to become the first chaplain at the newly-formed Garden Spot Village Retirement Center. He served in this capacity for six and a half years, until the end of 2003, and returned for a summer in 2008. It was a very satisfying experience and a good transition from his full-time pastoral assignment.

After Lester's retirement from Forest Hills, they began attending AMC. They have appreciated the world view and service orientation of the congregation. They are constantly amazed at the large number of members who are or have been involved in service assignments overseas and in the US.

During their early years at AMC, Lester preached and led worship a number of times. He also chaired the 55+ committee. Two years ago, he was asked to develop a course of study for the Discipleship Hour that included selections from each of the 39 books of the Old Testament. He and several others then taught the class for several months.

Eileen served on the Congregational Life Committee, sang in the choir, and for eight years was one of the regular Sunday morning song leaders.



After they both retired, they were able to spend more time with their grandson who graduated from LMH last spring. They moved from their home in Leola to a cottage at Garden Spot Village in July of 2015.



Please send in your submissions for the February newsletter to the church office (amc@akrommench.org) by Monday, January 23. Thanks.

Christmas Program and Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 18, 2016, 6:00 pm was a special time to share the Christmas story through music. Different age groups and various instrumentalists shared familiar and less-familiar Christmas songs. The Preschool Age-4 class at Diamond Street Early Childhood Center (DSECC) sang a Christmas song using sign language. They were then joined by the Age-4 – Grade 2 Akron Mennonite Church (AMC) children to sing an Africa-American Christmas song that also used sign language. Two MYFers (Chelsea Brubaker and Seraphina Thorpe) each sang a beloved Christmas song. The congregation also participated by singing four Christmas carols.



In between these songs, instrumentalists played familiar Christmas carols on the piano, strings, brass, and woodwind instruments. Thank you Caden & Bree Beyer, Carter Burkholder, Mataya Chap, Peter & Jon Clemens, Elizabeth Hoffman, Claire Magill, Isaac Nancarvis, Sarah Pereverzoff, and Gavin Shenk. Two unique instrumental groups that also played were the tone chimes (AMC grade 3-4 children) and the boomwhackers (DSECC Kindergarten students).

As always the program ended with a tasty treat for all – punch, cookies, pretzels, cheese, and fruit. What a great way to celebrate Christmas with many of our DSECC families and the younger members of AMC.

Christmas Eve service

Christmas Eve 2016 featured the reading of scripture and singing Christmas carols known as “The Lessons and Carols” service. This service was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean of King's College in England in 1918. It was an adaptation from an order of service drawn up by E. W. Benson who used in a wooden shed which served as his cathedral in Truro on Christmas Eve in 1880.

The pattern and strength of the service, according to Milner-White, is derived from the lessons and not the music. The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible. A great way to tell the Christmas story.

The service ended with AMC’s tradition of making a circle around the sanctuary, turning off the sanctuary lights, lighting a hand-held candle, and singing “Silent night, holy night.” That was followed by holding the handles up high while singing “Joy to the world.”

~ Pat Martin

Pray For One Another

James 5:16

The purpose of “Pray For One Another” is to help us be aware of and pray for members of AMC who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in Sunday morning worship services on a regular basis. Scripture admonishes us to pray. It is one of the joys of the Christian life and part of what makes us community. The names of people listed may change from time to time. If you know of someone you would like to be included with those named here, please be in touch with the church office.



Charlotte Biris	Irma Bowman	Honey (Marilyn) Hernley
Paul & Dorothy Martin	Carolyn & John Horst	Becca Martin
	Philip Rutt	Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank

Keeping up with AMC's Youth



Above and left: The MYF gave parents a 3 hour break on December 3rd, babysitting 15 children at AMC. The kids enjoyed crafts, kickball, cookie decorating, making fruit snowmen, fellowship, and hanging out in the MYF room. It was a good time for all involved!



Below: While most folks were enjoying punch and cookies in the Assembly room, our MYFers were enjoying a Christmas party of their own! They munched on snacks, talked about upcoming expectations, all voted in an "Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest" and participated in a White Elephant gift exchange. One challenge before them was trying to explain to the Nzabarinda girls what a Chia pet was! The fun seems to never end!



MYF also enjoyed time together at the home of Susan King and Christopher Hershberger (not pictured here) for an annual Christmas Supper Club gathering. Lots of food, a good movie and an energetic game of spoons brought special memories for our group!

FLIP (Family Life is Precious)



The first of two FLIP events brought us hiking through the woods on a “Journey to Bethlehem” at Woodcrest Retreat. An interactive live scenes of the unfolding story of Christ’s birth brought the meaning of Christmas season close to our hearts. The second event was held at the home of Steve and Charity Shenk Zook where the children (young and old alike) decorated gingerbread houses with icing, pretzels, cereal and candy... lots of candy!



Share-A-Life

Share-A-Life adult and children mentor partners visited five Akron homes spreading Christmas cheer with fruit baskets and Christmas carols. They were blessed by their hosts with a favorite Christmas memory or story from the past. The children were surprised to learn that “back then” a fond memory was getting only ONE gift on Christmas morning.

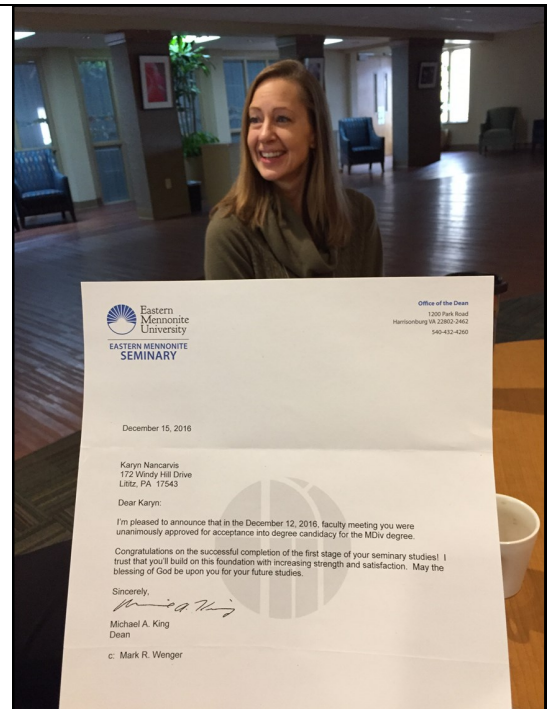


“Somebody prayed for me”... A Christmas gift through a phone call into the church office brought with it the awareness of prayers from another congregation. One of the pastors of Lititz Church of the Brethren

called to ask if we had found a pastor yet, and that they had been praying for us! They were brought up to date with the new information about Rachel joining our congregation as Pastor, and they will continue to pray for us through our transition. What a gift to be prayed for in that way! ~Karyn Nancarvis



On December 21, AMC staff enjoyed a Christmas breakfast lovingly prepared by PCRC (Pastor-Congregation Relations Committee) members Kevin King, Nancy Chapman, and Grace Weber. The group celebrated Karyn Nancarvis' acceptance into the Masters of Divinity Program at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.



Connect!



“Many hands make for light work” was the theme of the first Connect! community event for the month of December. The group worked seamlessly together to produce 163 complete hygiene kits and 7+ partial kits for MCC in under an hour’s time. The second event of the month was a celebration of advent with sugar cookie decorating and a viewing of the movie “A Charlie Brown’s Christmas”.





Medicine and Religion: A Partnership for Healing

Last year our son, Tim Langeman, responded to an ad in The Mennonite which invited individuals with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder to participate in a genetics study. This October we received a newsletter entitled "Bipolar Genetics" from the National Institute of Mental Health. It included an article called *Medicine and Religion: A Partnership for Healing.* Here are excerpts from that article.

The genetics of psychiatric illnesses, like bipolar disorder, are complex. There are over 100 genes linked to bipolar disorder alone!

"Genetically isolated" communities are ideal for the study of the inheritance patterns of all disease, especially complex diseases. The plain community's heritage is one example of this. So, seven years ago we started reaching out to Amish, Mennonite and other Plain communities.

We are humbled by the warm response we have received. We now work with Amish and Mennonite communities in 16 states across the United States and in Canada and Brazil. Participants welcome us into their homes. Rest house facilities like Green Pasture and Rest Haven, regularly invite their residents to participate in our study. And communities and families ask us, time and again, to give informational talks on mental health issues... Many people wonder how our medically-oriented approach mixes so smoothly with our participants' faith and faith-based practices. At first glance we might seem like opposites. Our institute, the NIH, is one of the foremost medical research centers in the world, dedicated to the science of medicine. Our participants come from some of the most insulated communities in the world, dedicated to faith and family. How do we work together?

The answer is surprisingly simple. Medicine and faith can work together. It does not have to be one or the other. It can be both.

Our two communities have more in common than they are different. Both our team and our Anabaptist partners strive for health. Our mutual goal is to alleviate suffering. As healthcare providers, we support the ill through medicine, evidence-based counseling, and caring human relationships. As Christians, the Anabaptists support the ill through prayer, service, and caring human relationships.

We understand mental health problems and mood disorders as medical illnesses. This makes it easy for medicine and religion to work together. Some people view mental health problems as a problem with a person's character. This is a misconception common among both the Plain and the English communities. Mental health is one part of health.

Psychiatrist and psychologists strive to help people with mental illness become healthy again. When this is not possible, because many mental illnesses can't be cured, psychiatrists and psychologists help people to cope with their symptoms better so that they can get the most out of life.

One indicator of health is whether the individual can effectively contribute to society. Anabaptists also want all members of their communities to do their part and contribute what they can to their society... Their health is integral to the success of the family and the community. Our Anabaptist partners tell us they want patients with mental health problems to "take responsibility for their actions" and "glorify God." Isn't working hard to get healthy and stay healthy just one very important way to glorify God? Taking responsibility often means taking treatment. Treatment helps return a suffering patient toward health. Together medicine and faith care for the whole person, mind, body and spirit. Put too simply, counseling treats the mind, medication treats the body, and prayer treats the spirit. In reality, these all work together. Counseling also improves the body and the spirit. Medication eases emotions and relaxes the mind. Sometimes patients need medication so that they can participate in counseling and prayer. Likewise, prayer can quiet the mind and awaken the body. So taking responsibility really means three things: taking care of your mind, body and spirit. For people with mental illness treatment can help with all three. We see medicine and faith as shared missions.

~submitted by Marilyn Langeman



Stewardship Note

Thank you for your faithful giving in 2016! We are blessed with a strong commitment to giving which has yielded a strengthened reserve as we end the year. This will set us up well for 2017, and ensure that we can continue our commitments to staff, programming and outreach.



Planning for your 2017 Giving?

For those who are 70 ½ or older, there is a potentially effective way to give to AMC through an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution. It's a pretty simple concept, you can take part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) and direct it to a non-profit organization like AMC. By doing this, you are using your RMD, and the money you give is not counted as income, so you avoid paying the income tax.

My colleague Greg Pierce, Director of Development at Mennonite Home Communities, has created an excellent video on this topic called Good News for Generous People. It is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/9LXwnSgRhw8>. If you cannot access it on Youtube, let me know and I can get you copy that you can watch on your computer.

Other Ways to Give:

Speaking of IRAs, did you know that if your **IRA beneficiary** is an individual that they will be required to pay income tax when they withdraw the money? Assuming that your spouse is not your beneficiary, you might consider making a charitable organization, like AMC, the beneficiary of your IRA because it will pass to the organization with no taxes. If your estate is your IRA beneficiary it will require your estate to pay tax on the IRA when the money is withdrawn.

Need to make a sizable gift in 2017 for tax purposes, but aren't ready to give it all away immediately? You might consider an **Everence Charitable Gift Fund** (also called a donor advised fund). You give the money to Everence and receive an immediate tax deduction. Then, you direct Everence to distribute the money to non-profit organizations at a time that works for you. This is also a way to make anonymous one-time gifts to non-profit organizations and avoid getting on their mailing lists.

Don't forget that **stock** makes a good charitable contribution. You donate the stock to a charitable organization, the organization sells the stock and takes the money, and you receive a charitable deduction, and avoid paying capital gains.

~ Renny Magill, Stewardship Committee Chair



January (and beyond) at AMC & In the Community

JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 3** Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
4 Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm
5 Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7:00 am; Ray Hacker, presenter
6 Share-A-Life Game Night @ AMC @ 6:00 pm
11 Connect! @ AMC @ 6:00 pm; Game night
14 Men's Festival Choir Rehearsal @ AMC @ 11 am
15 Sunday Soup following Discipleship Hour
15—18 Winter Bible School @ AMC with Don Blosser
 January 15 beginning at 9:00 am
 January 16-18 beginning at 7:00 pm
21 Menn. World Conf. Global Songfest @ AMC, 7 pm
22 Nzabarinda celebration, Assembly Rm. @ 4 pm
25 Connect @ AMC @ 6:00 pm; food prep for Ephrata Community meal
28 MYF Spaghetti Dinner 5:30—7:00 pm. Drive-thru and delivery to Akron & Landis Homes available

SAVE THESE DATES

- February 9 AMC to serve the Ephrata Community Meal
 February 12 Fellowship meal @ AMC with MYF dessert fund raiser
 March 18 MYF Auction and Pig Roast

Every Thursday evening an Ephrata Church prepares and serves a meal to elderly and lower income residents in the Ephrata area. We, Akron Mennonite Church, will be responsible for the meals on Thursday, February 9th, [May 18th](#) and [August 3rd](#). [If you enjoy helping with these meals, please put these dates on your calendar.](#)



For the meal on February 9th, we will need donations 18 pies. If you are willing to donate a pie, please let Jean Buchen know. If you are willing to help with prep, serving and/or clean up contact Jean Buchen.



Mennonite World Conference
 Congreso Mundial Menonita
 Conférence Mennonite Mondiale
 Mennonitische Weltkonferenz

MWC Global Songfest - January 21, 2017

Many of you attended the MWC International Hymn Sing at Forest Hills Mennonite Church last January. It was a "hit" and many have asked if there will be another hymn sing again in 2017. The answer is YES!

Plans are "in the works" for another hymn sing which is being called "A Global Songfest." You are invited to participate in this global songfest, which is sponsored by Mennonite World Conference, Saturday, January 21 at Akron Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm. Come celebrate World Fellowship "weekend" by singing together songs from around the world.

If you are interested in helping to lead, either as a vocalist or instrumentalist, please contact Pat Martin (pmartin@akronmench.org) and plan to come in the afternoon to prepare for the evening event. It will be very helpful to know in advance how you'd like to be involved.



Adult Winter Bible School @ AMC Jan. 15-18, 2017 (9 am Jan. 15; 7 pm Jan. 16-18)

Led by Don Blosser, Retired Professor of Bible—Goshen College

Sacred Stories -- Radical Vision: A Conversation with the Bible

In our time together we will look at how the Bible was written and what this means for how we read it today. We will be encouraged to "Read the Bible Again For the First Time" (a book title by Dr. Marcus Borg). As we look at contrasting Biblical Themes we will explore how as followers of Jesus we can best find guidance for our time.

A central goal in our study will be to create an understanding of and respect for the Biblical text within our Anabaptist/Mennonite faith tradition. We will expect depth of conviction while accepting diversity of response. We will not focus on finding right doctrinal truths, but a faithful living response to Jesus as Lord.

We're glad you're our neighbor



"**..we're glad you're our neighbor**" signs in three languages are popping up here in Akron and elsewhere across the country. Here is some background which appeared in Lancaster Newspapers.

The thousands of signs across the country all stem from a single, black-and-white, hand-painted sign on one church in Harrisonburg – Immanuel Mennonite.

Pastor Matthew Bucher was definitely not setting out to start a nationwide phenomenon. His sign went up last year after he was "pretty disappointed" with the rhetoric of the primary debates, especially as directed

toward people who weren't born in the U.S.

"The church is located in the northeast part of Harrisonburg, which has a long tradition of being the African-American part of the city," he says. "But in the past 20 years it's also become home to a lot of people from Central America, the Middle East and around the world."

"That's why we did it in three languages — English, Arabic and Spanish," he explains. "Because those are the three most common languages spoken in our neighborhood."

Bucher's sign was a statement born out of Mennonite belief. "This is a symbol of Jesus' command to love your neighbor," he says. "And as followers of Jesus, we follow someone who was himself a refugee."

The full article can be read at http://lancasteronline.com/news/pennsylvania/welcoming-lawn-signs-appear-in-english-spanish-arabic/article_8dd68c51-b7f2-55ed-bdb5-13fdbf5b5ecc.html

The Outreach Commission is making the signs available via the church office. We encourage you to both post the signs and use it as an opportunity to invite dialogue with your neighbors. In fact, we suggest that personal conversations will help avoid the possibility that the message is misinterpreted. ~ Ken Langeman for Outreach Commission

Landis Homes is seeking music volunteers - small group singing or individual instrumental: piano/ organ, accordion, violin, guitar, Autoharp or harmonica or any combination! Please contact Volunteer Services at 717-509-5409 for additional information.



No Longer Alone
MINISTRIES

Hope & Empowerment for Mental Wellness

Family Support Group (FSG)

FSG brings Christian support for families and friends of loved ones with mental illness. There are informative topics to enhance insight and understanding of mental illness. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Sunday of each month from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at Rossmere Mennonite Church, 741 Janet Ave, Lancaster. Educational program runs from 3-4pm; Share and Care Groups meet from 4:10-5pm.

Upcoming Topics:

- January 22nd - Anxiety Disorders presented by Carla Kouterick of the Family Resource Counseling Center
- February 26th - Office of Aging Overview led by Steve Brubaker, Aging Waiver Coordinator
- March 26th - Family Journey Highlight Panel Discussion

Annual Music Night—Join us for another great night of music on Saturday, January 28 at 7 p.m. Hear the male chorus, Men with a Song; Verdi baritone John Bucher Herr; Mindy Nolt and Jared

Hankee; and the women's ensemble for Mennonite Heritage Chorale. Enjoy lively congregational signing led by Merle Good. Tickets are \$22 for individuals, \$15 per person for households of three or more. Register at lms.org, or by calling (717) 393-9745. Tickets available at door while they last.



Lancaster Mennonite
Historical Society

Stewardship University

Save the date!



Saturday, April 8, 2017

Calvary Church

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

You can count on

- Workshops that offer practical, relevant, useful information
- A wide variety of workshops to choose from
- A biblical, Christ-centered, Anabaptist focus for the event

Keynote speaker

John Pletcher, lead pastor of Manor Church – Gears, grease and glory: joining God's mission in your daily work

More than 30 workshops focusing on holistic stewardship, including:

- **Business as mission: Transformational leadership in the workplace** – Keith Blank of Lancaster Mennonite Conference, Tony Hunt of LEFC, John Pletcher of Manor Church with marketplace leaders
- **Being a Sabbath-keeper** – Jim and Kaylene Derksen of Eastern Mennonite Missions
- **Bioethics and the church** – Ken Nafziger of Evangelical Seminary
- **Following Jesus in befriending Muslims** – EMM's Christian/Muslim Relations Team
- **Nutrition and fitness** – Janelle Glick and Erica Kauffman
- **Welcoming refugees** – Christine Baer of Church World Service
- **Aging in place** – Anabaptist Providers Group (APG)
- **Estate planning** – Tim Shawaryn of Brubaker Connaughton Goss & Lucarelli LLC
- **Ethical wills** – Sophie Penny of Foxdale Village
- **Restoring women from trafficking and exploitation** – Jen Sensenig of North Star Initiative
- **Hunger and homelessness** – Lancaster County Council of Churches
- **Financial education and budgeting** – Lutheran Social Services
- **Alzheimer's and dementia care** – Home Instead

For more information, contact:

Kevin Nofziger, Church and Member Relations Representative
kevin.nofziger@everence.com, (717) 653-6662

You can also register online at StewardshipUniversity.com starting Thursday, Dec. 1.



January Birthdays

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
1 Dave Frey Ethel Shank Ruth Weaver	2	3 Phillip Zimmerman	4	5 Ken Langeman Ezra Smee	6 Lorene Horst Jean Miller Emily Walker	7 Sue Broaddus
8 Sandi Thorpe	9 Karen King Rebecca Longenecker David Nancarvis	10 Herman Bontrager Steve Hershberger John Horst	11 Sharon Bowman Jolene Weaver	12	13 Linda Horst	14 Esther Hostetter
15 Sanela Gligorevic Flo Harnish	16 Corin Dundore Barbara Erb	17 Nebojsa Gligorevic	18 Joyce Haller Mark Weaver	19	20	21 Caden Beyer Bernice Valverde
22 Andrea King Bob Martin Esther Weaver	23 Brigham Martin Barbara Mitchell	24 Cathy Boshart Meghan Nolt	25 John Shearer	26 Megan Erb Steve Hartzler Jared Horst Joy Millen	27 Lloyd Chapman Dorothy Martin Kenton Martin Sven Sundberg	28 Chris Hostetter
29 Verna Schrock Milo Smee	30	31 Leif Sundberg				

Akron Mennonite Church

1311 Diamond Street
Akron, PA 17501
P: (717) 859-1488
E: amc@akronmench.org

www.akronmench.org

- ◇ *Worship @ 9:00 am*
- ◇ *Coffee/Tea Fellowship from 10:15-10:40 am*
- ◇ *Christian Education & Discipleship Hour from 10:40-11:40 am*

Staff

Rachel Nolt
Pastor
rnolt@akronmench.org

Karyn Nancarvis
Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries
knancarvis@akronmench.org

Melody Rupley
Director of Equipping Ministries
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Patricia Martin
Minister of Music and Worship
pmartin@akronmench.org

Rebecca Pereverzoff
Administrator
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amc@akronmench.org



Contact Updates

Please note this email correction for Marlene Gentzler:
gentzlerml@gmail.com

AMC Vision Statement

Akron Mennonite Church will be fully engaged in God's mission in a broken world as we are called, equipped and sent by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in life. Shaped by the gifts and vision of our members, we will keep Christ and church at the center of our lives as we reach out to neighbors near and far and witness to the world around us through an Anabaptist-Mennonite expression of faith.

Statement on Human Sexuality

We are a community of believers seeking to respond with God's love to all people. We celebrate the strength of our unity in the midst of our diversity of experiences, perspectives and understanding of Scripture. We seek to be a community of grace and reconciliation and so welcome into membership all who confess faith in Jesus Christ, including those in same-gender covenant relationships. We are committed to engaging in God's mission in a broken world through an Anabaptist-Mennonite faith perspective.