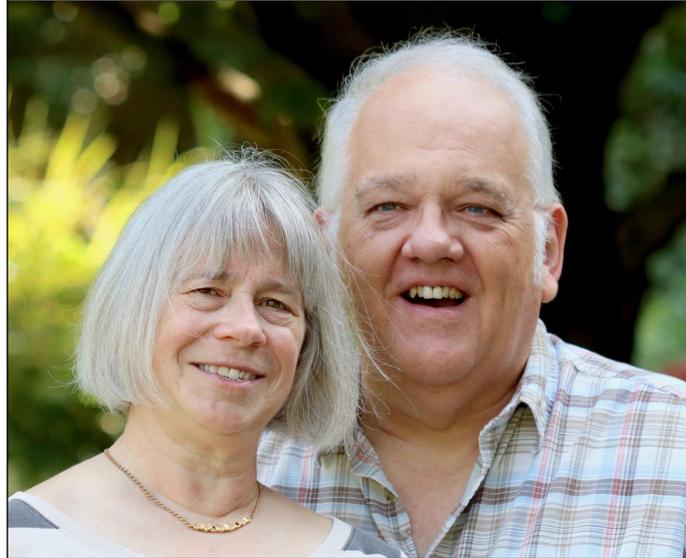


Connecting with John and Pat Martin

John and Pat became part of AMC in 1999 when Pat joined John and the children who had come two years earlier to check it out. John, Christina and Kenton found this to be a welcoming place. They put a deposit on a seat for Pat to join them, when she left St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lititz, to help with children’s music and later to take the opening at AMC as director of music.

Pat’s position has changed description several times over these fifteen years, and she continues to serve us with her many gifts of music and leadership.



Patricia Hernley, oldest of five children, born to Ephraim and Mabel Weaver Hernley, grew up on a farm near Elizabethtown. The farm had been in the family for over one hundred years. Pat was assigned various chores to help the family business. Along with their chores, she and a brother and sister were playmates. They raised three orphan lambs. Strawberry was named after Pat’s favorite ice cream.

Pat’s family found time each year to take family trips. She remembers trips to New York World’s Fair, Montreal Expo, Niagara Falls, Michigan, Florida, and New England.

Extended family in the community was a big part of Pat’s childhood. She and cousins played at Sunday afternoon gatherings. They played church, taking turns being the preacher, song leader and superintendent. They used hymnals and the Bible. The dolls were the children. They also played school using their mother’s books as texts.

The Hernley family, along with extended family, were active in Elizabethtown Mennonite Church where Grandmother was Pat’s first teacher and her uncle was pastor.

Her parents sang in the Elizabethtown Chorus and Pat attended rehearsals, learning to sing “How Great Thou Art” at age three. Dad sang in a men’s quartet which practiced at their house to sing in community churches.

Pat’s school experiences included Kraybill Mennonite, Rheems Elementary, and Elizabethtown High School. She transferred to LMH for her senior year. Band, orchestra and chorus were all part of her school life.

John and Pat say that they have always known each other. John was best friend of Pat’s brother, so he was part of the family life. They knew each other from school and community.

John was seventh of eight children, born to William and Sara Brubaker Martin. Their family operated a beef and hog farm in West Donegal Township. John ran the hog business on the shares with his dad. He spent more time in this business than going to school during his secondary school years. They fattened seven hundred hogs a year when John was a teenager. In addition, the farm included three hundred beef cattle.

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Worship Schedule

- Jan. 7 . Rachel Nolt
- 14 . Karyn Nancarvis
- 21 . Gerald Brunk
- 28 . Rachel Nolt

John had a curious mind as a student. He was known to challenge and ask why as he engaged with the teachers. He found intrigue with all disciplines, all avenues of learning. He excelled in the accelerated academic track. The National Honor Society welcomed John.

With numerous interests and abilities, John was challenged to narrow his course of study beyond high school graduation in 1973. Taking a break from studies, John spent a year in Washington D.C. with Mennonite Voluntary Service working at Washington Hospital Center.

The next year John enrolled at EMC in pre-med and religion. After changing college majors twice, John graduated in 1979 from Elizabethtown College with a B.S. in Accounting. He spent two years in auditing, then changed careers to information technologies. He earned a second degree in Computer Science from Penn State in 1984.



Meanwhile Pat attended Millersville University where she earned a B.S. in Music Education. She was active in various music groups. She paid tuition from her job teaching private clarinet and piano lessons.

Her first teaching job was at Kraybill Mennonite where she taught for three years, as well as holding jobs as organist at two large churches.

It was during these years that Pat and John were married at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren in 1978. She juggled teaching jobs after the first year of marriage when John took a job in Baltimore, Maryland.

The following year John found a job that fit him very well, and they moved to York, PA where Pat continued to find work in the field of music, teaching in school, and serving as a church organist and choir director.

John and Pat moved back to this area and settled in Mount Joy where they welcomed Christina in 1986. Kenton joined the family in 1989. Twenty years ago, they moved to their current home on Breezewood Drive near Lancaster.

John worked most of his professional career in business information technologies, including operations, software development and as a database analyst.



Pat found fulfillment beyond her various jobs to be active in the American Guild of Organists, Choristers Guild, Bainbridge Band, Franconia Lancaster Chorale as well as Pit orchestra for high school musicals.

Her hobbies include reading, gardening, canning and freezing produce. Pat likes to travel, especially educational trips.

When the children were growing up, John and Pat took family trips to North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.

More recently, Pat has opportunity to accompany Christina when she travels for professional meetings. This is prime time for Pat to explore and learn about the area where they are traveling.

Both Christina and Kenton are married and find fulfillment in successful careers.

~Priscilla Ziegler



Kevin King and J.W. Sprunger at food parcel packing night at the Material Resources Center. The parcels are destined for Puerto Rico. The project was a collaborative effort between Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference, Mennonite Disaster Service, and Mennonite Central Committee.

Scenes from December



On December 3, around 20 people gathered to bring Christmas cheer into the homes of 5 of our senior AMC members. We were warmly greeted with open doors, big grins, and special treats. One treat was at the home of Helen and Bob Peifer where they shared and allowed us to play musical chimes hand crafted by Helen’s brother. Jingle Bells never sounded so good! A special treat the carolers shared was having young Bree Beyer (left) accompany us on the song Silent Night with her ukulele. The end of the caroling brought us to the home of Lin and Don Good who spoiled us with cookies, warm cider and hot chocolate. Sharing stories of special Christmas memories and traditions made yet another memorable event for us all. —photo by Karyn Nancarvis

The December 17 Christmas program featured an abundant variety of choral and instrumental music.



String ensemble organized by Amy Martin Burkholder

Peter Clemens sings “Believe”

Flute duet—Elizabeth Hoffman & Aubree High



AMC’s youngest children sing

Dylan Nolt on saxophone



AMC’s older children on tone chimes

—photos courtesy of Lloyd Chapman

Addiction

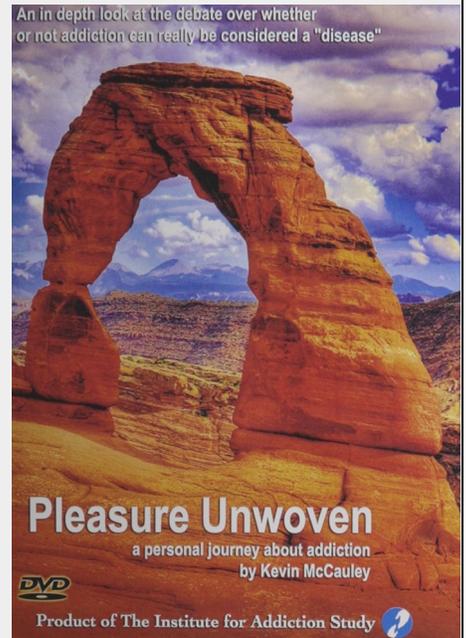
What is addiction? Is it really a disease? Whether you are a teenager or grandparent or in between, you are invited to view the video, "Pleasure Unwoven: An Explanation of the Brain Disease of Addiction" a personal journey about addiction.

Come to the Assembly Room on Sunday, January 28 at noon or as soon as possible after Second Hour Formation Opportunities. You are invited to bring your own lunch or sign up for pizza. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Dr. Kevin McCauley uses the spectacular landscape of Utah's State and National Parks to describe the brain areas involved in addiction, turning complex neuroscientific concepts into easy-to-understand visual images that will help people in recovery feel better understood, and their families and friends feel hope that recovery is possible.

Here is one review:

This is a paradigm shifting piece - a physician makes an extremely strong case, in laymen's terms, for why addiction is truly a disease, just as real and just as powerful as what we think of as physical health issues. He explains that since medicine threw up their hands about this public health issue many decades ago, as a society, we've dumped it instead in the lap of a criminal justice system which does not help addicts find a way back to health and to reclaiming their lives.



—submitted by Marilyn Langeman






**Submissions for the February newsletter
are due in the church office by Wednesday,
January 24. Thanks.**




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 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 | Al Claassen | Flo Harnish |
| Carolyn & John Horst | Paul Martin | Philip Rutt | Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank |

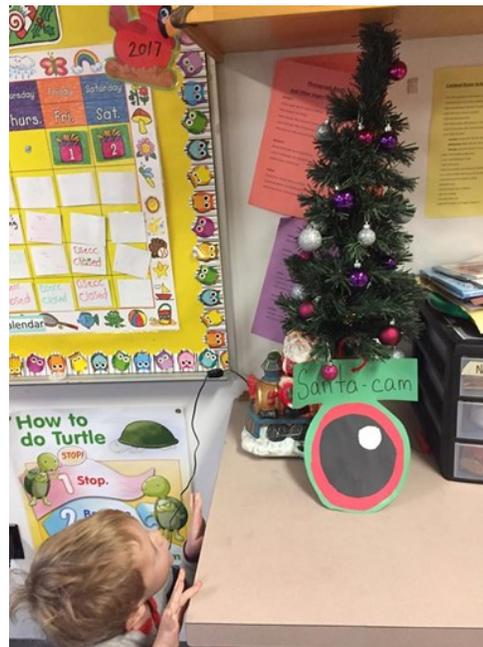
Diamond Street Beat

By Kim Bell
January 2018

January can be a long, cold month and is a time when most of us hunker down and try to get through the winter. Here are some ways we “warmed” hearts at Diamond Street in recent weeks:

- ◆ The children created close to 100 Christmas cards for Meals on Wheels recipients.
- ◆ A “Santa-Cam” appeared in the Cardinal room and created quite a stir!
- ◆ We went caroling down Dawn Avenue and serenaded our neighbors, then enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies in the Big Room.
- ◆ Our Giving Tree gifts were distributed to the classrooms. Thank you to all the gift givers!
- ◆ We provided donated treats and drinks to our parents on the last day of school to thank them for their trust in us.

We hope you all have a very happy New Year and that you and yours enjoy a wonderful, healthy 2018!



Diamond Street Staff Bio



Michelle Landis is one of two Lead Teachers in the Robin Room, working with the 2-year-olds. She’s also one of our event planners, helping to coordinate fun events such as our Friendship Concert, Fall Fest, and Christmas Secret Santa.

Michelle began working at Diamond Street in 2010 and has worked in various classrooms during her tenure here. She has an Associate’s degree in Early Childhood Education from Harrisburg Area Community College.

She lives in Schoeneck with her Pug, Chipper. Her family also raises ducks, geese, chickens, pigeons, turkeys, quail and pheasants. Some of Michelle’s hobbies include hunting, fishing and shopping.

Her favorite part of working at Diamond Street is watching the children learn and grow each day. She also enjoys the friendships she has made with the other teachers here. We are lucky to have Michelle here and we love her infectious smile, energy and enthusiasm!

January (and beyond) at AMC & in the Community

January Upcoming Events

- Jan. 2** Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
3 Stewardship Committee meeting @ 6:30
4 Men's breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7 am
5—7 Jr. MYF retreat at Camp Hebron
10 Connect! @ 6:00 pm; games at Rick & Joyce Haller's home
11 Garden Spot Village residents' lunch with Rachel Nolt @ 11:30 am
11 AMC Council meets @ 7:00 pm
14 Men's choir rehearsal @ 8:00 am; Sing for 9:00 am service
14 Sunday Soup @ AMC
16 Women's brown bag luncheon 11 am to 1 pm; Dottie Nolt's home
20 MYF Spaghetti Dinner 5—8 pm
21 Discernment Sunday during 2nd hour
28 F.L.I.P. roller skating @ Mt. Gretna 2—4 pm

SAVE THE DATE

March 24, 2018 MYF Auction

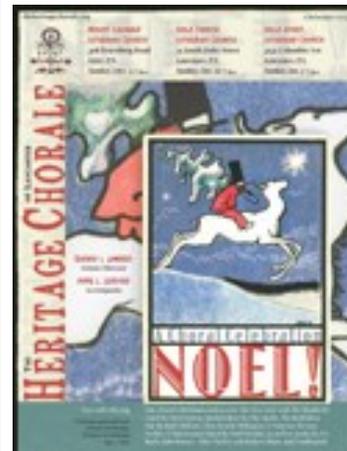
Pies needed for Ephrata Community Meal

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 meal on **February 8th**, we will need donations of 18 pies. If you are willing to donate a pie or are willing to help with prep, serving and/or clean up contact Jean Buchen (jbuchen@kthighland.com or 717-396-0025).



MYF: Looking Ahead

- Jan. 14: supper club @ Karen & Kevin King's @ 5 pm
 Jan. 19: set-up for Spaghetti Dinner 6-9 pm
 Jan. 20: Spaghetti Dinner 5—8 pm
 Feb. 4: Dessert Fundraiser following Fellowship meal
 Feb. 9—11: Weekend at Kings' Cabin
 Feb. 25: Supper Club "International Food and Foto Fest" at Sarah's house



The final performance of the Heritage Chorale's Christmas concert will be Sunday, January 7 at 4:00 pm at the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Lancaster.

AMC Women's January Brown Bag Lunch



Our next brown bag lunch is scheduled for January 16, 2018 at the home of Dottie Nolt (966 Hammon Ave., Ephrata). Come and help us bring in the new year for AMC women. Dottie will provide coffee and tea and water and we each bring our own food. We will gather from 11 am until 1 pm. Come for the whole time or you may come on your lunch break, or whatever segment of time fits your schedule. See you there.

End of Life video showing

Everence invites us to the free premier showing of a video titled *End of Life*. This new presentation, based on the journey of Daryl and Lila Garber, reflects on the value of each person sharing end of life wishes with family and making plans for final days in advance. Garbers were former members of AMC. Their end of life story grew out of what they learned as participants in one of the AMC End of Life seminars facilitated by Don Ziegler, Jerry Shank and Richard Leaman.

Everyone is welcome to this showing on January 21 at 3:00pm in the Westview Community Room at Landis Homes.





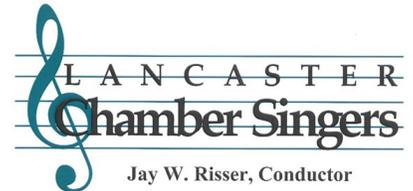
Gerald Brunk at AMC on Jan. 21

On January 21 (World Fellowship Sunday), AMC will host Gerald Brunk during morning worship. He will present a re-enactment of Menno Simons' 16th century journey toward a Biblical faith as a Dutch Catholic priest.

Brunk earned his doctorate from the University of Virginia, and is Professor Emeritus of History at Eastern Mennonite University where he taught for 36 years. He is married to Shirley, and they have six wonderful grandchildren. Since 1986 he has given his Menno Simons impersonation many times and in numerous states as far west as Fresno, California.

Janet Weber writes: *I heard Gerald Brunk in person present "My Road to Decision" impersonation of Menno Simons at the Brubaker reunion this past summer at Millersville University. The audience was spellbound and could sense the conflicted mental struggle Menno was facing in his spiritual journey. I would encourage you to mark January 21 on your calendar and to invite your friends and neighbors to learn more about Menno Simons and the Anabaptist movement that Menno embraces in his life at a high cost.*

The Lancaster Chamber Singers, under the direction of Jay W. Risser, will hold auditions in early January 2018.



The Lancaster Chamber Singers performs a variety of music from the great masterworks to music of contemporary composers. In spring 2018 the ensemble will mark its 40th anniversary with a gala concert featuring Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with orchestra and guest soloists.

The ensemble rehearses fall through spring on Tuesday evenings and presents 3 to 5 concerts at Christmas and in the spring, with occasional additional performances.

Singers who have had vocal training and/or experience performing classical choral repertoire are encouraged to audition!

For more information or to be placed on the audition schedule, please contact the Lancaster Chamber Singers via email at lancasterchambersingers@gmail.com or by phone at 717-330-9025.

FOREST HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH, 100 Quarry Road, Leola, invites the public to its annual 4-week Winter Bible School Bible series focused on *Fruit of the poisonous tree: Conversations on race, faith and reconciliation*. Beginning January 10, Wednesday evening sessions, led by local pastors and community service leaders, will begin with a shared meal at 6 p.m., followed by teaching for adults and activities for children in grades K through 8 at 7 p.m. Please call the church at 717-656-6227 or email fhmc@foresthillschurch.org to reserve your space at the shared meal or register your child for participation. Further details can be found on the church's website at www.foresthillschurch.org.

Annual Music Night



Join us for another great night of music on Saturday, January 27 at 7 p.m. at Neffsville

Mennonite Church. Performers include Ministers of Music, organist Gregory Gehman, the Radiettes, and Lancaster Mennonite School's alumni male ensemble. Tickets and more information are available at lmhs.org or by calling (717) 393-9745. Tickets are \$22 for individuals, \$15 per person for households of three or more. Register at lmhs.org, or by calling (717) 393-9745.



The Craft Stand coordinators want to remind crafters to create for the 62nd annual PA Relief Sale which will be held Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7 at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg, PA. They are seeking crafters who work with fabric, wood, paper, yarn, thread, or jewelry to make and donate quality crafts. Donations can be dropped off any time at Ephrata MCC Material Resources Center or brought to the Craft Stand during the sale. If you have questions, contact Janet Runion Patton at 717-272-1708 orjcpatton99@gmail.com.

Upcoming Workshops at the Parish Resource Center:

(Note: these are all free to attendees from AMC)



Three Lancaster Clergymen Who Made a Difference

Tuesday, January 30 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Parish Resource Center

FREE to PRC Member Churches

\$15 for Non-member Churches

This workshop will discuss three Lancaster city clergymen and the impact that they each had on the Lancaster community. Each was a dominant force in the community during the time of their service to their respective flocks in Lancaster.

Gender-Based Violence and the Church: A Path Forward

Monday, February 5 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Parish Resource Center

FREE to PRC Member Churches

\$15 for Non-member Churches

Led by Dr. Stacie Molnar-Main, Community Educational Consultant

It seems that each day there are reminders in the media of how pervasive sexual violence is in our world. What is the role of the church and how can people of faith talk about and engage with issues of gender-based violence in ways that are educational, productive and transformative?

Child Protection Duties for Churches

Tuesday, February 6 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Parish Resource Center

FREE to PRC Member Churches

\$15 for Non-member Churches

Led by Ann Martin, Attorney at Gibbel Kraybill & Hess LLP

Find out what legal duties your church should be aware of in order to create a safe space for children. Covered topics will be Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law, as well as what civil liability could arise if a church does not have proper procedures in place or fails to take certain steps in response to accusations or allegations of child abuse.



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
7 Sue Broadus	8 Sandra Thorpe	9 Karen King	10 Herman Bontrager Steve Hershberger John Horst	11 Jolene Weaver	12	13 Linda Horst Willard Martin
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 Bob Martin Esther Weaver	23 Brigham Martin	24 Cathy Boshart Meghan Nolt	25 John Shearer	26 Megan Erb Steve Hartzler Joy Millen	27 Lloyd Chapman 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

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Rebecca Pereverzoff
Administrator

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Contact Updates

No updates have been received since the December newsletter.

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.