

## Connecting with Doug and Joanne Dirks

Doug and Joanne met while serving on separate global assignments. They have continued to find satisfaction, honing their skills, individually and as partners, to serve the global community throughout most of their marriage.

Joanne Ranck grew up surrounded by world community impressions and influence. Her dad's support of the local mission board brought a special gift to his family and set the tone for Joanne's future path.

Her home church, Rohrerstown Mennonite, found itself in decline in the 50's and 60's with divisive issues of TV, dress, and loss of confidence in leadership. However, support of the mission board was Robert Ranck's priority. He had bought an adjoining farm to use in his plumbing business. The available house was offered to EMM as a place for missionaries on furlough.

Each year for ten years they had new neighbors, sometimes with children Joanne's age, who came from far-flung places. She learned about Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Viet Nam through personal stories and friendships.

Joanne's family expanded its horizons as older siblings left home for service in Boston, Atlanta and Ontario. Travel to visit these places enriched her sense of service and geography.

These older siblings were the first set in her blended family. Their mother died at age twenty-six, leaving dad with three small children. He then married Joanne's mother and the second half of children followed.

When Joanne transferred to Lancaster Mennonite School, she left many good friends at Hempfield. LMS had a smaller student body, and there were opportunities for leadership for Joanne that she would have missed at Hempfield. Her parents viewed Christian education as preparation for life-long service with the church.

Between her junior and senior years Joanne joined a student tour of Europe. This experience planted the seed for her decision to return to Germany and Switzerland a few years later as an Intermenno trainee. The Intermenno program invited North American young adults to spend a year living and working with European Mennonite families.

Her vision of Mennonites in Europe gave Joanne an added piece to her world vision. This assignment was also timed well so that she would meet her life partner.

Doug Dirks also chose Intermenno service and intersected with Joanne in southwest Germany: Gondelsheim and Esslingen. Doug had access to a 1960 VW Beetle, so it was his privilege to chauffeur Joanne, among others, for exploring and sightseeing. This was the beginning of the wanderlust that set their attention for international travel.



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### Worship Schedule

- Nov. 6:** Mission Fest with DSECC
- Nov. 13:** John Denlinger
- Nov. 20:** MYF Sunday
- Nov. 27:** First Sunday of Advent

Doug's roots were across the North American continent from Lancaster. He grew up in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada, the oldest of three children of Walter and Sue Dirks. The family attended the local Mennonite Brethren Church where Doug was baptized at sixteen.

Primary school was in the local public school, before Doug entered high school at the Mennonite Educational Institute in Clearbrook. He notes his biggest accomplishment in high school was his performance on first base on the fastball team that won the provincial championship.

It was during a two-year post high school experience at Columbia Bible Institute that Doug learned about the Intermento trainee program. He signed up.

After their first terms in Germany, Joanne and Doug moved on to different assignments. They exchanged addresses and kept in touch with an occasional card.

Joanne came back home to finish college. She transferred earlier credits from Millersville and enrolled at EMU as an English major. During these years, Joanne became active in a small congregation in the hills beyond campus. Don Ziegler's parents were the pastors, and Joanne immersed herself and offered her gifts to this culture away from school. She later became coordinator for this program of matching students with small rural churches.

The summer after college, Joanne was invited by Phyllis and Merle Good to the management position at the People's Place. This job covered many areas related to informing tourists about local Mennonite and Amish culture to tourists as well as giving exposure to local Mennonite artists.

Her interest and knowledge of the Mennonite world expanded in this position. She attended Mennonite World Conference in Wichita in 1978, an experience that confirmed for her that she was indeed to be a Mennonite. She thrived on that expanded view beyond Lancaster Conference. She continues to feel gratitude for our global fellowship as she has attended more recent world conferences.

Now it was time for Doug to reappear in on Joanne's radar. She planned a vacation to see a friend and former trainees in Washington. When she got to Bellingham, she learned that Doug was just across the border. They connected.

There was more than a spark of interest and after three years of long distance courtship, Joanne and Doug were married in 1980 at Rohrerstown Mennonite Church.

Doug had returned from the year in Europe to enroll in the business school at the University of BC in Vancouver. He graduated in 1977 with a degree in commerce. He was offered a job with one of the "Big Eight" accounting firms and did auditing and small business consulting. Because this job required a lot of travel, Doug looked for a less hectic schedule when they married. He began working for the Auditor General of BC in Victoria.

Joanne and Doug saw this as temporary as they set their long term goals for service. Meanwhile Joanne volunteered to represent SELFHELP Crafts in Victoria, and this made the connection to MCC.



When MCC invited Doug and Joanne to positions in Bangladesh, they had to look up its location. They eagerly signed up, ready for the adventure of service; three years of productive, satisfying, and rewarding work.

Doug was the Job Creation Administrator. Joanne worked as a marketing consultant for many small enterprises that employed over four hundred women. One of their largest export customers was SELFHELP Crafts. Doug realizes the benefits of this work when he visits businesses that continue to operate, and employ women who were considered to be unemployable.

Joanne and Doug returned to Akron in 1985 where Paul Leatherman had jobs waiting for them in SELFHELP Crafts.

It was during the early years here that they began their family. Two years after Karl arrived, twins Erica and Paula completed the family. Doug and Joanne were grateful to Ella and James Reiff who welcomed the three children to their local farm and provided years of babysitting and friendship.



Ten years later they moved to Ontario where Doug became director of SELFHELP Crafts Canada. During this time the name was changed to Ten Thousand Villages. Joanne joined the team as Festival Sale Coordinator, organizing church and community sales across Canada.

Ten Thousand Villages initiated their move back to Pennsylvania in 2002, with a new assignment. Joanne became manager at the store in Ephrata, and Doug worked from the Akron office. It was a difficult adjustment for all, especially with teenage children.

Joanne and Doug have been coming to AMC longer than to any other church. They have been generous in offering their gifts to our community. Joanne taught Sunday school, chaired the gift discernment committee and presently serves on church Council. Doug serves on stewardship committee as well as church treasurer.

Doug retired from Villages in 2014 and now enjoys a happy ending to a career in fair trade, coming full circle. He joined Bunyaad, which operates the rug room at Villages in Ephrata. He is actually employed by a Pakistani owned artisan business rather than just selling a product made by artisans in Pakistan.

Joanne is currently employed at Landis Valley Museum as coordinator of the Heirloom Seed Project, staffed with twenty-five volunteers. Eric Habegger is remembered as the legendary volunteer and Don Ziegler recently grafted apple and paw paw trees for her.

Joanne and Doug also treasure being grandparents to Owen, age two. They share Owen with another grandma, Susan Blessing, Christy's mom.

Christy is a medical technician at Lancaster General Hospital. Karl is a farm manager as well as owning his own business: Lancaster Seed Sales. They live in Rheems.

Paula, now Parker, attended Goshen College before transferring to Nova Scotia College of Art and Design for a BFA in Ceramics. Parker now lives and works in Toronto.

Erica earned a degree from Millersville in Anthropology/Archeology. She just completed a seasonal job with the US Forest Service in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho.

Joanne and Doug are settled into their home on Lititz Pike, just north of Route 30. They share many memorable times from their well-traveled life.

One accomplishment that stands out from their years in Bangladesh was the trek to the base of Mount Everest. They made it to Kala Patthar, a moraine at the base of one of the glaciers that flows off of Everest. Standing on top of a foothill at 18,200, they remember gazing up in wonder at another 11,000 feet of mountain.

~ Priscilla Ziegler



**Please send your submission  
for the December newsletter  
by November 23 to  
[amc@akronmench.org](mailto:amc@akronmench.org).  
Thanks.**

### *Thoughts on Discernment*

November promises to be an exciting time of discernment and decision making for AMC! For some months we have been journeying toward such a time—“building the bridge as we walked across”, seeking out next steps on the path and holding tight to each other as we traveled—sometimes uncertainly—together.

As a community on a journey we are called to seek the common good before our individual good. “We” must be more important than “I”. Throughout this journey, we have affirmed with one another that discernment involves the whole community. We have learned that we must respect each other enough to talk together about important concerns we have. We have to take each other seriously. We seek God’s guidance partly by relating with others who are seeking.

To share important decisions in community is not to give up personal responsibility. In community we begin to have the freedom to share our leadings. We want to be accountable to one another in our discernment. We do this in faith that God’s guidance is clearer when we discern as a community earnestly seeking God’s way. The community is wiser and holier than the sum of its parts.

And a time of discernment is at hand! We want to make a decision consistent with our understanding of the body of Christ, a way of hearing and following together. Let’s rejoice in the possibilities these next steps of our journey provide! ~ *Melody Rupley*



### *Season of Advent*

Awaiting the Arrival of Christ



**Advent 2016** celebrates the arrival of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s heart. Our invitation this year is to walk in the way of God’s heart. The “way of God” has a double meaning of walking like someone else walks and walking as a journey or pilgrimage. Either usage invites worshipers to consider God’s heart as the emanating energy which creates the kingdom of God.

Each week will have a different focus of God’s heart – peace, harmony, healing, restoration, birth of Jesus, and radiance. When we walk in the way of God’s heart, we are co-creating the reign of God here on earth.

The lectionary texts are Year A – Old Testament readings from Isaiah and Gospel reading from Matthew. The weekly texts are:

November 27 – Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44

December 4 – Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 – Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

December 18 – Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 – Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20

January 1 – Isaiah 60:1-16 and Matthew 2:1-12

Come each week and be inspired by an aspect of God’s heart and walk in that way to co-create God’s reign on the earth.

~ *Patricia Martin*



AMC now has an official Facebook page that anyone can follow by either searching for Akron Mennonite Church or going to

<http://www.facebook.com/AkronMennoniteChurch>

Once there, press the “Like” button to receive posts and updates from the page.



Like

## *Keeping up with AMC's Youth*

### ***F.L.I.P. (Family Life is Precious):***

Our F.L.I.P. (Family Life Is Precious) ventured out for an afternoon on the farm of Dale and Dot Hershey. The blustery fall day at 55 degrees created the perfect environment for hot chocolate, and roasting hotdogs and marshmallows over an open fire. Dawn Nolt and Karyn Nancarvis worked together to facilitate a candy corn relay race, three legged race, doughnuts on a string, and pumpkin painting. The highlight of the event was the parent-child activity of creating toddler-sized scarecrows and stuffing them with hay. Do you know the difference between hay and straw? WE do! Ask one of our AMC kids for the answer. *(F.L.I.P. photos by Karyn Nancarvis)*



***Above:** Painting faces on pumpkins to use as scarecrow heads.*



***Above:** (from left) Violet Chap and Ellie Burkholder with festive fall hair-styles.*



***Left:** Isaac Nancarvis and his new scarecrow friend, Jimmy.*

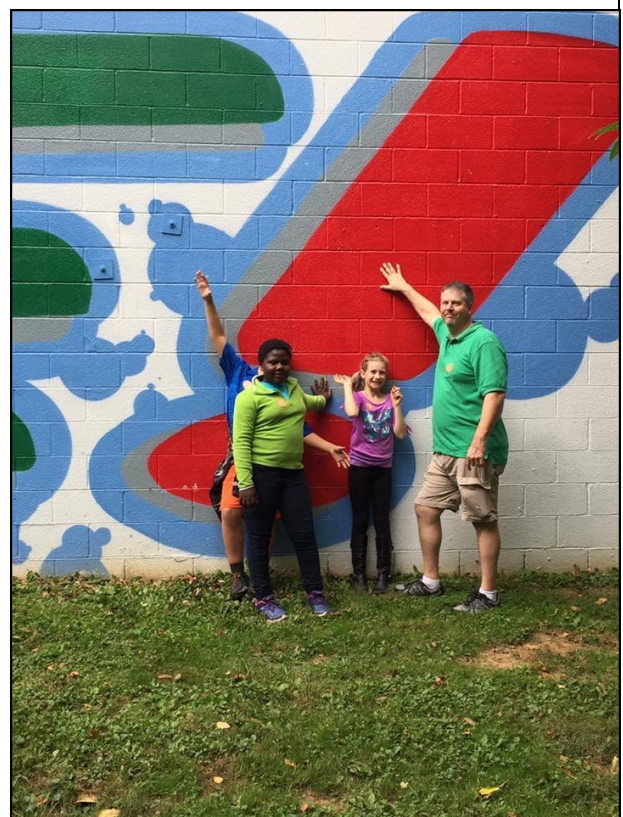
***Below:** Scarecrows and their kids.*



***Jr. MYF:*** (Right) On October 16, four Jr. MYF'ers participated in the CROP walk and raised \$750 in pledges. Shown beside a mural on the Ephrata Linear Trail are (from left): Caden Beyer, Esther Nzabarinda, Damadi Yocum-Pringle, and Jon Clemens.

*(Photo by Renny Magill)*

***Upcoming Jr. MYF event: Movie night on Nov. 4 @ 7 pm @ AMC***



**MYF:** Your Akron MYF has had a busy Fall with church and school activities in September and October.

Supper Club in September was held at the home of Lawrence and Melody Rupley, where a sumptuous platter of hamburgers and cheeseburgers were served. MYFer's were taught to sing the prayer meal to the tune of Rock Around The Clock. Melody was surprised the MYF knew the tune, until she discovered that a least four members of MYF are in marching band.

The other big event was the Ephrata parade which the MYF watched from the porch of Jerry and Ethel Shank. Onsite news reporter Karyn Nancarvis filed this report. "Nick, Jessie, Abby, Anna, myself, Chelsea and about 8 of her friends joined us curb side for the parade. One highlight this year... besides all of the candy, the Oregon Dairy float handed out bananas and the Sauder Egg float handed out pickled eggs (in a bag). No experience like the Ephrata Parade! :o) Emily greeted and handed out candy to us all in her splendid costume, and we cheered for those in the band: Liz, John and Claire . It was a memorable evening."

During the months of September and October, Janet Stauffer led the MYF during the Sunday School hour in an in depth look at the gifts of the Spirit. Through hands-on activities and discussion the MYF was challenged to look at their gifts, to hear about their gifts from others and come to understand how the gifts of the body are many and all are needed.

MYF is planning the worship service for November 20 and will be presenting a service based on gifts of the Spirit as they are found in the AMC Congregation.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed donations to our first dessert fundraiser last week. The total amount was \$414.05. These funds will go toward our trip to Convention in Orlando Florida this summer. The convention theme is "Love is a Verb".

Supper Club for October was held at the home of John and Janet Weber. Pizza was served and those in attendance got a chance to meet Rebecca Nolt. It also the first time the game of spoons was played with real Silver Spoons. ~Rich Crockett



**Left:** MYF'ers preparing to serve desserts at their fundraiser on October 16

*Photo by Karyn Nancarvis*

**Right:** Playing spoons during Supper Club at Janet & John Webers' on October 23

*Photo by Rich Crockett*



### **Upcoming MYF Events:**

Now through November 13: Planning for MYF Sunday  
 November 6: MYF to wash mugs after church  
 November 11-13: EHS fall production—Emily has a lead!  
 November 20: MYF Sunday at AMC  
 November birthdays: Chris (Nov. 11) and Sarah (Nov. 30)

2017

Jan. 28: Spaghetti dinner  
 March 14: Auction  
 July 4-9: MCUSA convention—Orlando



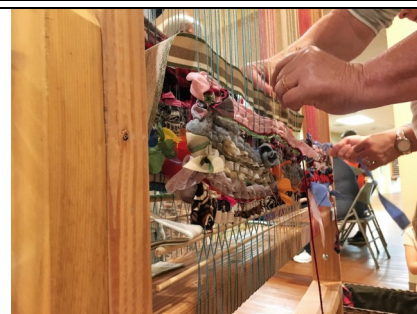
*Above: Caden Beyer created a working loom from Legos! Photo by Carolyn Beyer*  
*Below: Connecting as they weave. . . and eat! Photos by Sandy Thorpe (upper) & Karyn Nancarvis (lower)*



## Connect!

AMC has been busy building community through our **Connect!** Program happening on Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:30pm! They have been focused on a working weaving loom, educated in its history, purpose and construction led by Nancy Chapman and loom-builder Lloyd Chapman. A scripture study through the Book, “Extreme Virtues” has begun and the children have learned new music instruments and basic steps in preparing music for worship with Pat Martin. They also spent a special evening in conversation with our new pastoral candidate, Rachel Nolt.

The shared meal to start the evening has generated lively interactions and fellowship. The weaving loom will be a short, on-going activity each night as we build a tapestry of our experiences together. Book marks with upcoming dates are on the Welcome table in the foyer. Come on out and be a part of AMC’s Community. If you are unable to attend, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to support our program by providing a simple meal for about 20 people on a Wednesday evening.. ~ Karyn Nancarvis



### Upcoming Connect! Dates



November  
2, 16, 20

December  
7, 14



January  
11, 25

February  
1, 8, 22



March  
8, 15, 29

April  
19, 26



May  
3, 6

*Below: Making music during Connect! Photo by Carolyn Beyer*



## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO MILITARY TAXATION

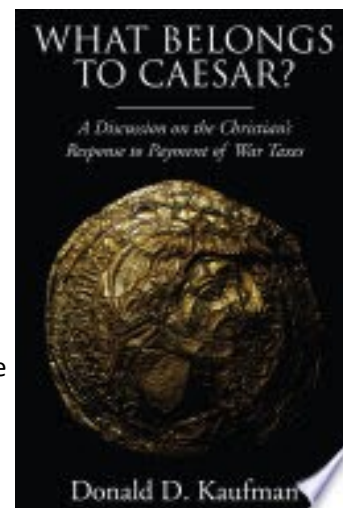
Because of deeply held religious, moral and ethical beliefs, many experience a moral dilemma when required to pay federal taxes that underwrite war-making and militarism.

What moral injury do we suffer when we pay for war while praying for peace? Is it possible for people who don't believe in violence to actually pay for war? What a struggle of conscience!

John Steen, in a 1969 leaflet entitled "Death and Taxes," challenged us with these words:

*If you were handed a gun, right now, told to shoot a man - or drop napalm on a village - you couldn't do it. . . . But the same good people who would vomit at the sight of burning flesh and blood on our hands have no qualms paying taxes for somebody else to kill and burn. If we are forced to face the issues, we make excuses. . . . The managers of the Empire will let us speak - as long as we hand over the young men and the cash. And we are afraid to refuse. . . . The government could never get away with murder - in Vietnam or anyplace without help. The War Machine must be fed warm bodies and cold cash by the millions.*

As a conscientious objector to war, I have been struggling with this moral dilemma ever since Steen wrote these words in 1969, the same year I began working at my first job after college. My immediate supervisor, Paul Leatherman, had recently returned from a Vietnam Christian Service assignment assisting refugees in South Vietnam caught in the crossfires of that war. He introduced me to Don Kaufman's book, What Belongs to Caesar?



Both Paul's witness and Don's book were influential in convincing me to redirect as much as possible of my tax obligation to organizations promoting peace. Encouraged by my faith community, I withheld a portion of what the Internal Revenue Service said was my annual federal income tax obligation and sent a letter each year to the U.S. President, my Senators and Representative as well as the IRS. I told them what I was doing and why and asked them to enact the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act (currently H.R. 2377 in the 114th U.S. Congress).

Some relief from this moral dilemma became available in 1974 when Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) were introduced. I was able to begin making maximum traditional IRA contributions each year in which I had at least the equivalent of that much annual income. Through the years, this both limited the amount the IRS determined I needed to pay and decreased my financial support of war-making and militarism. My conscientious objection to military taxation was partially addressed by pursuing this option.

But the "chickens have come home to roost," so to speak! Since I've reached the age of 70 ½, the IRS now says I must take a "required minimum distribution" from my IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA or retirement plan account. That requirement not only affects the amount of federal taxes the IRS says I owe but also means I have to pay more for war!

Fortunately, in recent years the U.S. government has allowed a very important tax option to IRA owners over the age of 70 ½. If you are at least that age and have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 allows you to make tax-free contributions of up to \$100,000 annually to qualified charities that count towards your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Making a direct charitable gift from your traditional IRA, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), is simple. **But it is important to get the procedure right.** You must contact your IRA Plan Administrator and have the funds transferred **directly** from your IRA to a qualified charity. Depending on the manager, the gift may take a week or more to process. Check with your tax accountant to determine the latest information about how you might most appropriately make your contribution.

(continued on Page 9)





**One might say this is an opportunity to further pursue conscientious objection to military taxation.** If we channel up to \$100,000 of our annual required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to qualified charities, we can avoid reporting that income on our federal income tax return—an amount that can be used to wage peace instead of war.

Since the 1940s conscientious objectors are no longer obligated to serve in the U.S. military. While conscientious objectors cannot physically fight in the U.S. armed forces, many of us provide the U.S. government with the financial wherewithal to pay others to do it. The government requires us to pay taxes--44% of the 2017 U.S. budget underwrites war-making and militarism according to the War Resisters League (<https://www.warresisters.org/resources/pie-chart-flyers-where-your-income-tax-money-really-goes>). We pay for war but refuse to fight in it.

Because paying for war is a form of participating in war, let's continue to address our moral dilemma of paying for war while praying for peace. ~ Harold A. ("H.A.") Penner

## 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    Al Claassen    Honey (Marilyn) Hernley

Carolyn & John Horst    Becca Martin

Paul & Dorothy Martin    Phillip Rutt    Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank



### **AMC-DSECC Fall Fest Coming Soon!**

Put Saturday evening and Sunday morning, November 5 and 6 on your calendar for the AMC Fall Fest (formerly the AMC Missions Festival Weekend). We will celebrate DSECC's caregiving role for children in the community and AMC & DSECC's partnership together since 1969.

Saturday evening will begin with a chicken barbecue (for those who signed up) at 5 pm. DSECC parents and children will be our guests for the meal.

The concert by Steven Courtney, starting at 6:30 pm., is open to everyone in the community, so invite your friends and neighbors!

The Fall Fest celebration will continue on Sunday morning. The worship and Discipleship Hour will feature special presentations about Akron Mennonite's partnership in the mission and programs of DSECC



~ Outreach Commission

## Mental Illness in the Bible

In April 2013 Rick Warren and his wife Kay lost their son, Gabriel, to suicide. Rick Warren is the founder of Saddleback Church, a megachurch in southern California. The Warren's response has been to build a ministry to help others who suffer from mental illness.

In September 2013 Rick and Kay Warren's personal experience was aired in a TV interview, hours after LifeWay Research reported that nearly half of evangelical, fundamentalist, or born-again Christians (48%) believe that people with serious mental illness can overcome their condition through prayer and Bible study alone.

Even as evangelical leaders like the Warrens and former Southern Baptist Convention president Frank Page (who lost a daughter to suicide) publicly share their stories, mental illness continues to be seen as a spiritual deficiency or character flaw by some Christians.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention report that nearly half of all adults will develop at least one mental illness in their lifetime. Studies also show when people are struggling with mental illness, the first place they call is the church.

Among the topics found on the Saddleback website is "**Mental Illness in the Bible.**" Rev. Talitha Arnold is shown in a six-minute talk summarized here:

Rev. Arnold never met her father; he was hospitalized before she was born. As a World War II veteran, he had "battle fatigue." While on leave from the hospital he died by suicide. Rev. Arnold didn't learn about the actual reason for his death until she was 16 years old. In those years the church never talked about mental illness or suicide. And to her it felt like if the church couldn't talk about mental illness, God couldn't either. Her father's suicide caused her to ask many questions that she would not have asked if he had died of cancer or a heart attack.

Later as a young minister, Rev. Arnold was asked to preach on Jesus' healing miracles. To her chagrin she discovered that the very first miracle Jesus performed, recounted in Mark 1, was a healing miracle – a healing that with our present understanding of the brain we recognize as healing from mental illness. Rev. Arnold analyzed Jesus' miracles and found that the number of miracles related to first century understanding of mental illness was more than all the other miracles combined. She realized that mental illness happens in every family regardless of education or economic status. She concluded that the healing Jesus performed was a miracle, but an even greater miracle was that Jesus was not afraid of the man, he engaged him, and he had compassion on him. The question the man asked was "Jesus, what do you have to do with us?" That is the cry of everyone with mental illness. If the church doesn't speak to that question, the answer is "nothing." But it is a central calling of the church to make connections within the congregation to provide hope and protective factors to those who suffer.

~ Marilyn Langeman

<http://hope4mentalhealth.com/>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/march-web-only/rick-warren-saddleback-mental-health.html?start=2>

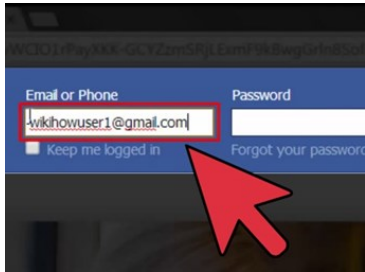
<http://hope4mentalhealth.com/watch/media/mental-illness-in-the-bible>



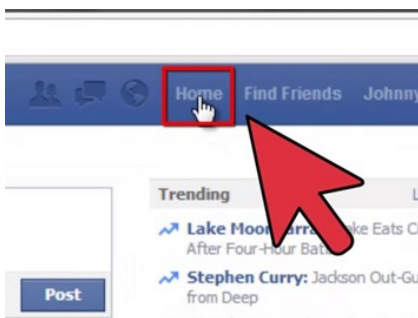
## Tech Tips: Technology Tools for our Time

**How to Hashtag on Facebook:** Including hashtags in your Facebook posts will make your content easier to find when searched by other users who share the same interests. Hashtags, when clicked on, will take you to a feed of public posts that contain the same hashtag. They will appear as clickable links in your timeline and throughout Facebook.

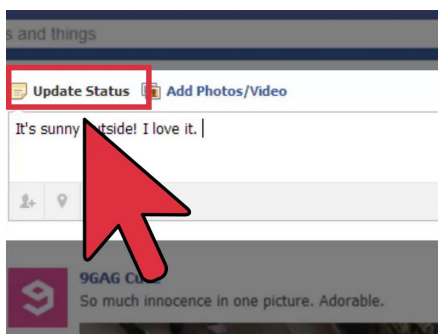
**Step 1:** Log onto Facebook's website.



**Step 2:** Click on the "Home" link at the upper right corner to access your Facebook profile.

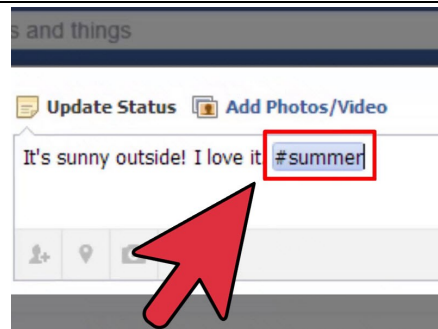


**Step 3:** Type your post into the "Update Status" field.

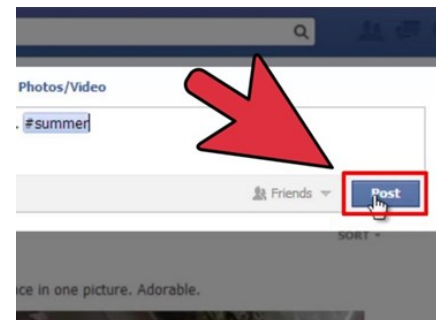


**Step 4:** Type a "#" sign followed by the topic or phrase you want added to your post. All words in the phrase must be written as one word, such as "#howdoudo". Hashtags can contain numbers and letters, but do not support the use of punctuation marks such as commas, exclamation points, asterisks, etc.

*Optional: Consider making your post public if you want people who aren't on your friends list to find the hashtag.*



**Step 5:** Click on "Post" after you have finished typing your post and hashtag. The hashtag you created will now display as a clickable link, which you and other Facebook users can now use to search for related posts on Facebook.



### Using Hashtags Appropriately:

Use hashtags that are relevant to your posts. The purpose of using hashtags is to connect with other users who share the same interests. If you post hashtags that are off-topic just for the sake of grabbing more attention, other users may find your content more like spam (or unwanted information).

Be as specific as possible when using certain hashtags. This practice will help other users narrow down their search when seeking users with similar interests. For example, if you are posting an update about basketball, use hashtags such as "#basketball" or "#NBA" instead of a vague or general hashtag such as "sports."

Be a mature presence in cyberspace. Everyone is watching. ~Karyn Nancarvis

For more info on how to post hashtags, go to:

[www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)

## November (and beyond) at AMC & In the Community

### NOVEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1 Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am  
 2 Connect! @ AMC @ 6:00 pm  
 Library Committee @ AMC @ 6:00  
 3 Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7:00 am  
 Lloyd Chapman, presenter  
 4 Jr. MYF movie @ AMC @ 7:00 pm,  
 5 Mission Fest with DSECC Begins!  
 5:00 pm Chicken Barbecue  
 6:30 pm Steven Courtney Concert  
 6 Daylight Savings Time ends  
 6 Worship featuring AMC's partnership with  
 DSECC  
 10 Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm, Rm. 133  
 14 AMC Women's Work Night at New Holland  
 ReUZit Shop @ 6:00 pm  
 15 AMC Women's brown bag lunch @ Helen  
 Peifer's @ noon  
 16 Connect! @ AMC @ 6:00 pm  
 19 Fall Leaf Cleanup @ AMC (details TBA)  
 20 MYF Sunday  
 27 Advent begins  
 30 Connect! @ AMC @ 6:00 pm

### AMC Women's Brown Bag Lunch



Women's Brown Bag Lunch is a 3rd Tuesday of the month informal event for women to get together and learn to know each other better. The next meeting is on November 15 at Helen Peifer's house.

Volunteers are needed for all months through May (except March) to host the event. The host provides cold water and hospitality. If you have space for about 8 to 10 people and would be interested in hosting, contact Jane Hartzler at 475-8967 or [jhartzler134@gmail.com](mailto:jhartzler134@gmail.com)

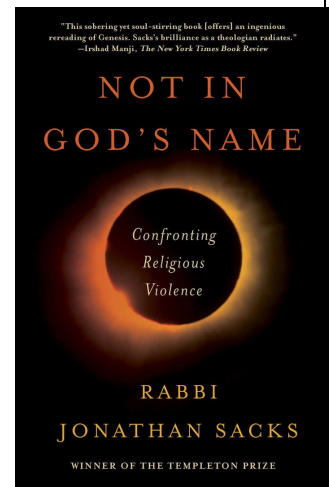
### SAVE THESE DATES

- December 18 AMC Christmas Program and Tea  
 January 6 Share-A-Life Game Night @ AMC  
 January 15 Sunday Soup @ AMC  
 January 15-18 AMC Winter Bible Study  
 January 21 Mennonite World Conference  
 Global Songfest and Workshop @ AMC  
 January 28 MYF Spaghetti Supper  
 March 18 MYF Auction

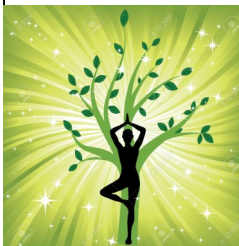
### New Discipleship Hour Class to begin Nov. 13:

A Discipleship Hour Class, Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks will form the basis of a study-discussion on Sundays beginning November 13 through December 18. Rabbi Sacks explores the roots of violence and its relationship to religion. By looking at an interpretation of the foundational stories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Sacks suggests the source of the religious extremism today that threatens to destroy us. A reading of Not in God's Name is essential for an understanding and participation in class discussion. Books are available in the AMC office for a donation of \$20.

~ John Weber, Class Convener



**New Yoga Series Begins:** A late fall/holiday series taught by Kandace Helmuth and held at AMC will be held on Tues. evenings, Nov. 1—Dec. 13 from 6:00—7:15 pm. A drop-in fee of \$15 per week will be permitted in lieu of registering for the entire class. Registration forms are available on the AMC bulletin board. Contact Kandace for more information at:



[kandace@ptd.net](mailto:kandace@ptd.net)

**Jr. Dept. Christmas Project:** AMC's children invite you to participate with them in a Christmas project to benefit MCC. Hygiene kits are urgently needed to replenish warehouse inventory that has been depleted by crises in Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine. Hygiene kit contents are: 1 adult-size toothbrush, 1 large bar bath soap, 1 fingernail clipper (good quality), and 1 hand towel (dark color). Donations should be returned to AMC by November 27, or to the Material Aid Center by November 30. Questions? Contact Karyn Nancarvis.



An **AMC WOMEN'S WORK NIGHT** will be held at the **New Holland ReUzit Shop**, 707 W. Main Street, New Holland on **Monday, November 14**. Please join us for a light meal at **6:00** to be followed by an evening of work and fellowship. Park in the parking lot at the back of the building. Please RSVP Susan Blessing at 717-682-0919.

**Music and Worship Leaders Retreat - January 6-8, 2017:** This is the 30th year for the Music and Worship Leaders' retreat held annually at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. This year participants will explore together, with the guidance of **Isaac Villegas**, the Anabaptist tradition we love, and think together about how it can be interpreted in the future. There will be time to talk together about our singing legacy and where it's headed. In addition, some basic training for our emerging music and worship leaders will be an option during the weekend. There will also be a session with committee heads to hear about the new **hymnal project**. For more information and registration,



**Save the Date** for a Mennonite World Conference Global Songfest to be held Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Akron Mennonite Church. A workshop for congregational music leaders called "Bringing the Music Home" will precede the songfest.



Mennonite World Conference  
Congreso Mundial Menonita  
Conférence Mennonite Mondiale  
Mennonitische Weltkonferenz



You are invited to join KAIROS for a day retreat on the spacious grounds of the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9:00 to 4:00. John Drescher-Lehman will lead the retreat, Praying with Nature, as we consider spiritual aspects of nature and how they connect with our spiritual journeys. We will be using nature imagery to

ground us through prayer and spend time with nature to connect with God's heart and journal/reflect/pray. For additional information and to register visit <http://www.kairosjourney.org/praying-with-nature/>

"Nun of Your Business" is a comedy about keeping vows of reverence and working with the poor when faced with a shady business dealings being put on by the Promise Players Theater Group at Lampeter Church of the Brethren, 1900 Lampeter Road, Lancaster. Performances are November 4 -6, and 10-13. Seating reservations strongly recommended. Suggested donation of \$7/person benefits No Longer Alone Ministries. See details at <http://www.lampcob.com/promise-players>.



**Seminary and STEP Preview Night** EMU Lancaster, 1846 Charter Lane, Lancaster

... A great way to look and ask questions in an informal setting

Date: Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016 from 6:00—8:00 pm

- \* Light meal and overview of programs
- \* Sit in on a Seminary class
- \* Panel discussion with alumni
- \* Q & A with EMS Staff

The next School for Leadership Training at EMS will be held January 16-18, 2017. This year's theme will be "Yearning to get along...and be true to ourselves," and will feature plenary speakers Dr. Christena Cleveland and Dr. Drew Hart.

Here is a link for more information:

<http://www.emu.edu/seminary/slt/>





## Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 4

The Trust Performing Arts Center  
37 North Market St., Lancaster

Refreshments: 6:00 p.m.

Concert: 7:00 p.m.

Limited tickets available!

Buy Now: [VoicesOfHopeOpera.org](http://VoicesOfHopeOpera.org)

Concert proceeds benefit the children and young adults through MCC's Global Family educational programs



## Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

- **The Future Has Multiple Bottom Lines**—Join ASSETS and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society at 7 p.m. on November 7 at Neffsville Mennonite Church for a panel discussion, "The Future Has Multiple Bottom Lines." Three ASSETS alumni will participate: Charlie Crystle, CEO of the Lancaster Food Company; Peter Barber, co-owner of Two Dudes Painting Company; and Jen-

nie Groff, co-owner of the Stroopie Company. The panel will be moderated by Jessica King, executive director of ASSETS Lancaster. Free, open to the public.

- **Booksigning with Urbane Peachey**—Join the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for a book talk and signing with Urbane Peachey, author of the new memoir *More Than One Thing Is True: Agony and Ecstasy below Cloud 9*, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, at West Bethany Chapel in Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, Pa.
- **Pennsylvania German Folk Art Sale Opening Reception**—Come to the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for the opening of the annual sale of handcrafted goods. Meet the artists, listen to live music, and enjoy light refreshments while perusing traditional art. Freshly baked pies will also be available for purchase. The reception takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, November 18 at the Society, 2215 Millstream Rd., Lancaster, Pa.
- **Explore Anabaptist nonconformity in the 21st century**—What does it mean to be "not conformed to the patterns of this world" (Rom. 12:2) in the 21st century? This question will be the focus of the study conference "Not Conformed: The Church, the World, and Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century," sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College. The conference will be held on November 10-11, 2016, at the college. For more information, visit the Sider Institute website: [www.messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://www.messiah.edu/siderinstitute).



## 44TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*Impacting the World with Capabilities*



Featuring Guest Speaker,  
**Meredith Jorgensen Cooke**

Co-Owner of Life & Legacies  
& WGAL REPORTER

How will you leave  
YOUR legacy?



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD  
AT 6:30PM

Shady Maple Banquets  
129 Toddy Dr, East Earl, PA 17519

**Click here to reserve your spot today!**

Tickets are complimentary but reservations are required by Friday, October 21!



Parish  
Resource  
Center

### November Round Tables and Workshops

Centering Prayer and Examen—Nov.1, 7:00-8:30 pm

Child Protective Services Law: Changes & Updates—Nov.7, 7:00-8:30 pm

Does Your Congregation Comply with the new Child Safety Laws? - Nov. 14, 7:00-8:30 pm

PRC's Youth Ministry Round Table Confirmation—Nov. 15, 7:00-8:30 pm

The Opioid/Heroin Epidemic—Nov.16, 7:00-8:30 pm

Church Human Resources 101—Nov. 21, 7:00 pm

Advent Paint Night Out—Nov. 29, 6:00-8:30 pm

For more info and to register,  
call 717-299-1113 or visit  
[www.parishresourcecenter.org](http://www.parishresourcecenter.org)

# November Birthdays

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 Donna Shenk	2 Grace Stoltzfus Richard Weber	3	4 Ron Guenther	5
6 Duane Yoder	7 Anita Brendle	8 Mary Jane Crockett	9	10	11 Christopher Hershberger	12
13	14	15	16 Becca Martin Ruth Wenger	17	18 Jolene Newcomer Betty Rheinheimer	19 Susan King Steve Zook
20 Anne Weaver	21 Jim Shenk	22 Breelyn Beyer Sue Passage	23 Marlene Gentzler Matej Gligorevic	24	25 Richard Sarker	26 Helen Peifer
27 Ryan Leaman Pearl Sensenig	28 Jane Hartzler Melody Rupley Justin Shenk	29	30 David Harnish Tyler Horst Sarah Pereverzoff			

## Akron Mennonite Church

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

[www.akronmench.org](http://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*



## Contact Updates

### Staff

Karyn Nancarvis  
*Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries*  
[knancarvis@akronmench.org](mailto:knancarvis@akronmench.org)

Melody Rupley  
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Patricia Martin  
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Rebecca Pereverzoff  
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[rmwmartin@gmail.com](mailto:rmwmartin@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.*