

Connecting with Peter and Susan Passage

Peter watched Sue enter the dining hall that bright fall day. He was starting his senior year at Bluffton College, and he noticed Sue immediately. It was interest at first sight, Peter says. How could he not notice this unique freshman in pigtails, bib overalls, plaid shirt and those green and black converse sneakers.

Bluffton campus was coming back home for Sue. A middle child, she was born in Bluffton when her dad was on staff at the college and her mother was a nurse. The family moved when she was three, and her growing up years were in West Virginia where Dad began a career as Boy Scout executive.



Sue has fond memories of early childhood there where she climbed trees and got her first tricycle. Trains passed the house, and Sue liked to wave to the man in the caboose.

Sue's DNA was imprinted with an intricately woven connection with nature. This gift came from her father who loved camping and nature. There were many family camping trips after they moved to Cambridge, Ohio, when Sue started school. There were woods to explore with a creek and a pond for ice-skating.

Peter also grew up in rural towns. Second of four children, Peter moved with his family across New York as his father, an American Baptist pastor, changed churches every ten years. Mother was a schoolteacher. His affinity for small towns continues as he enjoys living in Akron.

Growing up in the Adirondack Mountains, Peter developed a love of hiking, backpacking, enjoying wilderness with few people to intrude on this introvert psyche. Activities in high school included band, chorus, soccer, basketball, and golf. This was noteworthy in a small rural school with twenty-eight in his graduating class.

Peter has fond memories of month-long family vacations: the Maritime Provinces, New England, New York City, Washington DC, and to Pa. Dutch country in Lancaster!

Meanwhile, Sue's family moved to North Wales, Pennsylvania and began attending Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton. She remembered her dad saying it was good to be in a Mennonite Church again. They had attended Methodist churches in the other communities.

It was at Zion where Sue met Janelle Moyer, daughter of Gladys Moyer Claassen. They became best friends and the friendship has deepened through the years.

Janelle invited Sue to go to summer camp at Camp Men-O-Lan in Quakertown. She had fond memories of Camp Friedenswald in Michigan, but Sue was in for a surprise. The girls here had to wear dresses to the morning classes. Sue didn't have any dresses with her, so they loaned her one skirt that she wore all week.

In addition, they spoke a foreign language. It was about needing to talk to someone in order to be "saved." Sue did not experience God in this way—needing to dress a certain way and say certain words. She had always experienced God as her friend. She sang to her friend and felt God was always with her.

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Worship Schedule

Sept. 4	Barry Houser
Sept. 11	John Weber
Sept. 18	Kevin Ressler
Sept. 25	TBD

Sue was able to return to camp in Michigan and took Janelle along. They took in a week of camp, one of biking, and a week of canoeing. Sue fell in love with bike touring and saved her money to buy her first multiple speed bike.

She and Janelle spent many hours biking, singing, and playing guitar. Gladys was like a second mother to Sue, always encouraging them in their love of the out of doors, love of God and of music.

After high school, Sue chose to study social work at Bluffton College where her parents went. At the beginning of the first semester she caught the eye of Peter.

This was Peter's senior year at Bluffton where he had found a good fit with students who were given opportunity to be exposed to beliefs and ideas with the freedom to question amid supportive fellow seekers. The mix of students helped to expose Peter to theories and viewpoints with opportunity to explore and debate and arrive at conclusions of his own.

This was formative to Peter's development. He came of age during the Vietnam War, the Black Panthers, the Chicago Seven, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Woodstock.

Growing up in the American Baptist tradition, on the left of mainline Protestantism, Peter continues to be influenced theologically and socially. Racism, sexism, theology, and politics were all approached from the left of center, mostly not reaching the center. All work has worth; there is "that of God" in all people.



Sue and Peter were married in 1978 at Camp Men-O-Lan in Quakertown, where Sue's dad had served as administrator. The only cloud in the day was Dad's absence. The wedding was just months after his death.

Sue and Peter lived in the Swiss Historical House while Sue finished her degree at Bluffton. They followed friends to Akron in 1980 to be closer to their families. They rented an apartment from Gladys and Edgar Stoesz and settled in to this small town.

Sue enrolled in St. Joseph's School of Nursing while Peter worked at various jobs before joining MCC. They found themselves at AMC and joined the next year, along with more than twenty others.

Sue graduated and worked at Ephrata Community Hospital when Peter was with MCC. Peter's role put him along side of William T. Snyder during a time of much growth with exposure to people, theories, and activities that spanned the world. Snyder had led MCC through an amazing period in time, changing the mission, culture, size and activity of the agency.

Peter felt a call to further education and new direction, so he and Sue moved to Elkhart, Indiana. Peter enrolled at AMBS and Sue worked for the Elkhart County Health Department as a visiting nurse.

Peter entered the pastoral track, but it was not a comfortable fit. He felt at home with a new track leading to his MA in theological studies: church history.

Peter and Sue returned to Akron in 1987 after an invitation from Reg Toews to consider a position at MCC. Peter passed inspection with Jerry Shank and joined the team.

What followed was an invigorating and confusing sixteen years at MCC. There was much to learn and do. Peter appreciates the experience of those years, even as he learned that basing program in ideology may work in the field, but wreaks havoc among administrative staff and constituents. He was laid off from MCC in 2003.

Sue continued in the health field when they moved back to Akron, and she became a case manager for Visiting Nurses Association of Lancaster.

It was during these years that Peter and Sue decided to pursue adoption. Peter describes this as blinding epiphanies with the adoptions of Eli from Kolkata, India, and Noah from the Philippines. It was a very happy day when they met Eli at the airport. Four years later, Sue traveled to the Philippines where she became acquainted with Noah and was able to bring him here.

Changes in life with parenting were invigorating and energizing, stimulating the growth edges.

Eli attended Goshen College and graduated from Bluffton University. Noah attended Bluffton and graduated from Temple U.

Sue has been employed at Lancaster General Hospital in the operating room for fourteen years. Her dedication to service and skill with detail and teamwork makes Sue a valuable team member.

Peter is currently the Stewardship Director at Fairmount Homes Retirement Community in Farmersville. He has the privilege of implementing and refining his role, being the first one in that position. This was a good fit for Peter, even with a governing board of men from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church. With his parents' model of finding employment that serves others, Peter has found Fairmount to be that place for him.

Peter notes that others from AMC have been employed at Fairmount, beginning with Paul Ruth. More recently Helen Peifer and Helena Dueck worked there.

Sue and Peter find time to follow their passion as they bike throughout the eastern seaboard. Cycling meets their goal to engage in life physically, intellectually and spiritually. Peter and Sue welcome this opportunity to encounter the variety of locations and people that they meet.



Sue and Peter helped to plan the five-day bike ride to raise money for MCC, for many years a bi-annual event.

When Sue transferred her membership to AMC from Zion Mennonite, she became actively involved in making us who we are today. Sue is dedicated to attending worship services, Sunday school classes, as well as earlier church bike rides, retreats, church photographer, Bible quizzing. She has been coordinator of the nursery, served on the board of DSECC, MYF advisor, and Sunday school teacher. Currently Sue is on the body removal team for home funerals.

Peter has found a home in the Mennonite expression of Christianity, even as he feels affinity with the Catholic mass and history, along with deep joy in Quaker faith and life. He points to his upbringing among liberal Protestantism and the social gospel movement as pivotal influence. Peter invites openness to allowing others to find their own way though different from his own.

~Priscilla Ziegler

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
 Carolyn & John Horst Paul & Dorothy Martin Phillip Rutt
 Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank

News from the MYF



The new MYF year began with a planning weekend Aug. 5-7 at Paradise Lake Retreat in Denver, PA.

The 2016-2017 group consists of 17 students and their Advisor team of Ingrid Magill, Coordinator; Rich Crockett; Kenton Martin, Nick Buckwalter, and Karyn Nancarvis. They welcomed 7 incoming freshmen, and said a bitter-sweet farewell to three graduating seniors.

The retreat focused on identifying their spiritual gifts.

Photo courtesy of Karyn Nancarvis

Here's what's happening...

During Discipleship Hour:

Sept. 11 is the first day of the fall session 10:20—11:40 a.m. Learn more about spiritual gifts—your inner “Super Power”. Find out what they are and how to engage them!

Upcoming Activities and Events:

Music by Sopa Sol to benefit the Nzabarinda family!

Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at AMC. Come for great music, show your support and make a donation to help support our three MYF family members: Ndahayo, Jenni, and Dusenge and their family.

ACC Youth Retreat at Refreshing Mountain Camp:

Sept. 16, 17, 18

Ephrata Parade: September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Supper Club: September 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Melody and Lawrence Rupley.

MYF'ers shared reflections from their DOOR missions/service trip during the July 31 worship service at AMC.

Photo courtesy of Nancy Chapman



The MYF enjoyed the 2016-17 kick-off event at the home of David and Flo Harnish on Aug. 26.

Photo courtesy of Rich Crockett

Money Invested in Haitian School Continues To Make A Difference

Contributions to organizations such as Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and others have made it possible to engage in projects that have made a difference to the lives of people in the USA and around the world. Sometimes a congregation has an opportunity to contribute directly to a project where the money goes directly to people in need.

Members of Akron Church had such an opportunity to contribute directly to building a school in Haiti in 2011. Kris Stoesz, through her connection with Jhony Saint Louis in Dabon, Haiti, became aware of a need to provide a school for illiterate children and young adults to get an education in this small village in Haiti. Margaret Eby accepted the challenge to raise \$30,000 to build a six room elementary school and numerous people from Akron Church contributed to the project. Construction began in May of 2011 and Kris Stoesz, Margaret Eby and Bob Wyble traveled to Dabon, Haiti, for the dedication of the School on September 4, 2011.



The school (Lekol Anonsyasyon) continues to provide educational opportunities for children and young adults who would have no options available to them to attend school if members of Akron Church had not contributed to this project.

Jhony Saint Louis sent a report for the 2015-16 school year. In this report he tells the story of Eliese Ca-dichon, a young woman who is 20 years old and in first grade. Eliese’s parents never sent her to school and she felt uncomfortable because she could not read or sign her name. So, Eliese left home and went to live with her godmother. She asked her godmother to send her to school, and her godmother came to the Lekol Anonsyasyon school in Dabon and registered her for classes. Jhony says, “Ever since Elièse came to our school, she seeks to read everything she sees and write everything at home according to what her godmother tells us. When she sees something she doesn’t understand, she asks her godmother so she understands. Her godmother says that she is motivated to help her since Elièse is so dedicated. Elièse always arrives at school almost 30 minutes before the directors ring the starting bell. She’s very regular. It must be something very serious for her to miss school. She sometimes has pain, and she comes to the director’s office to ask for medicine. She’s very helpful. She’s always ready to help other students with their lessons.”

Jhony listed the following statistics for the 2015-2016 school year:

Class	# of Girls	# of Boys	Total
1st grade	20	17	37
2nd grade	10	12	22
3rd grade	9	7	16
4th grade	9	6	15
5th grade	7	6	13
6th grade	7	3	10
Totals	62	51	113

	Women	Men	Total
Teachers	2	4	6
Staff (not teachers)	2	2	4
Volunteers		1	1
Totals	4	7	11

— article by Bob Wyble



September has been designated as Disaster Preparedness Month. Mennonite Disaster Service, along with numerous other governmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraging us to give thought to how we can best prepare for and cope with a variety of disasters. Daily we see news reports of disasters around the world, some caused by severe weather, earthquakes or volcanoes, public health risks, or terrorism. While it is tempting to live as though none of these disasters will happen to us, it is best if we consider and plan for the most likely disaster scenarios. We need to think through the “What if...” questions. What if the power would go out for more than a few hours? What if the church building catches fire while it is occupied? What if my house is destroyed by fire, wind or waters? What if transportation is disrupted for a length of time? Mennonites are good at helping others who find themselves victims of disasters. Let us now plan to minimize our chaos and risk if a disaster should occur in our community. Watch for notices in our church bulletins, in your church mailbox, and peruse on-line resources for information that would help us be better prepared.

Don Brubaker, MDS contact person for AMC



Words of Thanks from agencies that AMC supports financially:

“Thank you so much for your recent gift to **Mennonite Church USA**. . . . We are grateful for this expression of your commitment to working together. . . . May you find the goodness of God active wherever you look—in the splendor of creation and the beauty of human life.”

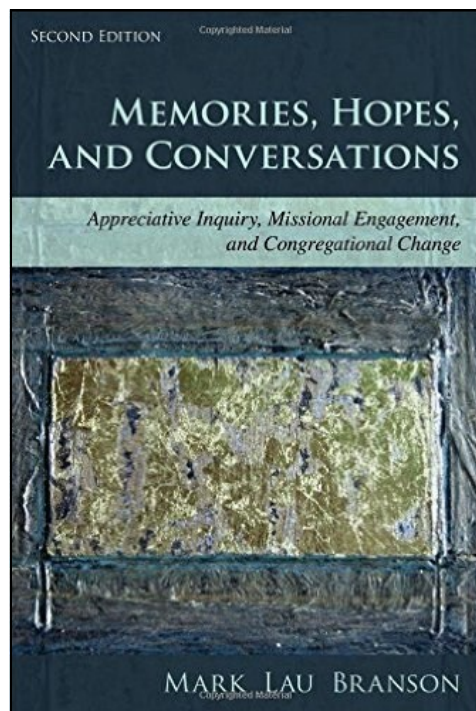
“Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous gift. . . . We are truly grateful for your ongoing support of **MCC**. Together we are sharing God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ.”

“Dear Friends, Thank you for your congregational contribution. . . .to **Mennonite World Conference**. Your contribution strengthens each member of our global Anabaptist family, so that individually and together we proclaim the kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven.”

“Thank you for the ongoing partnership of AMC in the mission and vision of **ACC**. We deeply value the ministry connections your congregation provides as Jesus’ hands and feet in your local setting, as well as the variety of ways your church networks to meet needs in broader settings.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 1	AMC Men's Breakfast @ 7:00am @ Udder choice; presenter Urbane Peachey (II)
Sept. 6	Lunch Bunch @ 11:30am @ Oregon Dairy
Sept. 7	Library Committee meeting @ 6:00pm
Sept. 8	Council meeting @ 7:00pm
Sept. 8	Outreach Committee meeting @ 7:00 pm
Sept. 11	Council Open Hours following worship, Chris Martin & Randall Justice will be available
Sept. 11	Benefit concert for Nzabarinda family featuring Sopa Sol
Sept. 19	Outreach Committee/DSECC meeting @ 3:00 pm
Sept. 25	ADNet lunch at AMC at 11:45
Sept. 26	2017 plans/budgets and 2016 reports due in church office
Oct. 23	55+ Lunch meeting @ 12:00 noon @ AMC
Oct. 29	Ted and Co. to present "Peace, Pies, and Prophets" at AMC
Nov. 5-6	AMC/DSECC Fall Fest weekend; includes chicken barbecue & Steven Courtney concert
Jan. 15-18, 2017	AMC Winter Bible Study
Jan. 28, 2017	MYF Spaghetti Supper
March 18, 2017	MYF Auction



AMC is featured in new book chapter

"August 8, 2016

Dear Friends at AMC,

I am gifting the AMC library with a copy of the book *Memories, Hopes, And Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry, Missional Engagement, and Congregational Change, Second Edition*, by Mark Lau Branson.

I wrote Chapter 7 about AMC and our use of Appreciative Inquiry in the Missional work we did over a span of years. I hope I represented the story well, and my sincere thanks for the opportunity to share these stories and learnings in written form.

May God's spirit continue to call, equip, and send you into a future filled with hope and possibility.

With deep appreciation,

Jim S. Amstutz"

If you have a submission for the October newsletter, please send your entry via e-mail to amc@akronmench.org no later than Monday, September 26. Thanks!



No Longer Alone Ministries Celebrates 25 Years

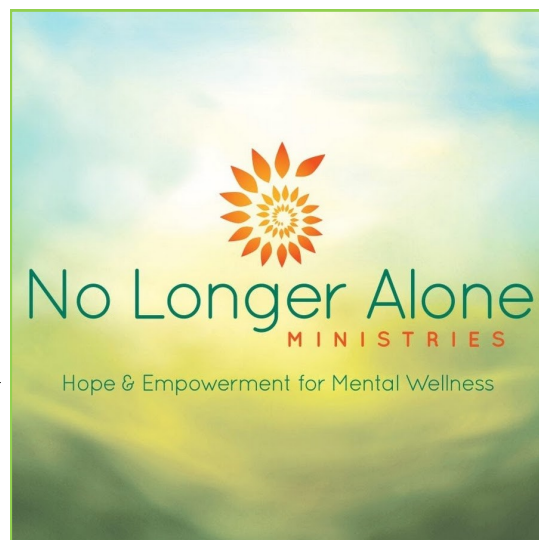
On June 9, 1991, thirty seven persons gathered in the Akron Mennonite Church Assembly Room for the first time.....and at that moment all 37 of us realized with feelings of relief and surprise that **we are no longer alone!** The common thread that immediately bound us together was that each of us had someone dear to us who was on a journey of living with mental illness. And we, their family and friends hoped for much-needed guidance, strength, courage and reassurance for this uncharted journey.

The Psalmist says in 139:14, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Especially astounding are the complexities of the brain. Mental illness, a disease of the brain, is sometimes called a "silent disease". No one wants to talk about it because of the stigma, shame and blame that often accompany these disorders. Though mental illness affects one in four families, congregations often remain as uninformed and misinformed as the general public. Even with a spirit of compassion that is nurtured in our faith communities for other sicknesses, loss and pain, families struggling with mental illness can remain isolated and alone. Mental illnesses are biologically brain-based diseases and can be treated with medication as can diabetes, cancer, lung and heart diseases. It is no respecter of persons! There is no shame.....and no one is to blame!

Not realizing it at the time we gathered for that first meeting, we were actually making history as this was the beginning of what became known as the **Family Support Group (FSG) of No Longer Alone Ministries**. As we began meeting monthly, we each gained strength through sharing our stories and learning more about mental illness from various resource persons. Praying and crying together helped immensely. By the mid-nineties we had become much more enlightened about the scope of mental illness around us and felt God's call to reach out beyond our own families' journeys.

In 1996 we became officially incorporated as a non-profit organization with initial funding received from Everence, Philhaven and Friendship Foundation. We needed a name for our group. We were familiar with the recent book authored by Dr. John Toews, a psychiatrist who believed strongly that our churches must rise to the challenge of ministering to families and individuals faced with the complexities of living with mental illness. This book was titled, "No Longer Alone" and resonated strongly with us family members and friends who became even more adamant about bringing persons affected with mental illness out from isolation and hidden places due to stigma and uneducated perceptions. Yes, we longed to help shape a ministry with Christ as the center and so we soon became: **NO LONGER ALONE MINISTRIES!** We were most grateful to Dr. Toews for granting us permission to use this descriptive title that has served as the umbrella organization for the various services developed over these 25 years.

No Longer Alone Ministries has evolved over the years to most effectively provide services suited to addressing the needs and enhancing the lives of individuals and their families. In addition to the Family Support Group which continues to meet regularly, the Supported Living Program was birthed in the early years to provide individualized support for persons as they face the challenges of independent living. Each client was assigned a professionally trained and licensed counselor to work toward identified goals in locating and maintaining housing and a job, managing medications, and additional independent living skills. Several Client Support Groups are Christian oriented groups



that meet regularly to provide a safe place for interaction and fellowship. A Speaker's Bureau provides educational information and raises awareness about mental illness to church and community groups. NLAM has a Library with books, articles and videos available for anyone to take advantage of. A Newsletter is published to an expanding mailing list. And a website has been established where pertinent information can always be found at:

www.nlam.org.

While the goals of NLAM have remained much the same, some current program services for clients are identified as Mobile Psychiatric Rehab Services, WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Planning) and The Healing Circle for families. Two major fundraising events that have become popular events over the years are A Classical Music Concert by Neal Harnly and The Dream Ride for bicyclists.

While **No Longer Alone Ministries** has adjusted to changes over these 25 years in an effort to more effectively address mental health needs, the one thing that has not changed is **the belief that God created and loves each person, endowing each with worth, and therefore, each person will be treated with compassion, dignity and respect; for we are all fearfully and wonderfully made!**

~ Ruth Detweiler



Lowell & Ruth Detweiler, Lois Ream, & Brenda Long at the NLAM office in 2011 when NLAM celebrated 20 years.

ADNet lunch (Anabaptist Disabilities Network)



There is strength to be gained from sharing our experiences. You are invited to lunch in the Akron Mennonite Church Assembly Room Sun., **Sept. 25, 11:45 am—1:30 pm.**

Soup, bread and table service will be provided. You are invited to contribute to the meal (e.g., fresh vegetables, fruit, cookies, etc.)

This is intended for anyone who is personally affected by mental illness or disability, or has a friend or family member who is affected, as well as others who have a special interest in mental illness and disability issues. The main focus will be to give opportunity for those present to share their experiences.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, or sign up on the sheet posted on the AMC bulletin board in the church lobby: Marilyn Langeman, at 859-3840

ADNet (Anabaptist Disabilities Network) is a national membership organization of families, friends, and persons living with mental illness and/or other disabilities, related to Anabaptist church groups. We share our resources with faith communities from every tradition.

ADNet offers a collection of resources that we can recommend, gathered in a central location. By gathering information and resource links in one location, ADNet helps you get the help you need, when you need it. See the ADNet website at: <http://www.adnetonline.org/>



September (and beyond) at AMC & In the Community

Benefit for the Rwajekare family

Sunday, September 11 @ 6:30 PM

Akron Mennonite Church
1311 Diamond St., Akron

- Sopa Sol will perform a set and collaborate with Dave Lefever and the family of Nzabarinda Rwajekare, for a taste of Congolese music.
- Ice cream social afterward.
- Freewill offering to support the family.
- For more info, call the church office at 717-859-1488. Unable to attend? Checks payable to Akron Mennonite Church (marked "refugee family") can be sent to the church office.



Photo courtesy of Karen King

- The father and four children (13-20 years old) arrived in Akron in January 2016 after 17 years in a Ugandan refugee camp. Church World Services assisted their arrival and initial support. A team of volunteers from Akron Mennonite Church, Pilgrims Mennonite Church, and others in the greater Akron area are helping the family transition to self-sufficiency as an integral part of our community. To explore ways that you might help, call the church office 717-859-1488 to be referred to the team's coordinator.



Sopa Sol

The music of Sopa Sol is organic and soulful, modern and traditional, with local roots and worldwide influences.

Daryl Snider (guitar, sax, akogo, and voice)

Frances Crowhill Miller (violin, hang, and voice)

Reminder: Increased fall and winter usage of AMC Facility

Beginning in September, the weekly use of AMC facilities will increase. The Franconia Lancaster Choral Singers will practice in the sanctuary every Thursday evening. On Tuesday evenings, Yoga will be offered in the Assembly Room. Please keep these activities in mind when scheduling meetings and other events.

Fall Yoga Sessions at AMC begin Sept. 12 and Nov. 1. Classes are held Tuesday at 6 -7:15pm for six weeks in the Assembly Room. Through gentle stretching exercises, breathing techniques and relaxation, stress is reduced and the body is rejuvenated and energized.

No experience necessary. All are welcome. Please confirm participation by September 5. Registration forms available on the AMC bulletin board.

Contact Kandace Helmuth at Kandace@ptd.net or 859-3390.



Classes for Discipleship Hour - Fall 2016 beginning September 11

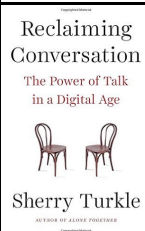


Weavings: The Weavings class meets throughout the year September through May and is open to all women. It is intergenerational and focused on our spiritual journeys. There is reflective discussion time (from Weavings magazines or some other similar writing); plus sharing and prayer together. Class facilitator: Ruth Weaver. Meet in church office.

Koinonia: Starting September 11, this group will meet again. The purposes of this class are (1) intentional sharing and prayer support and (2) study and discussion on topics of mutual interest, whether Bible or book study. No decision has need made on a study at this time. One additional note, the class will be meeting off-site on September 18. Class facilitators: Linda and Don Good. Meet in room 222.

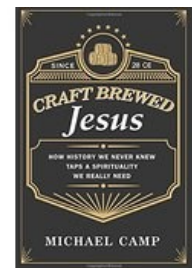


September 11 (One Sunday): The just published book ANNA: An Ordinary Woman With An Extraordinary Spirit gives you a window into the world your grandmother/great grandmother lived. Born of immigrant parents in the waning years of the 18th C, the arc of her life extends through the 20 C. less nine years. We see her mourn the death of a son, wake with her dying husband, always ending with the mantra, "But God gives strength." We get a fleeting look into Russian Mennonite history she was a part of. Join us with the intent of also reflecting on and celebrating the life of your mother and women in that era. Class will be led by Edgar Stoesz. Meet in main sanctuary.



September 18 - October 23: Average American adults check their phones every six and a half minutes. Most teens send one hundred texts a day. Eighty percent sleep with their phones. "What in the World is Happening?" is the name of the class running from Sept 18 to Oct 23. We will be using the book Reclaiming Conversation by Sherry Turkle, to examine the effects of the Digital Age on all of us, what we are at risk of losing, and what we can do to reclaim and maintain healthy living. Please contact Susan King with your interest in the class @ susan.pottingshed@gmail.com. Books are \$28 plus tax, which will be ordered through AMC.

September 11 - October 23: Communities of Resistance and Hope: Exploring How To Be Church In Empire. As AMC looks to the future, this class will ask (1) Is our church the community we need, and others want? (2) Do we understand how Jesus and the early Christians resisted empire? (3) Have we discovered the hope that history rightly understood can give us? Our reading text will be Craft Brewed Jesus: How History We Never Knew Taps a Spirituality We Really Need, by Michael Camp, 2016. The cost of the book is \$15.00. Class will be led by John Stoner and others. Meet in assembly room.



Jeff Bach, director of the Young Center, and David Kenley, director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking, will moderate a panel discussion, "Remembering 9/11: Flight 93," on Thurs., Sept. 8, 7:00 p.m., at Elizabethtown College's Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. For more information, call 717-361-1470 or visit www.etown.edu/youngctr/events.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Annual Storytelling Night—Hear life stories from Charlie Longenecker, former biology teacher at Lancaster Mennonite High School, and Janet Breneman, teacher, writer and pastor, at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 12 at Landisville Mennonite Church, 3320 Bowman Rd., Landisville, Pa. Learn more at lmhs.org.



You can register today for this year's Annual Mennonite Women Banquet at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. The October 21 event will include music, storytelling with Frances and Helen Miller, and original poetry by Emily Herr. Cost is \$15 per plate. RSVP by October 15 at atlanticcoastconference.net/women or by calling the conference office, 717-394-8107

NLAM 25th Anniversary Celebration Events:

As part of its 25th Anniversary celebrations, No Longer Alone Ministries (NLAM) is holding three events in mid-September. You are invited to participate in one or more of them.

September 15 at 6:30 pm – Anniversary Banquet: Celebrating the Journey at Calvary Church, 1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster. Amy Simpson will be the speaker. She is the author of *Anxious: Choosing Faith in a World of Worry* and the award-winning *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission*.

September 16 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm -- Mental Health Seminar at Calvary Church, 1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster, PA. Amy Simpson (MBA, CPCC, author, coach, freelance writer and editor) will speak on the theme: On the Frontlines: Supporting Families and Parishioners with Mental Illness.

September 17: Bike Lancaster/Millersville (formerly Dream Ride) with start time of 7:30 am at Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center, 60 W. Cottage Avenue, Millersville. There will be 5, 10, 20, 30 and 60 mile rides. NLAM needs riders and sponsors. The registration deadline is 9/7/16.

More information is available at <http://www.nlam.org/events/>, or from Ken & Marilyn Langeman at 717-859-3840 or kmlangeman@hotmail.com.



Women Empowering Women with MEDA—Join us to learn about issues facing women in developing countries. Tuesday, September 6 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at The Candy Factory (323 N. Queen St, Lancaster, PA 17603). Visit www.meda.org/wew for more information and to register.



Saturday, September 10, 2016

Bidder Registration, Flea Market, Yard Sale & Silent Auction begins 8:00 am

Live Benefit Auction begins at 9:00 am

Handcrafts, Antiques & Collectibles

Art —10:45 am

Specialty Items —1:00 pm

Quilts —1:30 pm

Children's Activities

9:00 am —12:00 pm

WJTL's "Kids Cookie Break"

BBQ Chicken Dinners

10:30 am — 3:00 pm



Original by Liz Hess



1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA
717-569-3271 www.landishomes.org



27th Annual **Benefit Auction & Barbecue** Saturday, September 17, 2016

Schedule of Events

6:30	Country Breakfast by "Big John's"
6:30	Flea Market opens
8:00	Auction Registration begins
8:30	Weaverland Men's Chorus
9:00	Auction
9:00	Children's Activities (<i>rides, games, prizes!</i>)
9:00	Silent Auction opens featuring: "Dining for Dollars" & Gift Certificates
10:00-2:00	Chicken Barbecue (eat-in)
10:15-12:30	Chicken Barbecue (drive-thru)
10:30	Candy Drop (weather permitting)
11:30	Song & Prayer
1:00	Silent Auction closes

Auctions • starting at 9:00am

9:30	Theme Baskets	Block 1
9:30	Gift Certificates	Block 2
10:00	Quilts	Block 1
10:30	Furniture	Block 2
11:40	Specialty Items	Block 1
12:00	Lawn Furniture & Plants	Block 2
1:45	Children's Auction	Block 2



*Proceeds from this year's annual event will go to our **Sharing Fund**.



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Retirement Community

MCC Native American Learning Tour:

From October 31 to November 4, join the Mennonite Central Committee Native American learning tour organized by MCC East Coast and Circle Legacy Center. The tour is designed to shed light on the untold history of Pennsylvania and beyond and will include daily trips from the MCC Welcoming Place in Akron, PA, to destinations in central Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Participants will learn about topics including early Native American life and settlements in Lancaster County, the Conestoga massacre, the breaking of treaties and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Those who are unable to participate in the entire tour are welcome to register only for the first day (October 31), which will cover the theology and ideology that shaped European exceptionalism and the Doctrine of Discovery. For more information and to register, visit mcc.org/native-american-lt or contact Curtis Book, MCC East Coast Peace and Justice Coordinator, at CurtisBook@mcc.org or (215) 316-6528.



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

September Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Anna Bontrager Linda Frey Grace Weber</i>	5 <i>Ingrid Magill Les Wagner</i>	6 <i>H.A. Penner</i>	7 <i>Elisabeth Bontrager</i>	8	9 <i>Marvin Horst Jenna Longe- necker</i>	10
11 <i>Alta Mellinger</i>	12 <i>Lester Graybill</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Chelsea Bru- baker</i>	17 <i>Grace Brubaker Kent Douple</i>
18 <i>Twila Miller</i>	19	20 <i>Isak Puljek- Shank</i>	21 <i>Connie Lapp</i>	22 <i>Julia Yoder</i>	23 <i>Gloria Forrey Anna Nancarvis Julia Yoder</i>	24 <i>Jonah Chap</i>
25 <i>Dale Herr Ed Miller</i>	26 <i>Shawn Clicquen- noi Ruth Detweiler</i>	27	28 <i>Esther Ruby</i>	29	30 <i>Roy Eby</i>	

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 10:40-11:30 am*

Staff

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

Melody Rupley
Director of Equipping Ministries
mrupley@akronmench.org

Patricia Martin
Minister of Music and Worship
pmartin@akronmench.org

Rebecca Pereverzoff
Administrator
rpereverzoff@akronmench.org
amc@akronmench.org



Contact Updates

Please note this change of email address for Lawrence and Melody Rupley:
rupleym@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.