

Menno-Life



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Removing barriers: Accomplishing several of our 5 priorities

Note: Why the lectern? (as shared with the congregation in announcement time on 03-24-19)

The visually oriented among us have already noticed that following several months of using a small lectern, Lent began with the pulpit returned to the center of the platform in the sanctuary. This was strategic. The visual display created by Beth Boehr required a backdrop to contrast with the array of crosses and frames that together are helping us think about how Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount reframe our lives today.

But the pulpit has again been removed. I want to tell you why.

Last Sunday in the middle of worship, I looked down to discover that Shelby Cluts, who was leading worship was praying on tip toe! The moment passed. Then at Margaret Weaver's memorial service, in order to see over the pulpit, Margaret's daughter, Shelly, needed to use a stool to see over the pulpit. That moment, too, passed.

That night after a long day, I fell into bed and fast asleep. In the middle of the night I awoke, these two pictures looping through my mind. And I woke Bret up to ask if he'd go to the church with me to help me move the pulpit.

If you've been paying any attention to the 5 Priorities or to worship over the past couple of years, you've noticed an intentional effort to invite people to identify, use and develop the array of gifts present here among us. We've been deliberate in using this worship space in a way that makes room for gifts to be offered from the pews and from the floor, in addition to the platform. In that process we've celebrated the gifts of children to elders and every age in between. The large pulpit creates a barrier, especially for those who are small in stature, and that is a barrier to accomplishing at least two of our priorities. So that is why the pulpit has been removed and we've returned to the small lectern. If you have any questions or want to talk about this, please give me a call. Thank you!

~Pastor Wanda

Connecting: Now you know who came to dinner!

Now we know who came to dinner! The Nurture Commission planned a dinner event for Saturday, February 9, 2019, with the hope that we could make some new connections within our church. The format was simple, with hosts providing soup and bread and guests bringing dessert or salad. According to reports received, it turned out to be a successful event for all who joined in the fun. About 55 people participated ranging in age from 4-88 years old! The general consensus is that this should become an annual event – if not more often!



Above, enjoying dessert are Sally Roth, Don and Joyce Hostetler, Heidrun Awad, and Dawn Kreider. (Theda Good photo)
Those dining at Perry and Elysia Bush's home included Dottie and Gene Long, Larry and Judy Diller, Perry and Elysia Bush, and Carmen Moser. (Chris Moser photo)



At left, patiently waiting to make their ice cream sundaes at Dawn Kreider and Theda Good's home are Rita Dietrich, Theda Good, Fred and Mary Steiner, John and Carolyn Rich, and Dawn Kreider. (Corwin Croy photo)

Mennonite Women comforter knotting April 7-8

Men, women, and children are invited to join Mennonite Women in the fellowship hall for comforter knotting Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 9, from 9 a.m.-noon. No prior experience in knotting is required!

On Monday evening the devotional focus will be "Serve the Lord with Gladness," shared by Fran Core. Jane Weaver and Julie Mackey will provide refreshments.

Following knotting on Tuesday, all are invited to stay for lunch. If you are able, bring a salad or dessert and table service. Soup, bread and beverages will be provided.

Easter brunch April 21

All are invited to attend the Easter brunch at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, April 21, in the fellowship hall. Please bring food to share: breakfast casseroles, fruit, breads, coffee cakes, muffins, etc. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided. Please bring your own table service.

There will be no Sunday school that morning.

~ Nurture Commission

New entrance signs

Have you seen our new accessible entrance signs? With Dave Moser's assistance, we have replaced the old entrance signs that direct visitors to the Jackson Street entrance and our elevator.

Check them out and thank Dave for his help!

FMC youth who participated in the Mennonite Youth Choir Festival March 2-3 at Goshen College included front row, Ellie Hartzler, Ethan Blount and Kaleigh Coffman. Back row, Ben Hartzler, Rebecca Estell, John Paul Yoder, Ellie Nickel and Ethan Nickel. (Melinda Estell photo)





Above, Danielle Novak plays piano; top right, Jacob Suter has a snack in the midst of his emcee duties; bottom right, Rhonda and Walt Paquin, Mark Novak, and Carter Dyer stayed busy in the kitchen.



Blau Rock Café and silent auction prove to be successful endeavor

Many resources, much talent, and many people combined to make the Blau Rock Café and Silent Auction a success! The senior high youth and parents thank everyone for supporting them in this fundraising endeavor. Carrie Mast reported that the event resulted in a profit of \$2,000.

- 44 auction items
- 4 seatings
- 2 mics
- 8 cake plates
- 5 bags of Shirley's theater popcorn
- 44 performers
- 1 Wendy Chappell-Dick
- 8 youth
- 5 parents
- 1 pastor
- 71 table guests
- Many additional guests