



The

Metamora Mennonite

WEEKLY

Following Jesus together.

Vol 12. No. 21

Metamora, IL

April 28, 2024

TODAY

Sunday, April 28

9 am Faith
Formation
10 am Worship

Safe Church in-
service after wor-
ship

THIS WEEK

**Tuesdays,
Saturdays**

9 am to 11:45am
*Open Arms
Food Pantry
Distribution* at the
OAFP

Wed., May 1

6 pm *Leadership*

Thursday

9 am *Mennonite
Women*

UPCOMING

Sunday, May 5

10 am *Moment in
Mission* (pg. 2)
Fellowship meal
after Worship!

Monday, May 6

6 pm *Snackpac
Packing* @ OAFP

Sunday, May 12

*Happy Mother's
Day!*

9 am Faith
Formation
10 am Worship

Sauntering Through Change

Change happens. We cannot stop change or time. The Greeks had two names for time, Chronos and Kairos time. Chronos is about years, months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds. It is chronological and quantitative. Kairos is about the right time and is qualitative. Chronos=quantity and Kairos=quality.

Last Sunday, thirteen of us "Sauntered with the Creator". We slowed down our walk into the natural world in order to notice, to be still, to reflect, and to ask questions. What does soil taste like? (Ask Matt Kennell.) Where does the water from this creek go? (All the way to the Gulf of Mexico.) What kind of flower is that? (Those are bluebells.) We notice in order to grow in love. We care for what we love. This is the genesis of creation care.

The first paragraph was about change and time, and the second about sauntering. What is the link between these two? As we heard last week, MMC is facing change. How we approach this change in leadership and relationship matters. Do we rush, counting the days and hours? Or do we saunter in Kairos time with intention, stillness, reflection, waiting, and prayer? We can wait and listen for the Holy Spirit to lead us to "the right time" as change unfolds.

Sauntering through change invites us to notice where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go. We can notice these things in order to grow. Here at MMC we are invited to care for one another through this season of great change. We care for what we love.

After his resurrection, Jesus walked through locked doors to express his love for the disciples. Before this reappearance, they were afraid. Jesus was dead (they thought) and their lives went upside down. What would happen to them now? Would they face crucifixion? The last three years with their companion Jesus had been astonishing, challenging, and wonderful. Now it was over. Change crashed down upon them. They became afraid and anxious.

Then Jesus walks right through those locked doors. Jesus looks each fear in the face and says, "peace be with you". He breathes the Holy Spirit into the disciple's anxiousness. Jesus sends them out to speak his very words and to be his actions in the world. Jesus sends them out in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. They are sent out journeying with a new "right time" reality.

This can be us. Let us slow down and even wait to allow Jesus to breathe peace and the Holy Spirit into our fear, sadness, and unease. We can do this as we saunter together into change, into this Kairos time. This is the right time to saunter together in love.

Ron Sears

MMC CHURCH: NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICE

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Sunday, May 5 is a meal after worship, sponsored by the Mission Team...taco salad/desserts... more info to come!

SNACKPAC PACKING

Our last Weekend Snackpac packing for the school year will be **Monday, May 6th**, 6 pm at the Open Arms Food Pantry. We will be packing 400 lunches so it will not take long but we still need help. Thank you so much for all of your help and donations of money this past school year.
Jan Unzicker



MOMENT IN MISSION

Sunday, May 5, Elias Escalante from Barranquilla, Colombia, will be our guest during worship (Moment in Mission) and for lunch afterwards. Elias attends Pan de Vida church in Barranquilla, one of our partner churches. The pastor at Pan de Vida, Janet Serrano, will be part of the delegation visiting from Colombia when visas are finally obtained. Janet's daughter, Andrea, visited us not too long ago.

Elias is a Mennonite Central Committee International Voluntary Exchange participant, working in a Chicago church with after school and weekend youth programs. He visited central II, the coldest weekend of the year in January when church was canceled, so this is a return visit!

His presentations will be very interesting, with photos, and time for answering questions. We look forward to building our friendship and further learning about how God is working in Colombia. Hope you can attend.
Missions Team

Found at MCC.org, Our Stories:

As a Colombian leaving my country for the first time, bound for the U.S., I was very excited to learn about a new culture, but also worried about how people would treat me, what kind of food I would get, and if I would be able to communicate well in English. Contrary to what my family and friends thought, the treatment I have received since I arrived at the airport in New York, during the orientation in Akron, and now during my stay in Chicago, has been very welcoming and friendly. People make me feel welcome, included and loved, even though greetings are different and personal space can be very important for some people. As for food, I am surprised by the variety of restaurants from different parts of the world, especially Asia and Latin America, which is perfect because I love trying new flavors, and I can also prepare typical food from my country or go to a Colombian restaurant. Not all people are interested in healthy eating; however, I am doing my best to continue a healthy diet. Of course, it is delicious to eat a hot dog, a taco, a hamburger, a pizza, etc., but I know I can't do it every day. English was very difficult at the beginning because people use different accents and speaking styles. I didn't know how to express myself for fear of making mistakes, but I understood that it is normal when you are still learning. You just have to dare to speak. Now I enjoy great conversations with my friends at home, at work and at church. In conclusion, living in a community house in Chicago has helped me in my personal growth, to connect with myself, to be more independent, to learn to cook, and above all, to connect with God through ways that I did not think I

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is at Roanoke Mennonite Church this year! **Monday, June 3 through Friday, June 7** in the evening, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. To volunteer, contact Kristyn Kennell at 309-338-4560.

WIDER CHURCH: NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICE

Et Cetera Shop News!!!

Beginning in April and running through December, there is an opening for a volunteer or volunteers to assume responsibility in the **Christmas Shop** in the large tree area. This position starts NOW! If you love Christmas, this is a great opportunity to serve the *Et Cetera Shop* and MCC working from your own schedule. Duties would include checking the incoming trees for completeness and lights, removing lights if necessary, assembling and staging the trees on the sale floor, pricing and labeling the trees and helping to disassemble and bundle the trees when the Christmas Shop opens in October.



It's important to be present the first 3 to 5 days the shop opens because this is when the majority of the trees do sell. Once the first 3 to 5 days are over, the volunteer or volunteers may be able to come once or twice a week to check the tree area, set up any more trees that may have come in, or get sold trees ready for pick up.

If you have questions or would like more details on this position, please call Greta Gingrich at 309-467-2009 or Jaimie McFarlin at 309-467-4211.



NEW PIANO

Metamora Mennonite Church has a new piano! Back in October 2023, an email was sent to Mennonite churches in Illinois offering a new/used Mason & Hamlin grand piano. Just a few inches longer than a baby grand piano at 5'8.5", this piano was built in 1914 in Boston at the Mason & Hamlin factory. The internal structure was refurbished by Keylard & Sons and is essentially a "10-20" year old piano on the inside, rivaling the caliber of a Steinway.

Karin Edwards, from Lombard Mennonite Church, has been our contact point, kindly helping us with information, logistics and piano moving, Pastor Eric has been a great help getting things coordinated, a few kind anonymous donors eased the financial transition, and Sarah Mayo has had the help from three Chicago-area musician/piano tuner friends to make sure this was a quality instrument. It is and we are thankful. God is good and we hope to rejoice and worship through song with this beautiful instrument for many years to come.



Our thanks to the Neumann family who supplied the wonderful Yamaha upright piano that the congregation used for so long. It is now upstairs in hopes that the next generation of believers will start to combine their faith and music while dabbling on those keys.

There is lots more history and information about this beautiful instrument, so please reach out with any questions, comments, or interest in participating in Worship at Metamora Mennonite, to Sarah Mayo at: sarah@metmenno.org



WEEKLY PRAYER AND CARE LIST

Please pray for the following requests:

Metamora Mennonite Church

- Ferne Bachman
- Evelyn Collins (Rachel's mom)
- Rob and Rachel Davidsen family as they recover
- Cyndi Davidsen
- Erica (Bell) Edwards
- Byron & Beulah Fierce
- Gary Garber
- Jeff, a friend of a family member of Jennifer Imhoff Matway
- Sheila Graber's sister Katy and husband Ben
- Jenna Johnston, neighbor of Byron and Beulah
- Jordan and Jacob, Christine DeBolt's granddaughter and her boyfriend
- Susan LaPorte, friend of Christine
- Judah Miller, grandson of Ron and Jeanne Sears
- Don Schertz
- Orpha Schertz
- Bob & Marilyn Shepard
- Art and Crystal Taylor
- Anna Tieman
- Michael Tieman's mother Ilene and father James
- Sherrill Unzicker
- Chris White, friend of Janet Shanks
- Beth Urban's mom
- Judy and Bill Wyatt
- *Snackpac*
- Students, Parents, Families, Teachers and Faculty
- Travelers during this season
- Those in hospitals, nursing homes, and the home bound
- Those recovering from procedures and medical treatments
- The Open Arms Food Pantry volunteers, and the needs of the people that serve and are served through that ministry
- And give thanks for God's faithfulness.

Wider Church

- Dustin and Christina Hite
- *Nourish Ministry*
- Eric and Kelly Frey Martin
- Andrea Ricardo Castro Serrano
- Linda Shelly
- Bekah York
- Friends in Colombia / Colombia delegation as they obtain visas
- *Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center*
- *Menno Haven*
- Our partner churches in Colombia
- *Zion Baptist Church*

Our World

- Healing from, and the end of the Coronavirus and variants
- For the peace process in Colombia
- Peace and justice for our world
- Immigrants and refugees
- Those who are unemployed or underemployed
- Those who are lonely and/or homebound
- Our Nation's leaders
- The ongoing wars and the continued strains of war on soldiers, families, children and nations
- Victims of violence, terrorism, and natural disasters
- Pray for Peace. Act for Peace.

Mennonite Church USA

The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, meeting via Zoom on March 15-16, 2024, affirmed a clean audit and a new strategic plan that seeks to reimagine church in new ways. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/executive-board-plan
The Schowalter Foundation, North Newton, Kansas, has provided \$10,000 to fund up to four semester-long internships at the Mennonite Church USA Archives and to help digitize fragile resources in 2024. Oscar J. Murguia, a third-year history major at Goshen

(Indiana) College, has been awarded the 2024 spring semester internship. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/schowalter-archive-interns

Menno Snapshots

Dr. Lesley F. McClendon presented this devotional at the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board meeting recently. She reflects on what reimagining the church means and how we can stay true to the gospel message, while also accommodating our rapidly changing needs as a culture. Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/reimagining-church
Request an MC USA staff person to speak at your assembly, congregation, Sunday school or event. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/speaker

Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Jonah and Memee Yang, who minister in Thailand from a base in Minnesota. Pray for them as they travel to Thailand twice per year to teach Hmong and Thai students in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Journey Program (Jonah) and through Mennonite Women's Sister Care seminars (Memee).

Friends To Remember

Please remember our members who are not able to worship with us regularly.

Thank you for your kindness. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Psalm 147:3 He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

Check out the MEDA magazine in the church library. Orpha Schertz's grandson's wife, Macy Troyer, has a feature article in the magazine. It's a sweet article! ↪



Nursery Volunteers
4/28 Sherry R and Sherrill U

OFFERING
(In person/by mail)

APRIL BY SUNDAY

04/07	\$4,228.05
04/14	\$1,192.13
04/21	\$5,806.07

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

04/21	
Snackpac	\$500.00
OAFP	\$25.00
Reimbursement for Worship Expense -	
Good Friday Service	\$300.00
10 Sets Menno Media Shine Sets	\$110.00
Year-to-date:	\$114,096.97

COINS FOR COLOMBIA: \$152.85

To place information in the Metamora Mennonite Weekly, please contact the church office by phone or email. All items must be in the office **no later than 9 am on Thursday** to help ensure inclusion in Sunday's edition.

Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain
If you have an emergent need and want it on the confidential prayer chain, please contact the church office at: admin@metmenno.org or Pastor Eric, and we will get your request on the prayer chain as soon as possible. If you would like your request on the Weekly Prayer and Care List, contact the church office before 9 am on Friday of each week. Requests remain on list for 2 weeks unless we receive word otherwise.

ABOUT OPEN ARMS FOOD PANTRY
Tuesday or Saturday between 9 am and 11:45 am.
Visit the Open Arms page on the MMC website at: www.metmenno.org

CONTACT INFORMATION
1200 W. Mount Vernon St.
Metamora, IL 61548
email: admin@metmenno.org
phone: 309.367.4892

CONTACT INFORMATION
1393 Mennonite Road
Metamora, IL 61548

Pastoral Staff
Eric Potter, Lead Pastor
eric@metmenno.org
309.648.6895
Office Hours:
Best reached by appointment; feel free to text, call, or leave a message.

Secretary
Michelle Burns
admin@metmenno.org
309.367.4892 office
309.397.0938 (cell)
Office Hours: Tues. - Fri.

Treasurer
Amy Johnson - 309.532.1948
treasurer@metmenno.org
Home Office Hours: Tuesday

Worship Director
Sarah Mayo - 614.301.4195
sarah@metmenno.org

Elder Team
Rebecca Byler Dann
309.713.5668
rbylerda@uic.edu
Shirley Bachman 309.256.8351
bachlady53@gmail.com
Mark Neumann 309.645.7042
neumann@mtco.com

April Trustees
Marcus Smucker- 616.443.5994
tvs91@yahoo.com

(Available as needed:)
Kevin Unzicker - 309-635-5551
keu6698@frontier.com

CPC Team
(Child Protection Committee):
Kristyn Kennell - 309.338.4560
Kristyn.Kennell@gmail.com
Ruth Freeman - 217.871.9365
rd0506@gmail.com

Metamora Mennonite Church on-line giving page: *Continue to Give*



Please contact Amy Johnson, Treasurer, with any questions.

QR Code for Giving!



2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1  <i>May Day</i> 6 pm <i>Leadership Mtg.</i></p>	<p>2 9 am <i>Mennonite Women Newborn Kits</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>
<p>5 <i>OAFP Collection</i> 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Worship with Elias Escalante from Colombia <i>Meal with taco salad & desserts!</i></p>	<p>6 6 pm <i>Snackpac packing @ OAFP</i></p>	<p>7 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>
<p>12 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Worship </p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>	<p>15 3:30 pm <i>Missions</i> 5:30 pm <i>Elders/Pastors</i> 6 pm <i>Pantry</i> 6:30 pm <i>Worship Team</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>
<p>19 <i>Pentecost</i> 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>
<p>26 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Worship</p>	<p>27 9 am <i>Rally Day at Menno Haven</i> <i>Memorial Day</i></p>	<p>28 9 - 11:45 am Open Arms Food Pantry</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><i>Please see The Weekly for Servant Groups and up-to-date event schedules.</i></p>	 Full Moon: 5 Last Quarter: 12 New Moon: 19 First Quarter: 27

Sunday Morning Schedules (*subject to change!)

Date	*Greeter	Worship Leader	Prayer Leader	Music Audio/Video	Nursery TBA
May 5	Steve & Jan Stewart J & Alicia Gingrich	Chuck Danner	Josh Graber	Sarah, Dale, Josh, Sheila, Andrew, Carys	
May 12	Ron & Sue Bachman Hudson Potter Bryn Mayo	Ruth Freeman	Ron Sears	Sarah, Sheila, Dale, Jan Garret, Rhonda	
May 19	David & Karen Ewert Hudson, Avery & Carys	Matt O'Shea	Mark Neumann	Sarah, Janet, Mark, Keith Soren, Gail	
May 26	Betty Bekermeier Phyllis Thomas	Youth	Josh Graber	Josh, Jan, Dale, Sheila, Rick & Jill	

May Birthdays

- 01 Betty Bekermeier
- 03 Hudson Potter
- 17 Willis Sutter
- 18 David Kortemeier
- 19 Stella Rose BylerDann
('08) (Jonathan & Rebecca)
- 20 Al Hauschild
- 23 Jeremy Tieman
- 25 Kari Rauh
- 26 Matt O'Shea
- 26 Betty Ulrich
- 27 Ffion Mayo
('20) (Mike & Sarah)

Anniversaries

- 5/01/1976 Tom and Jane Hagan
- 5/21/1977 Ron and Barb Sutter

