



The

Metamora Mennonite

WEEKLY

Following Jesus together.

Vol 5. No. 43

Metamora, IL

September 17, 2017

TODAY

11 am Sunday School

THIS WEEK

Tuesday & Saturday

9 am to noon Open Arms Food Pantry Distribution at the OAFP

Saturday

2 pm 2017 Refugee Walk with Living Waters

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 24

Noon Singles Bernardi's

Monday, September 25

4 pm Growth for Service at Et Cetera;
6:30 pm Leadership Team meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 27

6 pm Prayer Gathering at MMC

Saturday, Sept. 30

6:30 pm Hymns and Hers Concert at MMC

Monday, October 2

6 pm Pantry meeting
7 pm Missions Team

Thursday, October 5

9 am Mennonite Women "Global Family Project" – supports a school in Honduras

IN YOUR MAILBOX

- Projection Proposal Survey

IN THE LIBRARY

- *IL Mennonite Heritage Quarterly*

September Services:

Eric Potter

Belonging: an ingredient towards spiritual formation

"A deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don't function as we were meant to. We break. We fall apart. We numb. We ache. We hurt others. We get sick."

- Brene Brown

Last Sunday here at MMC during Sunday School hour we had the opportunity to share with one another three important areas in the life of our church: Belonging, Adult Sunday School, and Servant Groups. It was a great discussion and I continue to discover and understand the many amazing ways that God is at work through belonging and community in our church. Stories were shared of significant impact as a result of these environments.

Maybe it has been awhile (I'm not sure I am new here) but we wanted to once again make known the places where attenders and members of MMC can find community and hopefully a true sense of belonging.

On Sunday mornings, not only do we have our worship service but also Sunday School hour (which is actually 45 mins)! Last Sunday we voted and decided to dive into a book about Race relations called "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This class begins today and will run alongside the Uniform class. Hope you can join us!

Also discussed last week were the various "Servant Groups" that our church currently offers. We are planning to add all of these groups and blurbs about each of them in the narthex really soon. But in short we have a variety of groups that meet at different times and different locations. Here is a brief listing of groups and their leaders:

All Grown Ups, All Children – Jon and Deb Byler

Eureka "Shalom" – Steve and Jan Stewart

Faith and Fellowship – Paul and Sue Reeb

Growth for Service – Kay Sears

Open Porch – Ron and Sue Bachman

Transitions Group – Randall and Morgan Koehler

Jon Byler also reminded us of other groups that meet on a regular basis, Mennonite Women, Men's Golfing, as well as others. These will also be highlighted in the future as well.

If you are interested in the who, what, when, where, etc. of these groups feel free to contact any one of the leaders soon!

It is the Leadership Team's heart and hope that people who visit MMC or those who have been with us for awhile would find community and a place of belonging because these are so essential to ongoing spiritual formation for all of us.

grace and peace,
Eric

THANK YOU / ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you goes out to each of you for the beautiful flower arrangement and expressions of appreciation for teaching and nurturing the children here for many years. I am willing and happy to serve in any way the Lord can use me.

Love, Jane Hagan

AFFIRMATION VOTE RESULTS

On Sunday, September 10, an affirmation vote was taken for Recording Secretary and Discipleship Team Leader. 47 total ballots were cast and both were affirmed. Those affirmed will begin serving in their new roles immediately. Thank you for prayerfully participating in this process.

UPDATE ON SNACKPAC LUNCH PROGRAM

I will start delivering the Snackpac lunches this week. We have 104 students receiving lunches this school year. They go to Lowpoint-Washburn, Middle and Elementary schools, Noah's Ark, Roanoke Head Start, and Washburn Food Pantry. Please keep this program in your prayers. Jan Unzicker

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We have just been notified that the cost for shipping the Operation Christmas Child boxes is now \$9 per box.

PAGE CXVI IN CONCERT

We are pleased to announce that Metamora Mennonite Church will be hosting the Hymns and Hers tour, with Page CXVI and Aaron Strumpel, on Saturday evening, **September 30** at 6:30 pm.



About the Band: After forming The Autumn Film, band members Reid and Latifah Phillips and Dann Stockton were leading worship at churches and could not deny the strong beckoning of the hymns. They decided to develop a parallel band; the same people with a new purpose of making hymns accessible again under the new name, Page CXVI. It's drawn from the page number in a particular copy of The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis, the brilliant passage where Aslan begins to sing Narnia into creation out of a black void.

This will be another great night of music and we hope you can join us! Adult tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Children under 12 are \$5 at the door, infants are free.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/page-cxvi-w-aaron-strumpel-hymns-and-hers-tour-2017-tickets-37707594430?aff=ehomecard>

Grab a friend or two and take in a night of music that will move your soul!

ANNUAL REPORTS

It's that time again! For the October Annual Business Meeting, held on Sunday, October 18, please submit your report by September 27 to Michelle via e-mail if possible. The preferred document format is Microsoft Word. If reports are received after that date, they may not be included.

Elders

Pastor's

Ministry Teams

Member Care

Gifts

Discipleship

Worship

Library

Open Arms Food Pantry & Financial

Mennonite Women & Financial

Treasurer's

METAMORA MENNONITE CHURCH: NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICE

PEORIA RESCUE MISSION SERVICES

For many years MMC has led the services at PRM one Thursday each quarter. However, in recent years as participating members have grown older and no longer serve, attendance from our church has fallen off significantly. Recruiting speakers and musicians for these services has often been a challenge.

Consequently our church is at a crossroads and needs to decide whether or not this ministry is one we realistically can and should continue. If you have an opinion pro or con or if you are willing to assume some responsibility to be involved, please give your feedback to a member of the Missions Team or to Pastor Eric. Our church will not be leading the service on September 28th. A decision about further involvement in this ministry will be made in the near future.

2017 REFUGEE WALK

Saturday, September 23, Join with Living Waters in a walk to support the over 65 million refugees around the world who have been forced from their homes due to war, religious persecution, and natural disasters. The journey will touch on both the physical experience of refugees as well as attempt to simulate some of the emotions they face as they encounter impossible choices every day.

You can choose to walk 15 miles, 8 miles, or 1 mile in the shoes of displaced people. Find sponsors who will support you for the miles walked.

Support money raised will provide Action Packs through "The Voice of the Martyrs" ministry, Bibles for refugee camps through "International Association for Refugees", and support local refugee families through "World Relief, Moline."

All walks begin and end at Living Waters Church, 7229 N Knoxville Ave, Peoria, at the following times: (meet at back entrance)

15 miles - 6 AM

8 miles - 10:00 AM

4 miles - 12:30 PM

1 mile - 2:00 PM (MMC will participate in this)

A "refugee lunch" will be provided for 15 mile and 8 mile walkers. The Refugee Walk will end at approximately 5 PM after a simple meal and a brief closing worship at Living Waters.

Registration by Sept 9th is appreciated to help in coordination, but walkers will be accepted up to the beginning of each distance.

A sign-up form is in the narthex, or you can email your registration to run.hard.in.fairh@hotmail.com. (Tim Hofer). Bring your completed sponsorship sheet and funds raised to the walk.

FIRST SUNDAY OAFP COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations of canned peaches. This month, we are collecting bathroom tissue, any size and brand. You may bring them to worship on **Sunday, October 1**.



EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



MARY of BETHANY

Turn and live!

Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live. None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live.

Ezekiel 33:11a, 16 NRSV; compare 18:25-32

John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester England in the 16th c., outlines three movements of repentance or turning back from sin; reflection on sins with contrition, confession to one's spiritual director/ confessor, and acts of repentance or satisfaction which correspond to the change in direction. He uses the example of a dirty "tablet" which needs to be scraped, washed, and wiped, (*Exposition Of The Seven Penitential Psalms*, in modern English by Anne Barbeau Gardiner).

All three movements are possible by means of God's gracious help. God forgives and is gracious. God's mercy is endless. And God is fair and just.

Acts of repentance for Fisher include cleansing tears, and care for the poor, not just giving alms, but presence. Community service which courts sometimes require is similar.

In our Ezekiel passage, deeds of repentance include restoring the pledge, giving back what has been unfairly taken, and walking in the statues of life (verse 15).

Bishop Fisher's teaching takes Sin and God's judgment seriously, and also the joy, peace, and gladness of being cleansed. The Holy Spirit is present in clean hearts (p. 118)!

And, we remember that we are cleansed, forgiven, and freed of charges by means of Jesus' faithfulness in carrying Sin to the cross. We ponder this great victory.

Peace and All Good!

Subscribe to *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology!*

Vision, published semiannually by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Canadian Mennonite University, seeks to encourage theological reflection by church leaders on the identity, mission and practices of the church from an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective. The Fall 2017 issue, on the theme "Proclaiming Christ in a Pluralistic Context," is the final one to be edited by Mary H. Schertz, AMBS professor of New Testament, who retired in June. (Andy Brubacher Kaethler, AMBS professor, is taking on the role of AMBS editor.) Upcoming issue topics include "The Church and Young Adults" (Spring 2018) and "Gifts of a Global Church" (Fall 2018). **To get your copy of the Fall 2017 issue, subscribe by Sept. 22.** A one-year subscription is \$15; subscribe for three years for \$40. Send your check — made out to AMBS — to IMS, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517-1999, or pay by credit card by calling the AMBS receptionist at 574-295-3726. Canadian subscribers: contact vision@cmu.ca.

WEEKLY PRAYER AND CARE LIST

Please pray for the following requests:

Metamora Mennonite Church

- Robert Adams, Steve's father
- Ruth Dick
- Ellis Gingrich
- Jerod Gross, Norm & LeAnne's son
- Bill Hockenbury
- The passing of Eldon Kennell, Dennis' father
- Doris Mullins
- Bob and Marilyn Shepard
- Don and Jan Unzicker
- Erika Unzicker's father
- Steve Zoss
- Snackpac
- Travelers
- Those in hospitals, nursing homes, and the home bound
- Those recovering from procedures and medical treatments
- The local food pantry and the needs of the people that serve and are served through that ministry

Our Community

- Antje Strawn
- Kyle Wood

Wider Church

- Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center
- A year in prayer for Menno Haven

Open Arms Food Pantry

Concerns:

Family

- Annette
- Dawn
- Leona

Health

- Annette
- Sandra
- Kurtis

Finances

- Annette

Our World

- Pray for Goshen College students and faculty as the new school year begins.
- All impacted by Hurricane Harvey and Irma
- 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 MISSION NETWORK

Yesterday, the Argentina Mennonite Church began celebrating their centennial anniversary. Pray that God will be glorified as church members and guests worship and remember God's faithfulness. Pray also that today's mission rally in the greater Buenos Aires area will introduce people to Jesus in new ways.

Friends To Remember

Please remember our members who are not able to worship with us regularly. They value their share in our faith community.

Thank you for your kindness. Pastor Jon

Let us continue to pray for one another. *Psalm 147:3*

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

PRAYER LISTS AND PRAYER CHAIN

If you have an emergent need and want it on the confidential prayer chain, please contact the church office, Pastor Eric, or Pastor Jon, 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.*

CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be on the confidential prayer chain, and agree to pray on behalf of the needs of others and agree to keep all prayer requests received confidential (meaning they are not discussed with third parties), you can join the confidential prayer chain by sending secretary Michelle your e-mail address. (metmenno@mtco.com)

OFFERING**SEPTEMBER BY SUNDAY**

| | |
|------|------------|
| 9/03 | \$2,564.00 |
| 9/10 | \$1,731.00 |

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| <u>9/10</u> | |
| Snackpac | \$40.00 |
| Christmas Sharing | \$150.00 |
| MDS | \$300.00 |
| The Mennonite | \$74.00 |
| CCDA | \$1,038.00 |

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULES**TODAY**

Greeter: Matt and Miriam Roth
Steve and Jan Stewart

Nursery:

Worship: Kris Noe
Sun. School: Gail Neumann

Worship Leader: Mark Thannum

SEPTEMBER 24

Greeter: David and Karen Ewert
Ken Weaver & Orpha Schertz

Nursery:

Worship: Miriam Roth
Sun. School: Phoebe Gingrich

Worship Leader: Deb Byler

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 noon on Thursday
to guarantee inclusion
in Sunday's edition.

ABOUT METAMORA MENNONITE

Metamora Mennonite Church is a local Christian community in the Mennonite tradition. We are committed to living out Jesus' way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer and peacemaking together. We are a member of the congregation of Illinois Mennonite Conference and Mennonite Church USA.

For more information please visit our website at www.metmenno.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

1393 Mennonite Road
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fax: 309.367.4121

WEEKLY WORSHIP

We worship each week on Sunday morning at 9:30 am. Our worship consists of singing, scripture reading, prayer and sharing and preaching. After **the Children's story**, children 6 months to 4 years may go to the **nursery**. Following **the sermon response song**, children in K-5th grades and 3-4 year olds are dismissed to attend **Children's Hour/Sunday School**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

11 am

Adults

- Uniform Class
- Between the World and Me

Children and Youth

- *K-5th and 2-4 year olds* in downstairs classrooms
- *Jr. and Sr. High* in balcony rooms

Secretary

Michelle Burns
metmenno@mtco.com
309.397.0938 (cell)
Office Hours:
Tues. — Fri. 9 am - noon

Pastoral Staff

Eric Potter, Lead Pastor
ericmmc@mtco.com
309.648.6895
Office Hours:
Mon. — Thurs.; best reached by appointment; feel free to text, call, or leave a message

Jon Byler, Associate Pastor

jdbylar@mtco.com
309.444.9407 (home)
309.360.1787 (cell)
Office Hours:
Tues. 10 am - 1 pm,
Wed. 9 am - noon

**ABOUT OPEN ARMS
FOOD PANTRY**

Open Arms Food Pantry provides food for the hungry in Metamora, Germantown Hills, Spring Bay, Washburn, Lowpoint and Cazenovia, IL.

There are no hoops to jump through, just come to the pantry on Tuesday or Saturday between 9 am and noon.

For more information, please visit the Open Arms page on the MMC website at: www.metmenno.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

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