



The

# Metamora Mennonite

WEEKLY

Following Jesus together.

Vol 6. No. 3

Metamora, IL

December 17, 2017

## TODAY

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## THIS WEEK

### **Monday**

4 pm Growth for Service  
@ Et Cetera

### **Tuesday & Saturday**

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

### **Thursday**

6 pm Longest Night  
Service

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, December 24**

9:30 am Worship;

8 pm Christmas Eve  
Service

### **Wednesday, Dec. 27**

6 pm Prayer Gathering

### **Sunday, December 31**

9:30 am Worship and  
5th Sunday Coins for  
Colombia

## IN THE LIBRARY

- *Mennonite World Review*

## IN YOUR MAILBOX

- Leadership Team Minutes, October

## A journey ended, or perhaps just beginning...

I am happy to share with you that last month I had the honor of completing my Spiritual Direction training through an organization called Sustainable Faith. What does this mean? Good question! I can now add Spiritual Director to my signature; a new title!!!

You need to know, however, that titles are not all that important or significant to me. But what I am grateful for are the things that I have learned along the way in this two-year journey of Spiritual Direction training. Another huge blessing was the relationships that were cultivated through the cohort of fellow directors – such a gift!

What is spiritual direction? Also a good question; glad you asked! Spiritual direction is an interpersonal relationship in which we can learn how to grow, live, and love in our spiritual journey. It involves a process through which one person helps another person understand what God may be doing and saying. One of the crucial gifts in the work of spiritual direction is discernment.

Part of the program was to not only find three guinea pigs to give direction to, but also to receive spiritual direction. In year two of the program I was reunited with a fellow co-worker, Kim, from Woodcrest Chapel in Columbia, MO. We met weekly through Skype and went through “The Ignatian Adventure” by Kevin O’Brien. This was both a hard, as well as, a very life giving experience for me. I can share more about it in a different format, so just ask me if curious about the Ignatian Adventure.

As for Spiritual Direction training, I am struck by how that training begins to bleed into the rest of my life. How to listen well, how to be present to someone, the art of asking good questions as it relates to the journey of faith, waiting for the Holy Spirit to guide, among other things.

So celebrate with me the completion of this program and I invite your prayers as I discern what may be next in the realm of Spiritual Direction as well as other growth areas that the Lord might invite me toward. The journey continues...

Grace and peace,  
Eric

## **December Services:**

12/17 Eric

12/21 6 pm Longest Night

12/24 Eric 9:30 am and 8 pm

12/31 Eric

## THANK YOU / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all at Metamora Mennonite for your kind words and your presence as we experience these days of missing Jeanne's mother, Mattie Nofziger. She was not able to come physically to the church in her two years here, but she did make the trip from her room to the living room every Wednesday morning for the Praying the Scriptures. She did not miss one. It became her "church" and she loved getting to know those of you who attended. Many thanks. Ron and Jeanne Sears

Friends at Metamora Mennonite, May you find joy and hope this Christmas and in the coming year. Thanks for all the ways you support MCC! Krista Dutt

### **PLANNED SCHEDULE FOR THE PROJECTOR INSTALLATION**

- Scaffolding is coming on a semi truck (12/15) per Garret
- Kennell Electric will do most electrical / wiring on 12/18
- Projector install on 1/04-05/2018

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering Envelopes are in the narthex. If you would like one, please see Joanne Neumann.

## METAMORA MENNONITE CHURCH: NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICE



### **HOPE YOU CAN COME!**

**Saturday, January 13**, 5 pm at Metamora Mennonite Church, all men and boys of MMC and their guests are invited for a soup and pie supper. Guest speaker will be Shane Knapp.

### **SAVE THOSE CANS!**

Please start saving your empty and washed cans for next year's Old Settler's booth! Thank you!



### **FIRST SUNDAY OAFP COLLECTION**

In December, we are collecting canned peaches, any brand and size. Please bring your donations to MMC on **Sunday, January 7**.

## WIDER CHURCH/COMMUNITY: NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICE

### **MENNO HAVEN WINTER RETREATS**

*Young Adults: January 5-7      High School: January 12-14      Jr. High: January 19-21*  
 Registrations forms are in the narthex. You may register and pay online at [www.mennohaven.com](http://www.mennohaven.com) and save \$5, also save if postmarked by December 20.



## EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



MARY of BETHANY

### Good news in the night

And shepherds were in the same region living out of doors, and guarding watch periods of the night over their flock. And a messenger of the Lord stood near them, and the Lord's splendor shined around them, and they became frightened with a great fear.

And the messenger said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold I am bringing good news, great joy, to you, which shall be to all the people, because a Savior is born to you today, who is Lord Christ, in David's city. And this the sign to you, you will discover an infant wrapped up in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12 AT

Artist and author Jan Richardson writing in Faith and Leadership, reminds us that at Christmas God comes to us in the dark. God's splendor shined around the shepherds, and the messenger brought good news. God is at work, creating something new. Richardson writes, "I have found that whatever kind of darkness we are in, God is always very keen to meet us there."

In our December 21 Longest Night service we will celebrate the Word become flesh, the Light shining in the darkness. We will give thanks with song, Scripture, bread and cup. Please join together and invite friends.

Peace and All Good!

#### **MC USA**

**Take some time to engage with Menno Snapshots**, reflections and stories written by people across the church that are regularly posted on MC USA's website. Recent blog posts have featured topics including contemplative prayer, reviving civility, new motherhood and digitizing the MC USA Archives. If you are interested in contributing to the Menno Snapshot blog, email:

JenniferC@MennoniteUSA.org.

Find Menno Snapshots at: <http://mennoniteusa.org/category/menno-snapshots/>

#### **AMBS**

**Want training for ministry without relocating?** Journey is a 2-1/2-year non-degree leadership development program for people exploring a call to ministry. The distance-friendly AMBS program features a five-unit online curriculum, biweekly mentor-mentee meetings and one visit to the AMBS region per year. Participants receive a certificate upon meeting program requirements. Register by Jan. 5. [www.ambs.edu/journey](http://www.ambs.edu/journey)

## WEEKLY PRAYER AND CARE LIST

*Please pray for the following requests:*

### Metamora Mennonite Church

- Robert Adams, Steve's father
- Ruth Dick
- Ellis and Greta Gingrich
- Bill Hockenbury
- Betsy Lewandowski, Don Schertz' daughter
- The family of Mattie Nofziger, Jeanne Sears' mother
- Rachel (Sutter) Roberts
- Bob and Marilyn Shepard
- Don and Jan Unzicker
- 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

### Wider Church

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

### Our World

- 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.

### Open Arms Food Pantry

Concerns:

#### **Employment**

- Danny
- Leo
- Krystle

#### **Health**

- Ryan
- Baby Briar
- Danny
- Sandra
- Rhonda
- Myrna

#### **Family**

- Ana

### **MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY**

*Instituto Biblico Anabautista (IBA)*  
 Pray for the 40 IBA volunteer tutors who serve at study centers across the country. May God bless them as they give of their time for this ministry and contribute to the training of new leaders for the Hispanic churches of Mennonite Church USA. May God grant them wisdom, patience and lots of energy as they continue to serve with IBA in the coming year.

### **Mennonite Mission Network**

Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture program invites teens and young adults (ages 16-22) to participate in a short-term learning and service experience during the summer of 2018. Pray for open hearts in those whom God is calling to Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Peru or Spain.

### 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. *Psalms 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****DECEMBER BY SUNDAY**

12/10 \$6,229.50

**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

12/10

Church Improvement

Projector \$1,200.00

Snackpac \$100.00

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULES****TODAY**

Greeter: John and Barb Allshouse  
Ron and Sue Bachman

Nursery:

*Worship:* Betty Bekermeier

SS: Shirley Bachman

Worship Leader: Stephan Rauh

**DECEMBER 24**

Greeter: Kay Sears  
John and Karen Garber

Nursery:

*Worship:* Susan Surratt

SS: Kris Noe

Worship Leader: Anna Tieman

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](http://www.metmenno.org)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

1393 Mennonite Road  
Metamora, IL 61548

email: [metmenno@mtco.com](mailto:metmenno@mtco.com)

phone: 309.367.4892

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* in the sanctuary
- *"The Critical Journey: Stages in the Life of Faith"* in Eric's office

**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](mailto:metmenno@mtco.com)

309.397.0938 (cell)

Office Hours:

Tues. — Fri. 9 am - noon

**Pastoral Staff**

*Eric Potter, Lead Pastor*

[ericmmc@mtco.com](mailto: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*

[jdb Tyler@mtco.com](mailto:jdb Tyler@mtco.com)

309.444.9407 (home)

309.360.1787 (cell)

Office Hours:

Jon and Deb are in Goshen, IN today visiting family.

Tues. 10 am - 1 pm;

Thurs. 9 am - 1 pm

**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](http://www.metmenno.org)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

1200 W. Mount Vernon Street  
Metamora, IL 61548

email: [openarms@mtco.com](mailto:openarms@mtco.com)

phone: 309.367.4892