



The

Metamora Mennonite

WEEKLY

Following Jesus together.

Vol 6. No. 7

Metamora, IL

January 14, 2018

TODAY

2 pm Service at Select Care in Eureka

THIS WEEK

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

Wednesday
5:30 pm Elders

7 pm Discipleship

Fri. - Sun.
Menno Haven Jr. High School Winter Retreat

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 21
Fresh Food Drive, pg. 2

Monday, January 22
4 pm Growth for Service at Et Cetera

6 pm Snackpac packing at the Open Arms Food Pantry.

Wednesday, January 24
6 pm Prayer Gathering

Sunday, January 28
Noon Singles to the Cornerstone in Eureka

IN THE LIBRARY

Bethel College magazine

MCC's *A Common Place*

WE CARE FOR CREATION CARE

It is winter. We feel it in the sting of cold, in slippery roads, in rising heat bills, and in the need for snow shovels. Yet, there are gifts in winter. One of the gifts of winter is beauty.

This winter, the snow has been powdery. The sunrises and sunsets have been brilliant. One December sunrise even graced us with a partial rainbow rising out of the snow. The air has been bracing, even though tolerable for only a short time. The coyote and deer are easy to spot against the white and the leafless forest. Much beauty.

We notice and care for this beauty because God does. God created it all and in the book of Genesis pronounces it "good". Referring to Christ, Colossians 1 tells us that all things created, "absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible... everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him."

God speaks to us through the natural world. Poet Mary Oliver writes,

Oh, feed me this day, Holy Spirit,
With the fragrance of the fields and the
Freshness of the oceans,
Which you have made.

Do we care for Creation? How do we care? We hope to address these questions and to be encouraged by our own stories of creation care in an elective Sunday School class beginning this Sunday, January 14.

This class will meet for seven weeks. A key component will be engaging with stories, maps, and video from those among us here in Central Illinois. We will use material from the Mennonite Creation Care Network to think more deeply about how to engage right where we live. Please join us in the classroom next to the kitchen. If you have a story to tell, contact Jeanne or Ron Sears.

THANK YOU / ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of love shown at the Remembrance Service for Ellis. Thank you to all who helped - Michelle, Eric, those in the kitchen, and those who brought food for the meal. Greta, Nicole, Eric and families

TODAY: SERVICE AT SELECT CARE

The service at Select Care (Maple Lawn) is this afternoon at 2 pm. Jon Byler is coordinating the service. We will provide a sermon/message, chorister, pianist & special music. Anyone interested in helping at the service can contact Jon.

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Don Schertz will return to the Missions Team. Late last year, Karen Ewert took over leadership of the Missions Team due to personal time concerns for Don. Don has now agreed to rejoin the Missions Team as a team member, 'ad hoc' to support the Food Pantry and other missions. Karen will remain the Co-Team Leader with J Gingrich.

COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR PIE BAKING

A person or team is needed to lead the upcoming Relief Sale pie baking for our church. This person or team will arrange for the crusts, berries and other supplies, coordinate volunteers and supervise the preparation and baking. Written procedures and past supervisor support is available. This is an urgent need that must be filled quickly. If you are willing to lead this project or could work with another person as a team please contact Jay Bachman or Barb Sutter.

SNACKPAC PACKING

Time to pack lunches again! Join us on **Monday, January 22**, 6 pm at the Open Arms Food Pantry. We will be packing 500 Snackpacs again. Hope you can help.

COMMUNITY

WOODFORD COUNTY FRESH FOOD PARTNERS MEETING

The Woodford County Health Department is reaching out to invite you to their WCFFP meeting on **Thursday, January 18** from 8 - 9:30 am at the WCHD, 1831 S. Main St. in Eureka. Please join them as they continue their discussion about efforts in Woodford County to increase access and consumption of fresh, healthy foods. Feel free to invite others to the meeting.

FRESH FOOD DRIVE SLATED FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Be a part of our FRESH Food Drives this winter! SHARE THE BOUNTY OF OUR REGION WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS. HERE ARE TWO WAYS TO HELP:

1. BUY fresh produce (whole, uncut) where you shop and bring it the day of the drive. We suggest a 10 lb donation. Think a bag of potatoes, bananas, apples, oranges, melon....
2. DONATE online at paypal.me/believegitm Your donation is tax-deductible. We will purchase food from our farmers and producers whenever possible and donate it to a local food pantry. Contact Denise 309-966-3790 gitm@mtco.com www.goodfoodrecovery.org



SOUP AND PIE SUPPER

The Linn Mennonite Christian School is having its annual Soup & Pie Supper on **Saturday, January 27** from 4:30-7:30 pm. This meal is eat in or carry out. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for ages 4-10, and there is no charge for children under 4.

EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



MARY of BETHANY

Holy Spirit unity

Therefore, I, the prisoner for (the) Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call of which you were called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience (steadfastness), bearing with one another in love, while being eager to preserve the unity of the Holy Spirit by the uniting bond of peace; one body and one Spirit, as also you were called to one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faithfulness, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all things and through all things and in all things. Ephesians 4:1-6 AT

The unity or harmony or oneness of the Holy Spirit is present when peace is the uniting bond which brings members together. The word translated *uniting bond* is the same form as our English word desmosome, which is a cell membrane area of adhesion. Cells in our bodies stick together.

The verb translated *were called*, can also be translated *are called*. We are continually being called.

The word translated *faithfulness* can refer to us, namely our faith, trust, confidence, firm commitment. The word can mean a body of faith or teaching. And it can describe the one being trusted, the *Lord* - faithfulness, reliability.

The word *through* (all things) expresses personal agency. God is the originator of all things. Holy Spirit, please bring these reassuring words to mind.

Peace and All Good!

Pastor Jon

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BRIDAL SHOWER HONORING

Mary Bachman

Saturday, February 3, 2018 10 am - noon for brunch

Old Mill Vineyard-700 Coon Creek Road-Metamora-Hosted by Jan, Kris, Kelly and Gail

RSVP to Gail Neumann 309-370-6311 or Jan Stewart 309-467-6276

Mary and Cole are registered at Crate & Barrel, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Zola

WEEKLY PRAYER AND CARE LIST

Please pray for the following requests:

Metamora Mennonite Church

- Robert Adams, Steve's father
- Ruth Dick
- Bill Hockenbury
- Betsy Lewandowski, Don Schertz' daughter
- 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:

Direction

- Lucy
- Crider
- Brandy

Health

- Sandra
- Danny
- Ginni
- Jamie

Employment

- Danny

Family

- Tiffany
- Kayle

MC USA

Journey Forward Writing Team
The five-person Journey Forward writing team met for the first time on Dec. 11-13 to begin their work with Journey Forward, a church wide process for following God's calling for MC USA. The team invites prayers for their second Face-to-Face in Philadelphia on Jan. 25-27. Read about their first meeting here: <http://mennoniteusa.org/news/writers-gather-plan-journey-forward-draft/>

Mennonite Mission Network

Kristin and Mike Sharp of Mennonite Mission Network serve as community hosts for Round Chapel in the East End of London. Pray for them and their two daughters as they engage the congregational vision of "living out God's warm embrace" in an area with many homeless people.

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.*

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULES**TODAY**

Greeter: John and Barb Allshouse
Ron and Sue Bachman

Nursery:

Worship: Sherry Garber
Sunday School: need sub

Worship Leader: Mark Neumann

JANUARY 21

Greeter: Kay Sears
Sherrill Unzicker

Nursery:

Worship: Shirley Bachman
Sunday School: Sue Bachman

Worship Leader: Kristyn Kennell

OFFERING**JANUARY BY SUNDAY**

1/07 \$1,775.00

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

1/07
Snackpac \$1,000.00
Hospitality \$200.00

Coins for Colombia \$215.71

CONTACT INFORMATION

1393 Mennonite Road
Metamora, IL 61548

Secretary

Michelle Burns
metmenno@mtco.com
309.367.4892 office
309.367.4121 fax
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
jdblyer@mtco.com
309.444.9407 (home)
309.360.1787 (cell)
Office Hours:
Tues., Thurs. 11 am - 1 pm

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
- *Creation Care* in classroom next to kitchen
- *"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

**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

1200 W. Mount Vernon Street
Metamora, IL 61548

email: openarms@mtco.com
phone: 309.367.4892

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 help ensure inclusion in Sunday's edition.