

WELCOME

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH – MAY 10, 2020

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

A community caring for all God's people, being transformed by Christ's love, serving others as a witness of God's grace and peace.

REACH, GROW, SERVE

Philippians Bible Study

Tonight will be the final session for the Philippians Bible study with Pastor Seth.

Graduates!

Please notify the church office if you have a graduate in the family, whether preschool, high school, college, or graduate school.

Vacation Bible School will be held online this year. Watch the bulletin for dates and additional information coming soon.

Service Adventure is still happening in the fall and there are plenty of openings! Check out MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure to learn more and sign up!

Prairie View Face Mask Donations Needed

We were so grateful for the many cloth masks given to us the first time we asked for help. Now we're asking again to ensure we have adequate protective supplies to support the safety of staff and clients as the state and our facility begin the gradual re-opening process: Can you help us? We are looking for volunteers and church groups to sew cloth masks to help protect our patients, children and staff. Send donations to Prairie View at 1901 E First St Newton, Kansas 67114. If you have questions, call 800-992-6292.

WEEKLY EVENTS

TUESDAY MAY 12

8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
8:00 p.m. Board of Deacons

WEDNESDAY MAY 13

Bulletin Announcements
Due (Please email or call)
7:00 p.m. Zoom High School
Youth

SUNDAY MAY 17

9:30 a.m. Worship Via
Livestream
Message: Pastor Gene
Offering: CPMC
Pianist: Marilyn Kroeker
11:00 a.m. Zoom Catechism
3:30 p.m. Zoom Mom's
Support Group

CHURCH FAMILY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS, GRIEF OR FAMILY NEEDS...

Jean Siebert, Jane Brehm, Tami Peters, JoAnn Epp

MCC Sale T-Shirts Arrived

If you ordered a MCC t-shirt, please call the office, and we will deliver to you curbside.

The Upper Room daily devotional for May/June is available for curbside pickup. Just give the church a call and we will deliver to your vehicle. You may also read The Upper Room devotional as a PDF online at https://destination-site-production.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/UR_May-June2020.pdf or go to Bethesda's home page and click the link.

The development of a COVID-19 Pandemic Response Fund has been set up for York county households who have been affected by COVID-19. Emergency assistance to help meet immediate and short-term needs such as rent, utilities, food and more can be requested online at www.yorkcountyhealthcoalition.com. Click "Apply for Funds." If applicants do not have internet access, please call 402-745-6604 to apply. Assistance will be provided based on available funds.

CONTACT US

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Phone: 402-723-4562

Pastor Seth: 717-824-5998; Pastor Gene: 580-660-5796; Pastor Andrea: 402-710-3195

Email: bethesda@mainstaycomm.net

Website: www.bethesdamc.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Worship services are available via:

- Livestream @ <http://bethesdamc.org/watch-live>
- Radio @ KOOL 103.5 FM
- Cobalt Cable Channel 3207

YOUTH

All Zoom links can be found @ www.bmcfaitthformation.com

High School Youth will meet via Zoom Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Look for a text with the link and ID # to join our digital youth group. Any youth are welcome to join if they are looking for a place to connect with other youth, pray and study the Bible.

Catechism 2020 will meet via Zoom Sundays following worship at 11:00 a.m. Look for a text with the link and ID # to join.

Visit <http://www.bmcfaitthformation.com/covid-19-resources.html> for the following resources:

- Coloring Prayers
- How to talk to children/youth about COVID-19
- Books offered for free – Adult Bible study and children's book (age 9-12)
- How to navigate the stress of uncertain times
- Ideas for all ages: How grow in our relationship with God during this time of social distancing.

FINANCIALS

Donations received from April 28 – May 5, 2020

Menonite Church USA/Mission Network	\$585.00
Menonite Mission Network	\$50.00
Swan Lake Christian Camp	\$170.00
Anabaptist Menonite Biblical Seminary	\$900.00
Benevolent Fund	\$100.00
Bethesda General Operating	\$4,199.50
Sunday School	\$50.00
Total Worship Offering	\$6,054.50

Bethesda Operating Fund January 1 – May 5, 2020

2020 Approved Annual Operating Budget	\$646,232
Bethesda Income	\$162,008
<i>(We have received 25.07% of our Approved Budget.)</i>	
Operating Expenses	\$221,959
<i>We have spent 34.35% of our Approved Budget.)</i>	
Year to Date Income Minus Expenses	(\$59,951)
<i>(Annual insurance premium was paid in March.)</i>	

I have been wanting to post a bit about how Covid 19 is affecting life in the Congo, but I keep coming back to how this pandemic has been such a leveler across economies and cultures, also leaving us reeling in many ways. Often, it seems, the North American and the Congolese relationship has been one between the "haves and the have-nots" but the current suffering and disruption is universal. For my Congolese friends, prayer has always been a first line of defense whereas for us, it seems we must first exhaust all personal attempts to solve our problems before we resort to earnest prayer. We have much to learn about a daily dependence on God from our Congolese brothers and sisters.

The number of cases in the Congo has yet to reach the exponential growth that we have experienced and so far, most cases have been confined to the Kinshasa area, a city of 12+ million. Wisely, the city is under lock down but that has caused immense chaos and disruption. In a city where people live on top of one another and where life is a daily quest for food, "social distancing" is a near impossibility. There has been a mass disruption of food coming into the city and my friend, Simplice, writes that many essential items have gone up by two, three and four times with many accompanying shortages. Simplice speculates that more will die from starvation than from the actual virus.

No cases have been reported in the area of Dayspring's involvement. Schools and church services have been curtailed. Their extreme isolation may, for once, work to their advantage as well as the fact that most rely on their own fields and gardens as their primary source of food. Some of their food and supplies come from Angola and with those borders now closed, that has caused supply disruptions. Supplies coming in from Kinshasa bring the risk of Covid infection. Their dry season corresponds with our summer and that always results in widespread hunger and malnutrition. So, life hangs in the balance - but then that is normal.

All things sound all too familiar with the stories we are hearing in the U.S. regarding disruptions being caused by fallout from the virus. What will not happen there, are multi-trillion-dollar aid packages. With my last winter's visit still so fresh, I wish I could just sit down with my friends to exchange stories, but then I wish I could do that here as well.

I do hear of excitement regarding projects funding during my last visit (which, by the way had left our Congo fund depleted). Much excitement surrounds the major development agricultural project that we have undertaken that will address the very food chain disruptions that the pandemic is creating. I was working at a comprehensive report when "our normal" came to a shrieking halt.

Ron Goertzen, Dayspring Congo



Greetings from Swan Lake Christian Camp!

We have had a number of people calling and asking, "Are you still having camp?" The answer is a resounding "yes." We have made some changes to our schedule, however. An email will be going out to those who have attended camp in the past, but if you can help spread the word throughout your church, that would be greatly appreciated.

We have moved the 4th grade camp (originally scheduled for June 9-12) to be combined with either the 3rd grade camp or the fifth-grade camp. The 5th grade camp has been moved back one week. So, 4th graders have a choice as to whether to go to the 3-day camp or the 6-day camp. Here is what the schedule looks like:

Cottontail Camp (Pre-K & Kindergarten) July 1 (\$25)
Chipmunk Camp (First & Second Grade) July 2 (\$25)
Third & Fourth Grade Camp June 28-30 (\$130)
Fourth & Fifth Grade Camp June 21-26 (\$260)
Sixth Grade Camp July 5-10 (\$260)
Junior High Camp July 12-17 (\$260)
Senior High Camp July 19-24 (\$260)
(All grades based on 2019-2020 school year.)

Our goal throughout will be as always to provide a safe environment for the kids to encounter Christ.

Your child/children are invited to attend camp at NO CHARGE through a gift from Bethesda's South Fellowship Hall Sunday School class! When registering your child for camp, check the appropriate church scholarship amount. Bethesda will be billed at the end of the summer for those who attended.

Please let us know if you have thoughts or questions as we move forward for this summer.

Judi Kroeker
Office Manager
Swan Lake Christian Camp
605-326-5690□

ACROSS THE STREET/AROUND THE WORLD

Living Water Rescue Mission

Many families in our communities are struggling at this time. Food boxes are going out to families at about three times the normal rate.

If you would like to be a part of God's provision for families in our communities, please consider picking up a few groceries and bring them to the Mission. We prefer regular size packages since most of our pantry items go to families or individuals. We want to keep you safe as you support the ministry so please call us from your car when you arrive at 402-362-0127 and we will come out to you to get your donations.

If you prefer to send a donation, send to PO Box 328 in York, 68467 or PO Box 1604 in Columbus 68602 and designate to "Food for Families."

Household sizes please:

1lb or 2lb Packages of Hamburger

Hamburger Helper, Baked Beans, Canned Chicken, Tuna, Mayonnaise, Coffee & Creamer, Powdered or Boxed Milk Sugar, Canned Fruit, Ramen Noodles, Mac-n-Cheese

School kit bags are cut, ready to be sewn and can be picked up and returned to the box in the room across from the office. Directions are also available. If you have questions call Lindy Siebert or Adeline Huebert. If you would like to pick up bags, please call the church office and we will deliver them to you curbside.