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## GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

"There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit Who gives them. There are different kinds of work to be done for Him. But the work is for the same Lord. There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people. The Holy Spirit works in each person in one way or another for the good of all." I Corinthians 12:4-7.

For the past year Spiritual Guidance Cabinet has been looking at ways to help our congregation grow in discovering and using our individual spiritual gifts. The sermon series through I Corinthians was a kick-off point for looking at our dependence upon the Lord's power through His gifts to build His kingdom.

In August, September, and October, the first Sunday of each month will be dedicated to a specific spiritual gift (Hospitality, Evangelism, and Prophecy are the first three).

The commissions will be following up after those sermons with opportunities to discover and practice these gifts.

Another round of sermons on gifts will follow at a later date. Be in prayer for our church body and as individuals that we apply what we've heard in I Corinthians where we are told to eagerly desire the gifts, knowing that God's Kingdom can be built better through His gifting and not our own.

## MENNONITE MOMENTS

The Mennonite Choral Society was started in 1890 and reached a membership high of 218 in 1913. In 1933, singers from outside our church were invited to participate in a performance of Handel's *Messiah* for the first time.

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Planners of our present church (1912) did not feel modern toilets were important and the old-fashioned kinds were constructed in the horse barn.

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# update

The Baumgartner and Muensterberg Mennonite churches were built about the same time (1860). They were different in that the Baumgartners had backs on their pews and only one entrance door. The Muensterbergs had backless benches and two entrance doors—one for women and the other for men.

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Our forefathers did not carry Bibles to church as it was considered pretentious. When Rev. S.F. Sprunger came home from college he carried a Bible to church. He was severely criticized by most of the congregation.

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When the M.R.E. Cemetery was originally planned, it was suggested by the Mennonite church that each of the three churches should have their own section "to avoid trouble and dis-satisfaction among the three churches." The Reformed and Evangelical churches opposed this resolution and the Mennonites acceded. However, a separate place was set aside for non-church members.

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## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

**Ted Biberstine** is in rehab recovering his strength after pacemaker surgery.

**Phyllis Habegger** is recovering after pacemaker surgery.

**Lora Sprunger** will soon start a month of radiation treatment.

**Twyla Sprunger** is recovering from a broken arm.

**Suanne Sprunger** requests prayer for strength as she continues treatments.

**Allyson Gilbert** and **Brayden Gilbert** had hip surgery in Indianapolis on July 1.

**Chris Hyman** is recovering following outpatient surgery.



## FOX TALES

My name is Tom and I am a fainter.

Whenever I have to do a blood draw I have a tendency to pass out. I have been told it is in my head, I have been told that I should just power through it, I have been told that if I do not watch I will be okay. And yet every time I am like a Myotonic goat and I pass out.

For the uninformed, Myotonic goats are a breed that has a defective gene that causes them to fall over like in a faint when they are startled. I am a human myotonic goat when it comes to blood draws. Numerous medical people have told me that they know what they are doing and nobody has ever passed out while they were drawing blood. And yet I can testify to at least three **phlebotomists who can no longer say that they have never had anyone pass out.**

But I am happy to report that I have not passed out recently. And the reason for that is that I have owned my condition. The first part of getting better is admitting you have a problem, and so I have done that.

Now I no longer try and pretend I am okay when the needles come out. I am upfront and admit that I go down like a sack of potatoes when you stick me. And when I am getting my blood drawn I have become more assertive. I know that I need to be flat on my back when I am being stuck and I do not let them talk me out of it. The solution to overcoming my problem was to admit that I did not care about what anybody thought, and to advocate for what I know will work.

I believe for too many of us this is the problem that we often have in sharing our faith. We are worried about what people might think. If I share I might offend people. They might not like me. They might think I am a fanatic.

And indeed they might. But we need to own who we are and be willing to be more open to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We need to be openly seeking ways to share the Gospel. If someone accepts, praise the Lord. If we plant a seed and they are open to someone else sharing, praise the Lord.

I am not calling for us to use our Bibles to beat unbelievers into submission. But we need to be open to sharing. If someone is not in the Kingdom they might reject the message, but we cannot drive them to a second or a third level of hell. The choices are "in" or "out".

I spent years trying to be a tough guy, and oftentimes this led to me on an exam room floor looking up at people trying to revive me. I do not want to have to explain to the Lord someday why I was under the table when people were seeking Him. - tef

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

For a ministry whose mission is to be the first choice of anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy, and whose vision is to make abortion unthinkable for all who come to us, what can be more symbolic than a baby bottle? Because if a baby bottle is needed, then we have succeeded in that vision for one more client. We have been part of preserving another precious life, and now we will be part of supporting that new life through his or her early years.

We will support this life by providing education to the young parents and rewarding their learning with earned material assistance. We will support this new life by offering referrals to other community services. We will support this new life through love, compassionate care, and prayer. But we can only do these things with your support.

Such a simple act—people collecting loose change at the end of the day and dropping it in a baby bottle... perhaps adding some bills or a check along the way. Yet the cumulative impact of many doing this simple act has such a meaningful impact on our ministry.

Your church's Bottles of Hope campaign has raised \$1,430.56. Because of your gifts, we can continue to save lives and support families, and we can continue to share the news of Christ's perfect love. Thank you for participating in this event. You are making a real difference in people's lives. We appreciate you, and so do they.

—Jim Heckman  
Executive Director, The Hope Clinic

We want to thank everyone for their visits, cards, and prayers during Syd's illness and passing. A special thanks to Jim Schwartz for the visits and message at the funeral. Thank you to the kitchen committee for the wonderful meal that was served. It was very much appreciated.

—The family of Syd Hawkins

## HOME GOING

**Sydney Eugene "Syd" Hawkins**, 81, of Decatur, Indiana, and a longtime resident of Berne, passed away on June 16, 2025, at Adams Woodcrest.

Syd was born on August 1, 1943 in Decatur, Indiana to Ralph and Erlene (Steury) Hawkins. He was united in marriage to Modjeska E. Lehman on April 21, 1963, at our church. He attended our church. He graduated from Decatur High School in 1962 and was a mechanic at Moser Motor Sales in Berne for over 50 years.

Syd enjoyed spending time doing yard work and tending his garden. He also cherished spending time with his family while traveling, and on vacations. He also had a deep love for cars. He is survived by his wife, Modjeska Hawkins of Decatur, Indiana; two daughters, Lori Hawkins of Decatur, Indiana, and Michele (Terry) Bowling of Berne, Indiana; brother, Robert "Bob" (Jan) Hawkins of Fort Wayne, Indiana; his dog, Tootsie Q; and granddogs, Flossie Mae and Ziva Dogvid. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Charlene Nutter and Pamela Rubenstein, and a brother in infancy, Gregory Hawkins.

A funeral service was held on June 21, 2025, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel with Pastor Jim Schwartz officiating. Burial followed at MRE Cemetery.

**Betty Ann Sprunger** was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on August 11, 1928, the only child of Safara and Magdalene Shanebeck. She died peacefully at the age of 96 in her apartment while receiving hospice care at Swiss Village on June 29, 2025.

Betty grew up in Fort Wayne, graduated from South Side High School and attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. She married Merlin Stucky of Berne, Indiana, on August 19, 1950 and together they raised their two children, Kent and Kay, in Berne. Following Merlin's early death at age 49 on July 6, 1975, she married Dan Deaton of Portland, Indiana on September 10, 1977 and became the step-mother of his adult daughter Janice. After Dan's passing on May 6, 1978, Betty married Don Sprunger of Monroe, Indiana on November 2, 1986, and welcomed his adult children, Tom and Sherri, into her family. She and Don spent 34 years together before his death on November 2, 2020. In addition to being a homemaker she was employed outside the home at Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Co., Berne Lumber, Richard's Jewelry, First Mennonite Church, and Faith & Life Bookstore in Berne.

At a young age Betty accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She was baptized into membership at the First Missionary Church in Ft. Wayne and joined our church through letter of transfer in 1950. Betty was dedicated to following Christ, praying and reading her Bible, and participating in church throughout her life.

Betty is survived by her children and step children: Kent (Linda) Stucky of Airdrie, Alberta, Canada, Kay (Terry) Sheets of Decatur, IN, Thomas (Melinda) Sprunger of Monroe, IN, Sherri (Marvin) Stutzman of Indianapolis, IN, Janice Miller of Portland, IN; grandchildren and step-grandchildren: Michala (Brian) Roberts of Goshen, IN, Jacob (Becca) Stucky of Airdrie, Alberta, Canada, Jess (Brandon) Hill of Geneva, IN, Jen (Joe)

Meyer of Poneto, IN, Jamie Sheets of Decatur, IN, Holly (Alan) Quandt of Maryville, TN, Seth Sprunger of Monroe, IN, Shelby Stutzman of Kirksville, MO, and Carson Stutzman of Indianapolis, IN; 18 great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 18, 2025, at the Swiss Village Chapel in Berne, Indiana, with Pastor Jim Schwartz officiating. Burial will follow at the M.R.E. Cemetery in Berne, Indiana.

**Betty J. Lehman**, 100, of Berne, Indiana, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday morning, July 2, 2025, at Swiss Village. She was born on August 25, 1924, in Adams County, Indiana, to the late Albert and Grace (Reinhard) Nussbaum. She was united in marriage to Loris Rich on May 25, 1944, in Toledo, Ohio, and he preceded her in death on July 28, 1997. Betty later married Weldon Lehman on December 30, 2000, in Berne, Indiana, and he preceded her in death on May 14, 2012. Betty was baptized and joined our church on May 8, 1938. She served as a Sunday School Teacher and on the Kitchen Committee. She was a homemaker and a faithful farm wife.


She is survived by her son, Jon (Kathie) Rich of Harvard, Illinois; daughter, Lora (Craig) Sprunger of Berne, Indiana; step-daughter, Jan (Wayne) Schantzenbach of Coopersburg, Pennsylvania; step-son, Bill (Greta) Lehman of Berne, Indiana; step-daughter, Sara (Henry) Braun of Goshen, Indiana; step-son, Tim (Susan) Lehman of Sterling, Ohio; step-daughter, Kathy (Dave) Bauman of Berne, Indiana; brother, Ted (Claudia) Nussbaum of Woodburn, Indiana; sister, Mary Jo (Roland) Roth of Angola, Indiana; sister-in-law, Barb Nussbaum of Berne, Indiana; sister-in-law, Louise Nussbaum of Berne, Indiana; seven grandchildren, Andrea (Terry) Fay, Kurt Emberlin, Allison (Billy) Murray, Amy (Daniel) Riemenschneider, Abby (Brad) Wilson, Carson (Ashley) Sprunger, and Carter (Maddie) Sprunger; 18 great-grandchildren; 15 step-grandchildren; 35 step-great-grandchildren; and six step-great-great-grandchildren. Betty was preceded in death by two daughters, Karen Emberlin and Cheryl Rich; two brothers, David and Robert Nussbaum; and a sister, Pauline Habegger.

A funeral service was held on July 10, 2025, at our church with Pastor Jon Rich and Pastor Todd Habegger officiating. Burial followed at M.R.E. Cemetery.

Update is the publication of the First Mennonite Church, Berne, Indiana. It is published once a month to keep our people informed about the news and events in the church.

Senior Pastor..... Jeff Linthicum  
Long -Term Temporary Editor....Tom Fox  
Among Our People.....Jim Schwartz

Address Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>AUGUST 2025</b> 					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>10AM: "Hospitality" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum</b> <b>Hebrews 13:1-3</b> <b>6:30 PM: Revelation 1 - Dr. Kent Lehman</b> <b>Offering for LMC</b>	4	<b>5</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>6</b> <b>7PM:</b> <b>Dr. Kent Lehman</b> <b>Revelation 2:1-17</b>	7	<b>8</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	9
<b>10</b> <b>10AM: "Expect Attacks" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum</b> <b>(Nehemiah 5:7-9)</b> <b>5:30PM: Back-to-School Picnic and Pool Party</b> <b>(Lehman Park)</b> <b>Offering</b>	11	<b>12</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>13</b> <b>7PM:</b> <b>Dr. Kent Lehman</b> <b>Revelation 2:18-3:6</b>	14	<b>15</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	16
<b>17</b> <b>10AM: "Love God, Love People" - Pastor Jeff</b> <b>Linthicum (Nehemiah 5:14-17)</b> <b>6:30PM: Conner Hyman sharing</b> <b>Offering</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7PM:</b> <b>MINISTRIES</b> <b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>13</b> <b>7PM:</b> <b>Dr. Kent Lehman</b> <b>Revelation 3:7-22</b>	21	22	23
<b>24</b> <b>10AM: "Intimidation" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum</b> <b>(Nehemiah 6:1-4)</b> <b>6:30PM: Chuck &amp; Carole Fennig sharing</b> <b>Offering</b>	25	<b>26</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Wednesday Night</b> <b>Kick-Off</b>	28	29	30
<b>31</b> <b>10AM: "Everyone Is Needed" - Pastor Jeff</b> <b>Linthicum (Nehemiah 7:5-7a)</b> <b>NO EVENING SERVICE (Labor Day weekend)</b> <b>Offering</b>						