

April 2026, Volume 49, Number 5

## QUIZZING OVER THE BOOK OF JAMES

Chris and Jenny Dubach led the way as coaches for our First Mennonite Quiz team. Here is a recap of this year's season as described by Jenny:

"It is a privilege to coach Jr. Bible Quizzing at First Mennonite. Our quiz season runs from October through February and we had another good year! This season our quizzers studied and memorized verses from the book of James. We feel we have accomplished what we have set out to do. Our desire is that kids learn and memorize God's Word, build relationships, and have some fun.

In the middle of October, quizzers began practices on Sunday evenings. This gives them a chance to practice as a team and to use the quiz benches. With the quiz questions and Bible verses we try to play a game with them each practice. This encourages team building and makes it fun. We have played games such as Jeopardy, Tic Tac Toe, Balloon Pop, Solve the Phrase, King of the Hill, Turkey Trivia, or Christmas Trivia.

Each month we reward the quizzers with a party. Over the four weeks they can earn points by studying the material and memorizing verses. If they earn at least 20 points, they earn a ticket to attend the party. This is a motivator to study because it is not always fun to do this part.

Some of the fun activities we have done together are:

- Scavenger hunt
- Movie night with popcorn and snacks
- Games and snacks in the youth room
- Clue game of "Which quiz coach ate the cookie?" Quizzers look for clues with flashlights around the church. Once they solve the mystery, they enjoy cookies and milk together.
- Bowling and root beer floats
- Pizza and glow-in-the-dark capture the flag

On the second Sunday beginning in November we have a quiz meet. We compete against other churches in the community and surrounding counties. We have three to four quizzes each time. Each quiz has 20 questions. We have won some quiz matches this year and lost some, too.

Whether we win or lose, our purpose is to know God's Word. We are proud of each quizzer. Thank you, parents, grandparents, and others, for studying with the quizzers and encouraging them. It really makes a difference. We have also been blessed to have amazing help with this program. Former quizzers over the years have volunteered their time to coach and cheer on the team."

**Quizzers this year:** Naarah Helmlinger, Ben Meyer, Lilly Meyer, Isaac Stauffer, Christian Stauffer, Zach Dubach

**Quiz Masters from our church:** Jim Schwartz, Rick Sprunger, Lori Bailey

**Scorekeepers from our church:** Josh Linthicum, Ben Dubach †

## DAS MÄRIT

Das Märít Farmers and Artists Market 2026 begins on Saturday, May 9, and continues through Saturday, October 3. Applications have been sent to previous vendors, and registration has begun. This outreach takes many volunteers. Volunteer schedules are flexible and all ages are welcome. Early risers should consider helping with setup, which starts about 6:45 a.m. and takes about one hour. Others could help with teardown, which starts at 12:00 noon and generally takes a half hour. Perhaps you want to serve as a volunteer at the information table throughout the morning or by helping with the waffles. Prayer warriors are also needed to man the prayer table throughout the morning market hours. If you have considered community outreach through this ministry, please call (260) 849-0527 for specific information about serving others. †

## KAIXO USA

Looking for a meaningful way to spend your summer? It's not too late to host a Basque student with Kaixo USA! We are still in need of 2-3 girl host families and 6-7 boy host families. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact – share American culture, learn about Basque traditions, create unforgettable memories, and build life-long relationships. Contact myamclure22@gmail.com for more information. †

## FROM THE EDITOR

As a teenager I once went on a 500-mile bike trip with many from my youth group. Departing from Decatur, we rode north through Michigan, all the way to Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. One day we found ourselves in a town with some fairly big hills.

All of a sudden, upon turning a corner I was faced with a very large hill, at least from the perspective of a non-athletic teenage girl. The effort that would be needed to ascend the next city block or two seemed impossible for me!

Before the start of that summer's adventure, I had made the commitment to myself NOT to walk my bike, but rather ride all 500 miles. I was pedaling and pedaling while trying to keep my balance as I teetered back and forth from going so slow. In desperation I prayed to God to help me, because I knew I would soon put my feet on the ground and have to walk up this hill.

At that very moment a hand pushed me, providing just the burst of extra strength I needed to get to the top without walking. The hand happened to belong to my youth pastor who had been following, unbeknownst to me. My faith was greatly increased that day! It was a moment that taught me God sees me and cares about my struggles. †

*\*Note: The previously labeled Wall of Faith has been re-named Faith Stories and relocated to the chapel wall just south of the missionary display. More testimonies are being added.*



## FOX TALES

Most of us, from the time we walk into school, dream about being out on our own. From the time we start families, we dream about what our kids will do when they begin their own lives outside of the home. From the time we start work we dream about the day we will retire.

With that in mind this past January I reentered the halls of South Adams and unretired. And now, instead of having two kids to worry about, I have 94 students to help usher forward in life.

This chapter of my life has been a roller coaster of events. I have had students hug me and students swear at me. I have had students tell me they loved my teaching and students tell me I am boring. I have had a lifetime of experiences reflected in one semester.

This experience has reminded me that, while we might hit certain milestones in life, we never completely meet all our expectations while on this mortal coil. And like our secular experiences we never completely finish all our spiritual goals while we remain on this earth. There is always something more we can do to advance the Kingdom of Heaven.

When I took the teaching position I was looking for something to keep me busy. Something to get me up each morning and continue to contribute to society.

This assignment will end in the not-too-distant future, and I have no idea what will next appear on my horizon.

But I do know that as a child of the King I will never stop learning about God, never stop caring about my friends and neighbors, and never retire from promoting God's plan for us. –tef †

## BERNE PRESCHOOL

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will take place in the patio on **Monday, April 27**, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Any child who is three or four years old by August 1, 2026, may register. The registration fee is \$40.00 Enrollment for morning and afternoon classes are on a first-come basis. If you would like more information, please contact Jenny Dubach at [preschool@firstmennonite.org](mailto:preschool@firstmennonite.org). Families who attend First Menonite are eligible for early registration. †

Preschool  
Registration



## THE CREATION

*The Creation*, by Franz Joseph Haydn, was the first oratorio ever performed by the Mennonite Choral Society. The choir rehearsed in the fall of 1890, and performed it on New Year's Day, 1891. It has been performed numerous times since then by the Mennonite Choral Society.

During Dr. Freeman Burkhalter's tenure, it was on a four-year rotation with three other oratorios (*Elijah*, *St. Paul*, and the *German Requiem*). Now it is one of the only remaining oratorios that the Mennonite Choral Society performs on a regular basis in the spring. Much like *Messiah*,

*The Creation* is separated into three large sections. It uses texts from Genesis, Psalms, and Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. The first two sections follow the Genesis narrative of the story of Creation.

Usually, the Genesis account is sung by a soloist, who also sings a commentary from *Paradise Lost*. Then at the end of each day, the choir sings a chorus of praise. This year the Mennonite Choral Society will only sing the first two sections of the work. The third section deals with Adam and Eve falling in love and leading earth's creatures in thanksgiving.

The musicians have enjoyed preparing *The Creation* again this season in large part because this music is so much fun to sing. Nicknamed "Papa Haydn," Franz Joseph Haydn was a beloved composer in his day. He was said to be of good humor and loveable. He was also a devout believer in Jesus Christ. Both his humor and his faith are very evident in his music.

He uses very creative musical techniques called "word painting" to depict the various parts of creation, often in humorous or even startling ways. The listener will experience the powerful and majestic creation of light (an early highlight in the oratorio that Haydn kept a secret before the debut of the work). Listeners will also hear musical depictions of storms, snow, bird calls, the sunrise, roaring lions, jumping tigers, galloping steeds, bleating sheep, insects, and a creeping worm (to name a few).

With a few exceptions, most of the choruses are upbeat and exciting declarations of praise. If there was a canon of top choral music ever written, surely there would be several choruses from this oratorio on the list. Haydn desired his music to glorify God. At the end of every completed composition Haydn wrote "Praise to God." And he stated, "I was never so devout as when I was at work on *The Creation*; I fell on my knees each day and begged God to give me the strength to finish the work."

This year's rendition will be performed on Sunday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. It will be a free concert, with a love offering received. Our congregation and the community are invited to come experience this masterwork, and to give God glory for the work of His hands! †

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1*

## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Wilmer Sprunger spent several days at Adams Memorial for observation.

Abby Tumbleson had surgery at Lutheran Hospital for an abscess.

Sonia Lehman had a pacemaker procedure at Lutheran Hospital.

Rev. Stan Liechty spent several days at Lutheran Hospital.

Roger Von Gunten had abdominal surgery at Adams Memorial Hospital. †



## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

First Mennonite Church,

The prayers and support from our church family during this difficult time are sincerely appreciated. As we deal with the emotional stages of Mark's passing, we ask for continued prayer as family adjustments are dealt with.

Doug & Candy Bauman

Dear Church Family,

We are very grateful for all who've prayed for Debby's Dad this past year, especially in more recent months. Thank you, also, for the many cards received after his passing. It is truly a blessing to belong to such a caring church as First Mennonite. Dad sure loved the church he attended, and he served faithfully in various ways for many years. He enjoyed visiting here when he could.

Mark & Debby Neuenschwander †

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

Editor.....Debby Neuenschwander

Among Our People..... Jim Schwartz

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>MAY 2026</b> 					1	2
3 10AM: "Watch Your Eyes" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Matthew 5:27-30) 7PM: Spring Oratorio Offering for LMC	4	5 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	6 7PM: Rev. Bill Lepley "From Daniel to Peter: Living in Exile"	7	8	9
10 10AM: "It's Permanent" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Matthew 5:31-32) NO EVENING SERVICE Offering <i>HAPPY Mother's DAY</i>	11	12 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	13 7PM: Rev. Bill Lepley "From Daniel to Peter: Living in Exile"	14	15	16
17 10AM: "Yes and No" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Matthew 5:33-37) 6:30PM: South Adams Ministerial Association Gospel Music Night Offering: Conference Pastor	18 7PM: MINISTRIES COUNCIL	19 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	20 End of School Party	21	22	23
24 10AM: "Pentecost" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Leviticus 23:15-22, John 15:26, Luke 24:49) NO EVENING SERVICE Offering <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	25	26 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	27 6PM: Chancel Choir at Swiss Village	28	29	30
31 10AM: Senior Sunday 4PM: Worship Service at Envive Healthcare Offering						