

May 2026, Volume 49, Number 6

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

As temperatures warm and area fields (eventually) get planted, many are looking forward to school's end, cook-outs, and family vacations. In the midst of your summer plans, don't forget about these times of gathering at the church. Make some space on your calendar to join the church's programming this summer!

Sunday PM Service: Chapel

- 6/7 Revelation 14:1-13: Dr. Kent Lehman
- 6/14 Anita Wenger: My Story
- 6/21 Father's Day: No Service
- 6/28 Dan Bauman
- 7/5 4th of July Weekend : No Service
- 7/12 DTS Trip Report
- 7/19 Eldon Classen
- 7/26 Swiss Days Combined Service
- 8/2 Mikaela Fox: Her Reach Experience
- 8/9 Picnic at the Park
- 8/16 Revelation 18: Dr. Kent Lehman
- 8/23 Revelation 19: Dr. Kent Lehman
- 8/30 5th Sunday: Service at Envide, 4:00 PM

Wednesday PM Service – Chapel

- 6/3 VBS week: No Service
- 6/10 Revelation 14:14 – 15:8: Dr. Kent Lehman
- 6/17 Revelation 16: Jim Schwartz
- 6/24 Revelation 17: Jim Schwartz
- (No Services during the month of July)*
- 8/5 Genesis 50 & Intro to Exodus: Jim Schwartz
- 8/12 Exodus 1 – Bondage and Affliction: Jim Schwartz
- 8/19 Exodus 2 – Moses: Birth, Flee to Midian: Jim Schwartz
- 8/26 Fall Program Kick-Off †

MENNONITE MOMENTS

- ◆ Many of our ancestors came to America in the early 1850's. Being of limited means, they crossed the Atlantic in sailboats, which took longer than steamboats but were cheaper. Some early ships identified were the Hahnemann (1852), Samuel M. Fox (1853), Granite Slate (1854), and Arbella (1855).
- ◆ Our mother church was in "Sonnenberg", established in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1819, some 20 years before our settlements began. They hosted many of our forefathers, helped them scout this area, and loaned them gold and silver to buy land.
- ◆ The first Mennonite preacher to settle here was David Baumgartner in 1839. He was 73 when he and his wife, Barbara (Steiner) traveled from "Sonnenberg," Ohio with two milk cows tethered to a supply wagon pulled by a team of oxen. They were accompanied by Jeampier Merilant and spouse Magdalena (Kirchhofer). Settlers who made up the Baumgartner Mennonite Church in French Township began coming in 1838, and were known as the "Emmenthalers" (from the Emme River Valley) in Switzerland.
- ◆ From 1879 to 1886 there were five Mennonite congregations in this area: Peter Neuenschwander, Christian Augsburg, Christian Sprunger, Samuel (S.F.) Sprunger, and Baumgartner. The last three formed our present church by merger in 1886. We had two Mennonite church houses and two congregations within about 175 feet of each other.
- ◆ In 1909, funds for the construction of our present sanctuary (\$49,500) were raised in less than two months, with a completed cost of \$52,909. Interest on monies collected made up the difference. When our present church was completed in 1912, a new horse barn (132' x 180') was also built, with stalls for 95 teams as well as old-fashioned toilet facilities.
- ◆ The plan in 1929 was to build a super highway that would connect Canada and Miami, Florida. U.S. 27 was to go straight through Berne, which would not only separate our church and parsonage but would also eliminate the hitching barn. Our congregation hired a former Bernite and once Attorney General, Arthur Gilliom, to block this arrangement. Through his efforts, the highway bypassed church property by curving west and then following Church Avenue. The north curve, however, cut through our old cemetery and some graves were unearthed. †



JOIN US!

FROM THE EDITOR

Persistence

It never fails... whenever I sit down on the couch with my laptop or a notebook or journal and attempt to be productive, along comes Sadie (my Jack Russell terrier) to lay claim to my lap as her own personal space.

“No.”

“Go away.”

“You can’t be here right now.”

I strongly encourage her to lay somewhere else, even if it’s right beside me, or to go find a bone to chew, but it does no good. She knows what she wants and she doesn’t give up easily, if at all. Before I know it, she has managed to nudge her way *exactly* where she wants to be, and my resistance is worn down.

“I guess I’ll get to this later,” and Sadie wins.

Luke shares with us in the beginning of chapter 18 about a time when Jesus was telling the disciples a parable. He wants to make the point that at *all times* they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart. The story unfolds with a desperate widow coming to a judge who did not fear God and had no respect for men. The widow kept coming to the judge over and over. She was pleading for justice and legal protection from her adversary. Verse 4 explains that for a time he would not give her what she was asking.

“No.”

“Go away.”

“You have no place here.”

Eventually, as you may well know, this judge does give her justice and legal protection, even though he does not fear God nor respect man. It is because of the widow’s persistence—the fact that she continues to pester him with her request—that he decides to do this, or otherwise be annoyed and eventually worn out by her.

Jesus says, “Listen to what the unjust judge says!” He contrasts him with God who is absolutely just and asks the disciples whether or not God will bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night. “Will *He* delay in helping them?”

“I tell you, *He* will promptly carry out justice on their behalf.”

Praise God! We who are in Christ Jesus... we are the elect; His chosen ones. We are the widow in this story. *Be encouraged* by the fact that our God doesn’t send His elect away. He doesn’t push us aside because He’s too busy or becomes annoyed.

Yet, one question remains at the end of this parable, and it has lingered in my thoughts a lot lately. Jesus asks, “When I come back, will I find this kind of persistent faith on the earth?” Let us encourage one another to stay strong. Don’t give up. Keep nudging your way onto the Father’s lap and ask Him for what you need. He’s looking and longing for this. He won’t delay in responding. †

BOOKMARKS

Here is a suggestion from the church library for your summer reading list...

***Roots of Resilience: lessons in courage, family, and the power of showing up every day* by Emily Taing Watson – B WAT**

In *Roots of Resilience*, Dr. Emily Taing Watson shares the remarkable story of her Cambodian-Chinese parents, who escaped a war-torn homeland and built a small business in rural Indiana – never missing a day of work, not even Christmas. Raised in a donut shop, Watson absorbed the unshakable values of faith, sacrifice, and relentless effort. Now a successful orthodontist and business owner, she reflects on how those values shaped her leadership, her family, and her purpose.

This isn’t theory – it’s lived wisdom. From managing staff to handling debt, from culture shock to clinical excellence, Watson’s hard-won lessons offer practical guidance for anyone balancing ambition with heritage, especially first-generation professionals, women in healthcare, and those navigating identity with purpose.

For readers seeking strength in their own story, *Roots of Resilience* is a powerful reminder: Grit is inherited, courage can be taught, and gratitude is a lifelong strategy. †

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Barb Yoder was admitted to Lutheran Hospital due to a stroke.

Amber McAlhaney had shoulder surgery.

Rose Tschannen was hospitalized for heart issues.

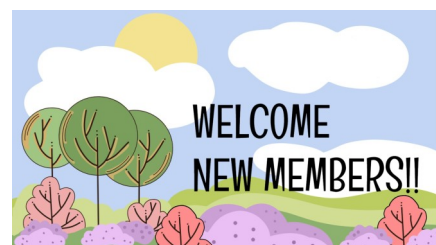
Jess Hill had back surgery at Lutheran Hospital.

Mark Flueckiger had back surgery in South Bend.

Roger VonGunten was hospitalized for observation and treatment. †

BAPTISMS/MEMBERSHIP

On Sunday, May 17, the congregation celebrated together the baptisms of Parker Collingsworth and Clayton Trausch, and received into membership Louise Nussbaum. Tis’ so sweet to trust in Jesus! †



HOMEGOING

Janice L. Augsburg, 79, of Berne, Indiana, passed away Saturday evening, May 9, 2026, at Envive Healthcare in Berne, Indiana.

She was born on May 6, 1947, in Muncie, Indiana, to the late Dewey & Della (Savers) Baumgartner. Janice was united in marriage to Lynn Augsburg on January 20, 1968, and he preceded her in death in 1999. She was a homemaker and was a member of the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana.

Survivors include her sister, Sharon Fowler of Celina, Ohio; sister-in-law, Bonnie Lehman of Berne, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her four brothers, Harold, Paul, Garl, and Robert Baumgartner; two brothers-in-law, Edward Fowler and James Lehman; sister-in-law, Pat (Dave) Lengerich; mother-in-law, Maxine Augsburg-Lehman; and father-in-law, Roger Augsburg.

Sandra Kay Kloepper was welcomed into the loving arms of Jesus Christ, her Lord and Savior., on May 14, 2026, surrounded by her family, after a 30+ year courageous battle with lupus. She was the heart of the family—a loving wife, devoted mother, cherished grandmother, and proud great-grandmother whose gentle spirit touched everyone who knew her. Her kindness, caring nature, and quiet strength created a home filled with warmth, love, and lasting memories.

She was born to Gerald & Madeline (Hart) Zimmerman on Oct. 16, 1944. She had two older brothers, Charles and Phil. They lived on a small family farm near Rome City, Indiana. She graduated from East Noble High School and received a degree as a hair stylist from Fort Wayne Beauty College. She met the love of her life in the summer of 1960 at Lake James in Angola, Indiana. After a five-year courtship they married on July 3, 1965, in Kendallville, Indiana. In December that same year they moved to Berne, Indiana. She held a job at CTS for a short time before becoming a full-time homemaker and mother in 1967.

As her children grew she took a part-time job at Swiss Village, which turned into a full-time time 22-year career. During her years there she made lasting friendships of her co-workers and residents alike. She truly loved all the residents that she served each day.

She loved reading, tending her flower garden, working jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and shopping. She was a wonderful supporter of her children's and grandchildren's many sporting events, school and church activities.

She is survived by her husband, David, daughters Lisa Kuhn (Michael) and Karna Burry (Jeff), son Darren (Heidi), brother Charles Zimmerman, 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. †

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the South Adams A Cappella Choir, I would like to thank the First Mennonite Church and its generous congregation for their support and offering to the SA Music Department. When I opened the check sent to us, I was blown away at the amount! In such trying times (and frankly, worrisome times in the field of education), it is humbling, and just plain amazing, that our community still holds music and the arts to such a high degree. When I first moved here in 2008, I was told that this community truly loves music. I have never felt that support waiver one bit. Times have been tough, but we still have children to raise and educate. Music gives them a place to feel at home; a place to find and express themselves, and it is one of the only things they can carry with them through the rest of their lives. Communities like ours make that possible. Thank you again for your support. It is humbly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Thomson

You are such a blessing to the LifeWise SA ministry. We have students reading their Bibles at home, sharing the Word with family members, and one student recently shared she committed her life to Jesus! Thank you for making this ministry accessible to over 550 kids here at South Adams in grades K-6th grade.

In Christ,
LifeWise SA

Thank you so much for your continued support of Adams Central LifeWise! We have been able to share the Gospel with over 400 AC students this school year. We appreciate your generosity! Many students have shared how much they love LifeWise. One girl said she loves coming to learn about Jesus and see everyone smile.

To God be the Glory!
The AC LifeWise Team

Dear church family,

Thank you so very much for the outpouring of support I received following my recent shoulder surgery. Meals, cards, and prayers—my entire family was blessed by your kindness and generosity. You contributed to my ability to be still and heal during the early weeks. We are forever grateful.

With love and gratitude,
Amber McAlhaney family †

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Berne, Indiana
Permit No. 53

Address Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>JUNE 2026</h1> 						
	1	2 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	3	4	5	6
	V A C A T I O N		B I B L E S C H O O L			
7 10AM: "Eye and Tooth" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Matthew 5:38-42) 6:30PM: Revelation 14:1-13 - Dr. Kent Lehman Offering for Mission Festival	8	9 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	10 7PM: Revelation 14:14-15:8 Dr. Kent Lehman	11	12	13
14 10AM: "Love the Unlovable" (Matthew 5:43-48) 6:30PM: "My Story" - Anita Wenger Offering for Global Disciples	15	16 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	17 7PM: Revelation 16 Pastor Jim Schwartz	18	19	20
21 10AM: "When Giving" - Pastor Jim Schwartz (Matthew 6:1-4) NO EVENING SERVICE Offering for Meat Canner  <small>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER</small>	22	23 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	24 7PM: Revelation 17 Pastor Jim Schwartz	25	26	27
28 10AM: "When Praying" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Matthew 6:5-15) 6:30PM: Dan Bauman sharing Offering	29	30 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour				