

October 2025, Volume 48, Number 11

PASTOR BILL STEPPING DOWN

Youth Pastor Bill Helmlinger announced on October 19, 2025, that he has decided to step down from his position on the church staff as of the conclusion of this year's Mission Festival.

Pastor Bill has served our congregation on two different occasions for a total of seven years.

We wish God's blessing on Bill, Jennifer, and their daughters as they explore this next chapter in their pilgrimage.



BAPTISM

One of the most joyous times in the life of our church is when we can join together to celebrate baptism and welcome people into membership in our congregation.

September 21 was one such Sunday as eight young people chose to honor our church by witnessing to their faith and joining with us.

Those joining with us were: Max Adams (Matt & Jessica), Cade Fox (Kevin & Lydia), Griffin Hill (Brandon & Jessica), Quentin and Walker Keim (Dave & Kelly), Colby Meyer (Joe & Jennifer), Jaidon Patterson (Stephanie), and Jules Schwartz (Jason & Becki).

We are excited to journey with them as they continue to seek how they can serve the Lord as they enter this next phase of their Christian walk.



update

FELLOWSHIP FUN

Approximately 125 people showed up at Fellowship Point on October 5 for the 4th annual chili cook-off. Food and fun were plentiful as nine crock pots of chili were produced and three tables of desserts were shared.

Hayrides were provided by Nate and Amy Hirschy. Top finishers in the cornhole contest were 1) Corbin and Ava Hirschy, 2) Derek McKean and Ethan Crockett, and 3) Matt and Becky Buckingham.

Winners of the chili cook-off were 1) Elizabeth Fruechte, 2) Tara Steffen, and 3) Mary Zurcher.

Elizabeth has graciously shared her award winning recipe:

Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Chili

½ lb. bacon, cut into ½ inch pieces

1 lb. ground beef

1 lb .ground Italian sausage

4 cloves garlic, minced

1 whole onion, diced

2 teaspoons Tajin seasoning

1 tablespoon chili powder

2 tablespoons beef flavored bouillon

28 oz. crushed tomatoes

14.5 oz .fire-roasted tomatoes

15.5 oz. chili beans

2 teaspoons salt

4 regular size Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Fry bacon in a Dutch oven. When bacon is half-cooked add the ground beef and sausage. Break apart and fry until no longer pink. Drain and add the remaining ingredients except for the peanut butter cups. Bring mixture to a slow simmer and add in peanut butter cups one at a time stirring to be sure that they fully melt. Simmer for 30 minutes.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Andrey and Inna Saveliev had a son, **Matvii**, born September 8 at Riley Hospital for Children. He was placed in the NICU following surgery.

Sheree Barkley is recovering following her surgery at Parkview Hospital on September 24.

Twins, **Kennedy and Liam**, were born early to **Kolton & Sydney Dailey** and are in the NICU at Dupont Hospital.

Barb Yoder had hip surgery at Adams Memorial Hospital following a fall.

Ted Biberstine was hospitalized at Adams Memorial for treatment of an infection.

Pray for continuing strength for **Carol Lerdal**.

Emily Michael is recovering following outpatient ankle surgery.

Danielle Alberson was at Lutheran for treatment for pain.

Roger Beck is recovering from seven broken ribs following a fall.

Lora Sprunger is continuing with her immunotherapy through the end of the year.

Suanne Sprunger was at Parkview hospital for treatment for an infection. She continues her chemo treatments.



NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Thank you for the many prayers after my car accident. In such a scary moment, God was certainly with me and the people in the other vehicle that day. Your support, encouragement, and care meant so much to me as I was going through the healing process. I'm doing much better now after having surgery for a broken collarbone. I feel very blessed to have such caring people in my life. Thank you again for lifting my spirits and reminding me of the strength of church, friendship, and family.

—Brooke Fruechte

I would like to thank so many of you who have blessed me with loving and heart-felt cards and visits while I am being cared for at Swiss Village. It brings cheer seeing all of the cards on my bulletin board displayed in front of

me. The prayer shawl is absolutely beautiful. What a wonderful expression of reaching out and wrapping those in need of His warm love.

My family and I are taking this current life chapter one day at a time. Thank you so much for all of your ways of showing care. I have been overwhelmed with your kindness.

—Carol Lerdal

We want to say thank you for your donation to Mennonite Central Committee of baby blankets. Your gift helps provide relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

As we head into fall we anticipate cooler weather, cozy sweaters, warm drinks and likely a favorite blanket to curl up with. Sometimes it's the simple things that bring us the most comfort.

Fall also signals the start of our regional comforter bashes – community events focused on making comforters that will be distributed around the world to people in vulnerable situations.

Last year, MCC sent over **53,000** comforters to places like Ukraine, Malawi, and Zambia. These handmade blankets provide not only warmth, but also a tangible reminder to people that their needs are not forgotten.

We invite you to get involved with your local comforter bash:

November 7 & 8 at Pleasant View Church in Goshen, IN

January 7 at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, OH

January or February Date and Location TBD for Central Illinois

March 12 – 14 at the Material Resources Center in Kidron, OH

—Nadine Zook Miller

MCC Great Lakes Material Resource Coordinator

Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge! Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 25,000 school kits for the 2025 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed 29,639 school kits!

Each of the 29,639 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year!

—Jennifer Steiner

Communications Director, MCC Great Lakes

HOME GOING

Ed Prentiss, 81, passed away on October 11, 2025. At press time his obituary has not been made available.

Michael O'Dell, 69, of Berne, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on Friday afternoon, October 17, 2025, at Adams Memorial Hospital.

He was born on January 10, 1956, in Elkhart, Indiana, to the late Jack L. and Jacqueline J. (Gleason) O'Dell. Michael was united in marriage to Debra Harter on December 13, 1975, in Berne. He attended our church and especially loved his Sunday School class, Faithbuilders, and his small group on Thursday evenings.

He graduated from South Adams High School class of 1974. Michael retired from O & R Precision in 2023. He was previously employed by Micro Precision for 30 years and also be Keller Lawn & Landscape.

He is survived by this wife, Debra O'Dell of Berne; son, Jessie (Jaci) O'Dell of Berne; sister, Debbie (Randy) Fenwick of Middlebury, Indiana; sister, Kathleen Whitehurst of Decatur, Indiana; brother, Timothy (Vicky) O'Dell of Middlebury, Indiana; sister-in-law, Sally (Jeff) Bailey of Plant City, Florida; three grandchildren: Vivian O'Dell, Grant O'Dell, and Waston O'Dell.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Jeff Whitehurst, and sister-in-law, Becky Love.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel in Berne. A private family celebration of life will be held at a future date.

BOOKMARKS

Check out some of the new books in the church library. Gordon Claassen donated two books. *Multiplying Light and Truth* explains the start of Community Health Evangelism. *The Sleepy Village Awakens* is a children's book. It tells the story of a quiet village that becomes healthy through the work of CHE. There are also new fiction books, books to aid our study of *Revelation*, an explanation of Catholicism, and a children's book by our own Rick Sprunger.

- *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Revelation* by Daniel L. Akin - 228 AKI
- *The Book of Revelation* by Daymond Duck - 228 DUC
- *Revelation* by John Walvoord - 228 WAL
- *Catholicism: East of Eden* by Richard Bennett - 282 BEN

- *Out of Time* by Irene Hannon - F HAN
- *Rescued Heart: The Story of Sarah* by Angela Hunt - F HUN
- *The Dreams We Knew: A Novel of the Roaring Twenties* by Rachel Scott McDaniel - F MCD
- *Canyon of Deceit* by DiAnn Mills - F MIL
- *A Song in the Dark: A Novel of World War II* by Kimberly Woodhouse - F WOO
- *Queen, Queen Named Doreen* by Rick Sprunger - J SPR
- *The Sleepy Village Awakens* by Dr. Ravi I. Jayakaran - JPB JAY

MENNONITE MOMENTS

Original plans were for US 27 to pass within a few feet west of our sanctuary. When our congregation adamantly resisted the idea, the Berne School Board ceded land to accommodate the present curve around our church.

On August 11, 1899, lightening struck our church and did some damage to the chimney and cornice.

The Berne Witness critiqued the cantata which was given in connection with the 1899 dedication of our remodeled church. "A few solos were well executed though they were by no means of a high musical standard."

Many of our church members are descendants of persecuted Anabaptists from the highlands of Canton Bern, Switzerland. They are among an estimated 200,000 descendants in the United States and Canada today. Apparently, no more than 1,000 have chosen to remain in their Swiss homeland.

At one time we had communion only once a year, at Easter. Later, a second communion was held to allow for those to participate who missed Easter communion because of illness.

Auctioneer Justin "Jess" Michaud participated in our Thanksgiving sales. He could use English, German, French, or Swiss when crying to a particular bidder.

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 for a bit more.....Tom Fox

Among Our People.....Jim Schwartz

Address Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 2025 						1
2 10AM: MISSION FESTIVAL - Aaron Kauffman 12NOON: MCC School Kit Project and Lunch 6:30PM: MISSION FESTIVAL - Aaron Kauffman Offering for Mission Festival	3 	4 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	5 5:45PM: Ethnic Meal 7PM: Charles Buller	6 9:30AM: SERVICE AT SWISS VILLAGE Eldon Claassen	7	8
2 10AM: MISSION FESTIVAL - Jerry Sauder 6:30PM: MISSION FESTIVAL - Jerry Sauder Offering for Mission Festival	10	11 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	12 7PM: Kent Liechty Hebrews 13	13	14	15
16 10AM: Pastor Jeff Linthicum 6:30PM: Pickle Ball, Bunco, Bingo Offering	17	18 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	19 7PM: Pastor Jim Schwartz Genesis 33	20	21	22
23 10AM: Pastor Jeff Linthicum 6:30: Community Thanksgiving Service Offering	24	25 6:30PM: Sunshine Hour	26 NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	27 	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 10AM: Pastor Jeff Linthicum NO EVENING SERVICE (5th Sunday) Offering						