

September 2025, Volume 48, Number 10

## THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’

Sharp-eyed people entering the church by the office will have noticed the appearance of a folding barrier located next to the church office. This restraint is in place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays when the Berne Preschool is in session.

Many of us can recall the days when kids traipsed around town unaccompanied and doors to homes were left unlocked. But the times have changed both across the nation and in Berne.

While the church has not experienced any problems related to unwanted visitors to Preschool, today’s parents expect a safe environment for their children to learn in. Public schools have switched to requiring visitors to pass through an office area in order to get access to the school during the day. This added security feature helps to reassure parents that we care about the safety of their children.

Much like you hope you never have to use insurance, it is anticipated that this is an addition to help keep youngsters safe, and it will never be needed.

The Preschool is an important part of our church’s ministry and it is important for us to continue to help the children to learn in a healthy, caring, and safe environment. †

## JUNIOR QUIZZING

All 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited to join Junior Quizzing! Practices begin in October, and the season extends to the end of February.

This year quizzing will be over the book of James. This is an exciting opportunity to learn and study God’s Word while also having fun with your friends. The program is led by Chris and Jenny Dubach. Please sign up in the patio. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny at (260) 849-2342. †

# update

## EVANGELISM CLASS

As a follow up to the September 7 sermon on “Evangelism”, a class exploring the gift of evangelism will be meeting on Wednesday nights in room 16. This is an opportunity to explore how this gift may fit into your life. †

## MCC RELIEF SALE

The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale 2025 will take place at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds in Goshen, Indiana, from **September 26-27, 2025**. This event is a significant fundraiser for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), which supports various relief and peacemaking efforts worldwide. The sale will feature a variety of activities, including a quilt auction (our church’s quilting group provided four quilts this year), an online silent auction, and a pickleball tournament. Additionally, there will be food booths, children’s activities, and a Battle of the Bands competition to support MCC’s initiatives. The sale is a community event that brings together volunteers and attendees to contribute to the cause of peace and relief.

Many completed craft projects have been made by members of our fellowship for sale at the event. They may be observed along the chapel wall.

It is not too late to get in on the fun, as various food items may still be contributed. A list is available in the church foyer of what to make and how to package the items.

Acceptable items include pies, sweet rolls, crisp peppernuts, homemade cookies, bread, dinner rolls, cakes, noodles, jellies, dried fruit, homemade soup, and fresh produce.

The motto of MCC is “In the Name of Christ.” This reflects MCC’s commitment to sharing God’s love and compassion for all, particularly in response to basic human needs and promoting peace and justice. †



## FOX TALES

Several years ago Matt Lehman (our local representative in the Indiana General Assembly) was involved in a contested election. Each week seemed to bring new information that placed Matt in a bad light. Most, if not all, of these releases were of a dubious nature. But still, the accumulation of all these comments mounted.

Being a friend of Matt Lehman, I realized there was only one thing I could do. So one night I called Matt's home anonymously and said that I had pictures of Matt kissing a girl who was not his wife.

This is where context is key. Those pictures did, in fact, exist, but they were taken approximately 40 years ago. He was kissing—well, more of a peck on the cheek—my wife-to-be during a high school production of *"The Diary of Anne Frank."* Hardly a career-ending scandal.

Lest one think I was totally heartless, Matt's wife Joye had answered the phone and I tipped her off to who I was and what I was doing. And after the initial shock, when Joye reported the call Matt could laugh about the absurdity of rumors and what happens during political campaigns.

But this little vignette is a reminder of how things can potentially spin out of control when we do not take in the whole picture.

A reminder that context is key—we are called to reach out to those around us who have not accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ. But we have to remember when we bring new people in they will not all have years of Sunday School, church attendance, and church teaching to draw on.

Thus, things that might seem scandalous to us will oftentimes just be people trying to figure out how to navigate through their new-found faith. People will slip in their language, people might dress in ways we do not expect, and people might even sit in your assigned seat.

But we need to remember to keep all this in context. We do not expect young children to have a Ph.D. level of understanding of theology and we should not expect new Christians to be any different.

Mistakes will be made, but we need to have the grace to remind people that God loves them, and that we can love them as well.

Matt Lehman survived my prank phone call, and he can laugh about it now. But I do not want to someday stand before the Lord and explain why I was so rigid that I could not take the time to meet people where they were at.

Lord, grant me the wisdom to laugh with those who need laughter, understand those who need to be understood, and encourage those who need to be encouraged. And never take someone's sincere desire to meet the Lord out of context. - tef †



## NOTES OF APPRECIATION

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the love and support we have received due to the unexpected passing of our father, Fred Stauffer on July 27, 2025. This church meant so much to dad and he always appreciated the sermons, the singing, and the people. Our family would like to extend a special thank you to Jim Schwartz for his visits and guidance during this time. We would also like to thank Jeff Linthicum for his funeral message, and kitchen committee for the wonderful meal that was served. How fortunate dad was to have such a caring church family.

—The Fred Stauffer Family

I would like to thank the church for prayers going up for my brother Paul Jones and myself. Much appreciated.

—Iris Sprunger

Thank you so much for your support and prayers towards my mission trip. Your generosity helps make this journey possible and I'm incredibly grateful. I can't wait to see what God has prepared for me this year.

—Mikaela Fox †



## AMONG OUR PEOPLE

**Twyla Sprunger** had out-patient surgery for a broken arm at Adams Memorial.

**Jim Neuenschwander** had surgery at Lutheran.

**Fred Wulliman** had outpatient surgery at Adams Memorial.

**Sheree Barkley** was admitted to Parkview Hospital for tests. She is scheduled to have surgery on September 24.

**Alvin Lehman** had heart catheterization on August 19.

**Becky Jackson** is recovering at Swiss Village following gall bladder surgery at Adams Memorial.

**Carole Fennig** had gall bladder surgery at Adams Memorial.

**Jane Velasco** was admitted to Adams Memorial due to an infection.

**Brooke Fruechte** had outpatient shoulder surgery following a vehicle accident.

Pray for the **Saveliev family**. Their son **Matvii** was born on September 8. He had surgery and is now in the NICU at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis.

**Doyle Lehman** is in rehab at Swiss Village.

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

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

**Megan Lithicum** is recovering from her surgery on September 10.

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

**Suanne Sprunger** continues her chemo treatments. Pray for minimal side effects and healing.

**Conner Hyman** has returned to Costa Rica for another year with Vida220.

**Josie Shoaf** is going to Colorado for further training with YWAM. †

## MENNONITE MOMENTS

In 1921, our church sustained five missionaries abroad and six at home at an expense of about \$12,000 a year. These monies were raised by the annual Thanksgiving Day Auction (\$4,000), and the 450-member Women's Missionary Sewing Society contributed most of the rest.

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Our first non-Swiss minister was Rev. John W. Kliewer (1903-1911). He was of German descent and was born in Russia.

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Early printed programs for our Choral Society were paid for by selling advertisements. One such ad, by City Bakery and Restaurant, featured meals, lunch, fruits, tobacco, cigars, and ice cream and oysters in season.

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Walter Sprunger died in Leavenworth prison of influenza in 1919. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War I and being a conscientious objector, refused to wear the uniform.

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The first Anabaptist churches established here were known as Amish, Old Mennonite, Mennonite, and Apostolic Christian. Since most churches did not accept baptismal rites, other than their own, person changing churches were usually required to be baptized again.

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Samuel, two-year old son of Rev. Christian Baumgartner, was bitten by a rattle snake in 1841. This "brought periodical falling fits, and as a consequence he remained a simpleton to his death."

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In an 1860 letter to his cousin in Switzerland, Peter Sprunger wrote that, as a school teacher, he was paid \$45 for a three-month term. He also said horse prices varied between \$50-100, depending on age and beauty.

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Spanish explorers discovered potatoes in South America in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and took some home. But most Europeans thought they were poisonous even after the French tested them on prisoners. The Mennonites are credited to introducing them to Switzerland as nutritious and easy to grow.

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When our strict dress code was eased, some became very creative in their dress. A preacher wore large felt boots that kept the bottoms of his pants trousers from sliding over them. And assistant Sunday school superintendent, Christian M. Stauffer, wore a large red bandana to replace his collar and tie. †

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 the moment..... Tom Fox

Among Our People..... Jim Schwartz

Address Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>OCTOBER 2025</b> 						
			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 10AM: "For God's Glory" - Pastor Bill Helmlinger (Nehemiah 11:1-2) 5:00PM: Chili Cook-Off at Fellowship Point Offering for Church Camp	6	<b>7</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>8</b> <b>7PM:</b> Craig McKean Hebrews 10	9	10	11
<b>12</b> 10AM: "Prophecy" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum 6:30PM: Revelation 6 - Dr. Kent Lehman Offering	13	<b>14</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>15</b> <b>7PM:</b> Tom Fox Hebrews 11	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 10AM: "Celebrate" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Nehemiah 12:27-29) 6:30PM: Cybersecurity - Rick Gorrell Offering for Global Disciples	20	<b>21</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>22</b> <b>No Evening Service</b> <b>(Fall Break)</b>	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 10AM: "Keeping Your Zeal" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Nehemiah 13:15-17) 6:30PM: Triumphant Quartet Offering	27	<b>28</b> <b>6:30PM:</b> <b>Sunshine Hour</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7PM:</b> Joe Meyer Hebrews 12	30	31	 OCTOBER