

**Changes to Sunday School and Worship Times – help spread the word!**

**Beginning today, February 4th**, our Sunday schedule is as follows:

Sunday School - 9 a.m.

Fellowship - 10 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Going forward, greeters can plan to be at the entrances at 8:45 a.m. to greet those coming for Sunday School. And then again from 10 - 10:30 a.m. to greet attenders and visitors who come for the worship service only.

Thanks for your patience as we work out the logistics of our new schedule!

**Happy Birthday to Jen Bixler (2/20), Joshua Cooper (2/20), Louise Bowers (2/24) and Dawn Campbell (2/24)** who celebrate their birthdays this week! **And Happy Anniversary to Larry and Joyce Gerber** who celebrate their anniversary on **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**! Please remember them by sending a card or offering a special prayer of thanks for them!

**Coming Events:**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| March 1            | All-Church Comforter Knotting at OMC                                   |
| March 8 and 9      | Missional Conference – <i>Gathered and Sent</i> at Bluffton University |
| March 9 and 10     | Annual Conference Assembly at Bluffton University                      |
| March 11           | Bible Quizzing Local Tournament at Sonnenberg                          |
| March 15           | All Church MCC Kit Packing at MCC Connections                          |
| March 16-18        | Invitational Bible Quizzing Tournament Pettisville OH                  |
| March 25 – April 1 | Holy Week – more information coming!                                   |

**Orrville Mennonite Church**

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am - 12 noon

Orrville Mennonite Church Web Site

[www.orrvillemenno.net](http://www.orrvillemenno.net)

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA Web Site

[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

**Staff**

Pastor Bill Seymour

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**Elder Council**

Marilyn Kamp – Elder for Community/Discipleship

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**Ministers:** Each member of the congregation

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# Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 West Market Street – Phone (330) 682-5801 – Orrville, Ohio 44667

**February 18, 2018**

*"We are dedicated to loving God and loving people"*

**To the Glory of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit**, it is our mission to be a loving community of believers who intentionally further God's Kingdom by going out and loving all people, sharing the good News of Jesus Christ and making disciples.

**Welcome**

**Hymns**      *Praise with Joy the World's Creator* SJ 16  
*God of the Bible* SJ 27

**Scripture**      Genesis 1.26-31  
**Responsive Prayer** SJ 140

**Hymn**      *Praise God from Whom* WB 119

**Offering/Prayer**

(God's children are invited to bring offerings for the "My Coins Count" Jug)

**Hymn**      *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* MH 104

**Message**      Lenten Series – *Promises, Promises,*  
*The Covenants of the Bible, Part 1 – Creation*  
Pastor Bill Seymour

**Scripture**      Genesis 1.26-31, 9.8-17

**Hymn**      *All Creatures of Our God and King* WB 48

**Sharing and Prayer Announcements**

**Love Step Prayer** – *Lord, give me time and energy to pay attention when you put me in front of someone so I can meet them with love where they are. Help us to learn from each other and walk together in a way that we can both grow closer to Christ.*

**Benediction**

Reader: Dan Jantzi

Song Leader: Bill Seymour

**Today (February 18) 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
2:30 p.m. Bible Quizzing at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church  
Genesis 26; 27; 28:1-9

**Tuesday**

6:30 p.m. WINGS – *Winter Olympics*

**Wednesday**

6:30 p.m. Axis Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. BreakAway – *Winter Olympics* (Snack – Shilling)

**Next Sunday (February 25) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Message: Lenten Series – *Promises, Promises; A Tour of the Covenants – Part 2: A People!*  
Scripture: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16, Romans 4.13-25  
2:30 p.m. Bible Quizzing at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church  
Genesis 28:10-22; 29; 30

**Greeters Today** Doug and Lidia Zehr, Judy King

**Next Sunday** Danae King, Liz Snyder, John and Barb Shilling

**Elder Greeter Today** Marilyn Kamp **Next Sunday** Lidia Zehr

**Worship Nursery Today** Judy King **Next Sunday** Danae King

**Coffee Hospitality Today** Stan and Marilyn Kamp

**Next Sunday** Marion and Jane Beyeler

**Last Sunday (February 11)**

Ministry Spending Plan: \$3,237.00	Weekly MSP Needed: \$3,054.79
Partnership Plan: \$	Weekly PP Needed: \$897.35
Mennonite Mission Network: \$100.00	Land: \$100.00

**Dear Orrville Mennonite Church, Happy Valentine's Day!** I am so blessed with the love that you have shown and shared to me. Through you all, I feel God's love and compassion. Through you all, I learn that love has no borders. Thank you for your LOVE. Love and hugs, Febri Kristiani

**Note of thanks – To the kitchen committee,** We thank you for the work of preparing a meal after Mom's Memorial Service.... Everything went so smoothly and we felt cared for as we were grieving her loss. Blessings to all, Gail Manickam, Rhonda Savage, Renee Koshmider, Jenell Ulrich

**Discovery – A Comic Lament**, is coming to Smithville, OH on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, 7843 Smucker Rd, Smithville, OH 44677. Admission is free and is open to the public! Sponsored by First Mennonite Church Wadsworth, Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Summit Mennonite Church, Orrville Mennonite Church, and Crown Hill Mennonite Church.

The play, starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, and produced by Ted & Co, is about the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples. It finds unexpected humor at the crossroads of justice and land use, offering both comic and challenging glimpses into the absurdity of white settler oppression of Indigenous Peoples and the land we live on. A show about love, and loss, of land, Discovery nudges us to question our stories with honesty and integrity.

What happens when we find out there is a problem with the ground under our feet? When we acknowledge that the land we want to reconnect with was violently and unjustly emptied of indigenous peoples? When we learn about their continued oppression? And, what is our role, as people of faith, and inheritors of a system of land ownership based on theft?

This is a play about a big, foundational problem: how the land under our feet came to be under our feet. And it is about learning to face that problem with the energy that only shared laughter can create, so that we can move forward.

Produced by Ted & Co, written by Alison Brookins, and directed by Phil Weaver-Stoesz. Created in partnership with the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition. Fiscal support through Mennonite Mission Network.

**Card shower and notes of encouragement** – Lou Erb shared about a friend, Marjorie Sexton, who is going through chemotherapy right now. She lives on her own and is a SWAP homeowner. Lou invites us to send cards and notes of encouragement through the months of February and March to brighten her days. Lou said it would be helpful to mention in your cards/notes the SWAP connection with Pete and Lou so that Marjorie knows how we learned of her need. Address: Marjorie Sexton, PO Box 45, 401 Trace Caney Road, Pippapasses, KY 41844.

**MCC SWAP** is looking for people to serve as: Meal Coordinator/Cook and Job Site Coordinator/Carpenter. Feel free to pass on the information to people who you think may have interest in serving with SWAP! Anyone 18 years old and above (retired adults are very welcomed) is eligible to apply. Lou Erb is happy to answer any questions you have! Peter and Louisa Pirozzi-Erb – SWAP Hindman Location Coordinators PO Box 157, Hindman, KY 41822 Phone: [606-785-0552](tel:606-785-0552) Email: [louisapirozzierb@mcc.org](mailto:louisapirozzierb@mcc.org)

**Copies of Our Daily Bread devotionals** (March – May) are available by the mailboxes.

**Orrville Mennonite Church Daily Devotions**  
**Week ending with Sunday, February 18, 2018**

Day One Read Genesis 12.1-4a

What is the promise? What was Abram required to give up?

Day Two Read Psalm 22.23-31

God is in charge (dominion). What are the results of that in this Psalm?

Day Three Read Mark 8.31-38

What must we do to follow Jesus? What does this mean in our lives today?

Day Four Read Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

What is the covenant with Abraham?

Day Five Read Romans 4.13-25

How is it that Abraham received God's promises not through what he did but through faith?

**"Love Step Prayer"** – Pray this daily and as you go through your day, look for how God might be answering...*Lord, give me time and energy to pay attention when you put me in front of someone so I can meet them with love where they are. Help us to learn from each other and walk together in a way that we can both grow closer to Christ.*

**ACA Service Project** – For this year's service project at Annual Conference Assembly, they will be collecting items for Crime Victim Services in Lima, Ohio. Part of their mission is to help survivors of human trafficking. We will have a collection box/table here at OMC for the weeks leading up to ACA and our delegates will take the items along to Bluffton. Please consider donating any of the following items: blankets, winter scarves/gloves/hats, coats (all sizes), socks, toilet paper, cash donations (for the Human Trafficking donation fund). This fund is used for emergency housing costs, medical expenses, therapy, groceries, etc.

**Camp Luz has a trio of great retreats coming up in April!** For more info visit [www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com)

**Men's Retreat**, April 6-8 with Moses Rumano

**Mother – Daughter Retreat**, April 13-14 with Julie Longacre

**Father – Son Retreat**, April 27-28 with Jim and Isaac Bartholomew

**From Mennonite Mission Network:** Thank you, Orrville Mennonite Church, for giving \$7,788.84 to MMN in 2017! Your donations, prayers, and enthusiastic participation play a vital role in our global church. Together, we were able to share a message of hope in a broken world.

**Sermon Notes for February 18, 2018**

**Lenten Series**

During Lent, we will look at the Covenants of the Bible in a series called, *Promises, Promises*. As we move toward Easter, which is about God's commitment to us for redemption, ransom, salvation, restoration, adoption, wholeness, life -- what are our commitments to Creator, to earth, to non-human living beings, to people, to people outside our faith, to people inside our faith?

**Creation** – God creating all that exists is, in itself, a covenant, a promise, a commitment. God creating everything and creating humanity in God's image is the foundation on which all the covenants lay.

**A Quick Tour of the beginning Genesis accounts that speak to Creation and Creator:**

**Genesis 1.1** God created

**Genesis 1.2** There was God and there was stuff, but no order to or purpose in the stuff.

**Genesis 1.3** God (begins to) speaks into existence order and function and life

**Genesis 1.26-31** God speaks humanity into existence, male and female, created in God's image.

God's Commitment Regarding Earth/Universe:

I created all that is and give it order and purpose  
I am in charge

Our Commitment Regarding Earth/Universe:

We are stewards of what is not ultimately ours, but God's and we bear at least some responsibility for its care.  
Genesis 1.26, 2.15, 19-20,

God's Commitment to Us (human):

You, humanity, are made by me in my image.  
I called you good. Genesis 1.27, 31

Our Commitment: Recognize the imprint of the image of God on ALL people.

**Genesis 3** The Challenge – The Serpent attempts to, and succeeds in, disrupting the order and function and purpose. Brokenness, sin, selfishness introduced into Creation. Still image-bearers of God, our insides are now occupied both by God’s goodness and our rebellious, sinful nature.

God’s Commitment to Us: Even with sin and brokenness, God loves, cares for, and protects Creation.  
Genesis 3.21, 4.10-16

Our Commitment to God: Fight through our selfishness to follow God’s ways. Genesis 4.6-7

**Genesis 5-6** Everything comes crashing down. It appears as if sinful nature has won out. Creation is broken. Evil has consumed humanity. Creation receives a reset. From a human standpoint, it doesn’t work. There is still sin after the Flood. And yet, the Creation covenant is not broken.

**Genesis 9.8-17** Out of the Flood, God says,  
“I will not deal with human sin in this way again.”

### The Foundational Covenant

**God’s Commitment to Us:** Humanity, I created you in my image (Gen. 1)  
And I will help you with your sin problem (Gen. 3),  
rather than destroy you (Gen. 9).

**Our Commitment to God:**

1. Identify the imprint of the image of God in self and others
2. Be good stewards of each other and the rest of creation
3. Fight through our selfishness to follow God’s ways, because God is \_\_\_\_\_.

**What are you doing today to honor your part of the covenant?**

### Prayer Concerns & Praises for Week of February 18, 2018

- **That God would be glorified and that lives would be transformed** in every aspect of Orrville Mennonite Church.
- **Prayers for our government leaders** in these uncertain times.
- **Elder Council, Pastor and Ministry Team leaders, Grow Groups**
- **Mennonite Church USA *Journey Forward: Embracing God’s hope for MCUSA*** – prayers for those participating in this 2-year visioning process.
- **SWAP Ministry/Pete & Lou Erb – urgent need for summer staff!**
- **Upanga Mennonite Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.** Please pray for Pastor Abner Mathube and for God to multiply this congregation.
- **Youth who connect with us through WINGS, BreakAway and Axis YG**
- **All those grieving the loss of loved ones and grappling** with the tragedy of the school shooting in Florida.
- **Mel Leidig** – prayers for ongoing health problems, possible pneumonia
- **Jen Bixler’s father, Aden Troyer** – for his health and decisions to be made for needed heart surgery
- **Mim’s cousin, Rose Emick** – hospitalized this week and fighting an infection (completed 6 rounds of chemo for lung cancer)
- **Mim Wenger’s cousin’s (Chet) wife, Kellie Slabaugh** – she received a very good report and is doing very good right now.
- **Kara Shilling** – continuing in discipleship training
- **Lowell & Louise Bowers** – Lowell is at West View Healthy Living
- **Amos & Esther Muhagachi** and their family
- **Christi’s friend, Karen Wayt**, as she undergoes treatment for cancer; prayers for she and her family as they journey together
- **Jane Beyeler’s friend and her son** – walking the difficult journey of addiction with her son.
- **Lance Almond** – serious health issues
- **Joy Schrock – wife of Dean** (Sandy Sohar’s and Kathy Troyer’s father) undergoing treatment for cancer.
- **Kara Shilling’s friend, Keturah** – pain related to spina bifida.
- **Diane Hostetler’s friend, Al** – cancerous tumor, raising funds for treatment
- **Academia Menonita Betania in Puerto Rico** – sister school to Central Christian as they recover and rebuild after Hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- **Grace Geiser** (Brenn-Field), **Cathy Gable** (Orrville Pointe)
- **Taryn (Diane Hostetler’s classmate) and her baby**, born 3 months early
- **Anna Miller, Sandy Miller’s mother** as she adjusts to life transitions
- **Sawsan Elateek and her children, Seif and Yasmine.**
- **Bill’s sister Laurie**, who is primary caretaker for her father-in-law, brother-in-law, as well as daughter, **Amy**, struggling with deep psychological illness.
- **Mennonite Mission Network** – Mark and Mary Hurst of MMN serve as resource people and pastors with the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand. Pray for them as they build relationships with people seeking God and a way of living that centers on Jesus’ justice and shalom.
- **Mennonite Education Agency – Bethany Christian Schools.** Pray for Goshen area youth & their families as they consider schooling options for next year & the benefits of Christian education at Bethany Christian Schools.