

Please note this update as of February 25th and help spread the word!

Sunday morning schedule is as follows:

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Going forward, greeters can plan to be at the entrances at 9 a.m. to greet those coming for Sunday School. And then again at about 10:20 a.m. to greet attendees and visitors who come for the worship service only.

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

New address for Tyler Weigand – 1224 Skyline Drive, Apartment 316, Orrville, Ohio 44667.

Happy Birthday to Bill Seymour (2/27). Please remember Bill by sending a card or offering a special prayer of thanks for him!

Coming Events:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 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 |

Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 W. Market St., Orrville, OH 44667

330-682-5801

Email address: omcjan@gmail.com

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

Orrville Mennonite Church Web Site

www.orrvillemenno.net

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA Web Site

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Staff

Pastor Bill Seymour

omcbill@gmail.com

330-347-7034 (Cell)

Elder Council

Marilyn Kamp – Elder for Community/Discipleship

kampsinmillersburg@gmail.com

330-763-3271 (Cell)

Marion Beyeler – Elder for Stewardship

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Lidia Zehr – Elder for Mission

lbzehr@gmail.com

316-680-0480 (Cell)

Jen Bixler – Elder Facilitator

mjbix@zoominternet.net

330-857-0323 (Landline)

Bill Seymour - Elder for Worship

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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 25, 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 *What is this Place* WB 1
Praise Him, Praise Him! WB 100

Scripture Romans 4.13-25

Responsive Prayer SJ 144

Hymn *O God in Heaven* SJ 53

Offering/Prayer

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

Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* WB 582

Message Lenten Series – *Promises, Promises;*
The Covenants of the Bible, Part 2 – A People
Pastor Bill Seymour

Scripture Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

Hymn *When Long Before Time* SJ 25

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

Accompanist: Anita Fisher

Reader: Barb Shilling

Song Leaders: Mike Hartzler and Bill Seymour

Today (February 25) 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 2:30 p.m. Bible Quizzing at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church
 Genesis 28:10-22; 29; 30

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. WINGS – *Jesus' Miracles* (Snack – Christi)

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Axis Youth Group
 6:30 p.m. BreakAway – Comforter Knotting (Snack – Lidia)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship and Service
 6:00 p.m. All-Church Comforter Knotting

Next Sunday (March 4) 3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Message: Lenten Series – *Promises, Promises; A Tour of the Covenants Part 3 – Rules. Uggh?*
 Scripture: Exodus 20.1-7, Psalm 19
 4:00 p.m. Ted and Co. – A Comic Lament at Oak Grove MC

Greeters Today Danae King, Liz Snyder, John and Barb Shilling

Next Sunday Ken and Rita Wenger, Diane Hostetler

Elder Greeter Today Lidia Zehr **Next Sunday** Bill Seymour

Worship Nursery Today Danae King **Next Sunday** Sandy Sohar

Coffee Hospitality Today Sherm and LaVonne Amstutz

Next Sunday Allison Seymour

Last Sunday (February 18)

Ministry Spending Plan: \$1,976.00	Weekly MSP Needed: \$3,054.79
Partnership Plan: \$100.00	Weekly PP Needed: \$897.35
Compassion Fund: \$100.00	
Mennonite Mission Network: \$100.00	
Land: \$100.00	

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the surprise Valentine card and goodie box! It is always so uplifting to be thought of. The snacks will soon be eaten. We seem to be busy traveling this time of year for both work and some enjoyment. We attended an old-time music festival in Lexington. Next month we'll be at the Illinois Relief Sale for promotions. We will be starting homeowner visits next month. Thanks again for all your prayers and support!

~ Pete and Lou Erb

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.

All-Church Comforter Knotting Night – Thursday, March 1st, 6 pm. All are invited to a service opportunity of gathering around comforters to knot and visit together! Snacks will be provided!

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.

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.

Tired of winter? Looking forward to spring? Think Bluebirds!

Saturday, March 3, from 10:00 to 11:30 am at Camp Buckeye, learn more about these beautiful birds and build a bluebird box to welcome them to your yard. Join us for this adult-child activity! \$10 covers a short program and the materials to build your own box; we will build it together during this time. **All supplies are provided.** Please pre-register so that we can plan for you. Email to naturediscovery@campbuckeye.org or call us at 330-756-2380. Children, bring your favorite adult to help you! Adults, bring a special child to enjoy this with you!

Sonnenberg Station Spring Concert Schedule (all concerts are at 7pm)

- March 17 at Smithville Mennonite Church
- March 18 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Doylestown
- March 21 at St. John's Church in Millersburg (Bill's old church)
- March 24 at First Presbyterian Church, Wooster (best room to sing in)
- March 25 at Dalton United Methodist Church

- **Orrville Mennonite Church Daily Devotions**
Week ending with Sunday, March 4, 2018

Day One Read John 2.13-22

Why did Jesus act so... firmly?

Day Two Read 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

Why is the message of Cross foolishness to those who [are unbelievers]?

Day Three Read Psalm 19

How do God's rules (Law of the Lord) revive the soul?

Day Four Read Exodus 19.1-8

What did the people promise? What did they base their decision on?

Day Five Read Exodus 20.1-17

What are these rules establishing?

"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.*

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. 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

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.
Items can be placed on table in fellowship hall.

Camp Luz has a trio of great retreats coming up in April! For more info visit 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

Sermon Notes for February 25, 2018

Promises, Promises. A look at the Covenants God has made with us.

God's vast, inclusive Covenant of Creation

Adam and Eve – and passed to Noah is the undergirding. I created you. I am in charge. Rather than destroying you, I will help you with your sin problem. This covenant is between God and **all of humanity** and creation, not a specific racial, economic, technological, or faith group.

Our Commitment to this Creating, Covenant Making God

Identify the imprint of the image of God in ourselves and others, be good stewards of each other and creation, and to fight through our selfishness to follow God's ways, because God is in charge.

A Called-out People of God!!!

Today's covenant is with one family, called out from all of humanity. And yet, the rest of humanity is not forgotten.

Genesis 12.1-4a

1. Abram, leave everything and follow me.
2. I will bless you
3. You will be my special people.
4. I will bless the world through you (so, it really isn't about one family)

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

A Covenant to this Family –

1. This covenant is for you and your descendants.
2. I will give you people – many people.
3. I will give you land
4. I will give you my presence
5. I will be your God. You will be my people.
6. You will follow my rules.
7. The sign that you are my people is circumcision.
8. The whole world will be blessed through you (Genesis 12.2-3)

9. Romans 4.13-25

It is **faith**, not blood, that gets one into this family. Abraham is father of all who share in Abraham's faith. God's covenant is radically inclusive, and through faith in Christ anyone can find themselves a son or daughter, not just of Abraham, but of God, and, with Abraham and Sarah, an heir of God with Christ (Romans 8.17).

Connection to the Covenant of Creation and with Noah

Creation Covenant:

God continues to honor Creation, calling all humanity to faithfulness. From a human viewpoint, it is a "change" in strategy. Start with one group and let them demonstrate what God wants to the world and empower them to spread the good news.

Noah Covenant:

The Covenant with Abraham is the first step in solving the sin problem without destruction. Sin is a product of a lie told, believed, and acted on (Genesis 3.4-7). Faithfulness is a product of truth told, believes, and acted upon (Genesis 12.1-4a and 17.1-16). The faithfulness of Abraham gives a legacy of believing the truth and acting upon it that begins to turn humanity away from sin and toward God (Romans 4.18-25).

What are the Commitments that come out of these first three covenants?

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

If you want to have some more Bible fun:

1. Read Mark 8.31-38. How does this account give us one glimpse of how we can get in the way of God's mercy and grace?
2. To get a bigger handle on the Covenant between Abraham/Sarah and God, read Genesis 12-22, but you could pull back and focus on 12.1-4a, 15.1-20, 17. 1-27 and then 21.1-7 and 22.1-19. Then, read Paul's interpretation of these events in Romans 4-11 to see how the covenant is more complete through Jesus.

Prayer Concerns & Praises for Week of February 25, 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** – hospitalized with breathing & heart issues
- **Jen Bixler's father, Aden Troyer** – recovering from heart bypass 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**
- **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** – Linda Oyer of MMN is bringing closure to her 30-year ministry in France. Pray that the seeds she planted through teaching and mentoring will continue to bear fruit. Pray also that she will find joy in writing more of the books that have been percolating in her spirit.
- **Mennonite Education Agency – Goshen (Indiana) College.** Pray for students at Goshen College as they have important conversations around race and culture during Black History Month.