

All: Don't provide an opportunity for the devil.

Offering Side: A sensitive answer turns back wrath,

Piano Side: But an offensive word stirs up anger.

Leader: Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth.

Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say.

Piano Side: Don't make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption.

Offering Side: Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil.

All: Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

Singing *Oh Thou, in Whose Presence** WB 559

Offering Prayer

Offering Song *Heart and Mind, Possessions, Lord* WB 392

Scripture Mark 9.14-29

¹⁴ When Jesus, Peter, James, and John approached the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them and legal experts arguing with them. ¹⁵ Suddenly the whole crowd caught sight of Jesus. They ran to greet him, overcome with excitement. ¹⁶ Jesus asked them, "What are you arguing about?" ¹⁷ Someone from the crowd responded, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, since he has a spirit that doesn't allow him to speak. ¹⁸ Wherever it overpowers him, it throws him into a fit. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and stiffens up. So I spoke to your disciples to see if they could throw it out, but they couldn't." ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "You faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ They brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a fit. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been going on?" →

He said, "Since he was a child. ²² It has often thrown him into a fire or into water trying to kill him. If you can do anything, help us! Show us compassion!"

²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can do anything? All things are possible for the one who has faith."

²⁴ At that the boy's father cried out, "I have faith; help my lack of faith!"

²⁵ Noticing that the crowd had surged together, Jesus spoke harshly to the unclean spirit, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you to come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ After screaming and shaking the boy horribly, the spirit came out. The boy seemed to be dead; in fact, several people said that he had died. ²⁷ But Jesus took his hand, lifted him up, and he arose.

²⁸ After Jesus went into a house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we throw this spirit out?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "Throwing this kind of spirit out requires prayer."

Message *Prayer and Healing*

Song of Response *Heal Us, Immanuel, Here We Are* WB 375

Love Step Prayer (unison)

Lord, open my eyes to see when you introduce me to someone. Help me to meet them with love where they are and to be met in love where I am. Help us to walk together, learn from each other, and share your love with others. Help us to see that as we do these things together, we are growing closer to Christ.

Choral Benediction* – Don Besig

*May the light of God shine on us today
May the Light of God shine on us today
May it show us where to travel
Lead us back if we should stray
May the Light of God shine on us today*

*May the love of God live in us today
May the love of God live in us today →*

*May the warmth we feel within us
Show in all we do and say
May the love of God live in us today*

*May the peace of God be with us today
May the peace of God be with us today
May it guide us and protect us
As we go our separate ways
May the peace of God be with us today*

Sermon Response

Prayer Requests

Announcements

Songs and Scripture with an "" are some of Jane Beyeler's favorite. We
celebrate her Feb. 5 birthday today.*

Greeter, Jan Kauffman

Usher, Josiah Bixler

PA Operator, Virg Troyer

Song Leader, Hank Rossiter

Accompanist, Marilyn Rossiter

Reader, Kathy Troyer

Sharing and Prayer, Marion Beyeler

Preschool Nursery, Sky Lofty

Worship Nursery, Liz Snyder, Jan Kauffman

Trustee (February), Mark Bixler

Announcements

Monday Meals served 124 meals this past Monday. This Monday, February 17, we'll be serving ham and bean soup with cornbread and a dessert.

Pastor Bill will be in Elkhart at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary for Pastors and Leaders Conference this coming week, **February 17-20**. The focus is *Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back and Living Forward*. If a need arises, please contact one of the elders or the church office.

Jan will be working remotely (from Indiana) the week of **February 24-28**. Feel free to contact her via email or cell phone. You can also leave a voicemail on the church phone and your message will be received by Jan via email.

OMC's Compassion Fund is in need of more funds. Please prayerfully consider contributing to our fund to help those in need of assistance.

Men's Breakfast is canceled for this month. See you in March.

Koinonia Ladies Lunch is this Thursday, February 20th at noon at the home of Marilyn Kamp. Please bring your own lunch. Marilyn will provide dessert.

You're all invited to OMC Game Night on Friday, February 21 at 6:30 pm. Bring family and friends for a fun evening. Please bring any games you wish to share and perhaps a snack or two. Please let Bev know by the 19th if you plan on attending.

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, February 22 is the women's breakfast at Lou Erb's house at 8:30 am. Feel free to bring a friend. Lou will make a casserole and provide coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Just let her know if you're coming so she gets the right number of plates out :o)

MCC Connections Volunteer Needs. The MCC Connections thrift store has opportunities to join an engaging community which provides regular, purposeful activity. We are in need of volunteers for the following jobs:

- ❖ Snow removal (using our equipment)
- ❖ Cashier - substitutes and half day Saturdays
- ❖ Christmas sorting
- ❖ Crafts
- ❖ Donation reception and separation
- ❖ Furniture Pick-up
- ❖ Housewares
- ❖ Hardware and Electrical

Training is provided. Please contact Mark Bixler at 330-857-7802 ext. 2# if interested and/or attend our open house on Wednesday, March 19 from 1-3 PM to learn more. A volunteer form can also be filled out at mccconnections.com. Thank you for your support of Mennonite Central Committee.

Winter/Spring Sermons

Wait, God ... Really?!?

February 9 - March 9

A five week look at some head-scratching and even scandalous things in the Bible and faith

1. God's role in our suffering
- 2. The difficulty of faith and prayer**
3. Is it really only through Christ?
4. Scandal -- The treatment of women
5. Scandal -- The land promise and conquest and modern colonialism

Separation from the World in 2025

March 16, 23, 30, April 6

2 Cor 5-7, including banning, shunning, and separation

Schedule-At-A-Glance for February 16 – 23, 2025

Sunday, February 16

Gathering and Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am** Bill Seymour preaching

Monday, February 17
Monday Meals, 5:30 pm

Thursday, February 20
Koinonia Women's Lunch at Marilyn Kamp's, 12 noon

Friday, February 21
Game Night at OMC, 6:30 pm

Saturday, February 22
Women's Breakfast at Lou Erb's, 8:30 am

Next Sunday, February 23
Gathering and Coffee Time, **9:00 am**
Sunday School, **9:30 am**
Worship, **10:30 am**
Bill Seymour preaching

Looking Ahead

Feb 28 – Mar 1 – MCC Comforter Bash at Fairlawn Mennonite
March 7, 8 – Ohio Annual Conference Assembly @ Berlin MC
Sunday, May 4 – Combined Worship with guest speaker Ann Graber Hershberger, Executive Director for MCC US

Offering Report for February 9, 2025

Ministry Spending Plan: \$2,200.00
Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,367.00
Compassion Fund: \$150.00
Mennonite Central Committee: \$50.00
Dollar Project (Zuerchers): \$35.00

February birthdays and anniversaries

2	Joshua Squirrell	20	Jen Bixler
3	Ralph Rheinheimer	24	Louise Bowers
5	Jane Beyeler		Dawn Campbell
16	Sharon Stutzman	27	Bill Seymour
	Joshua Cooper		

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Orrville Mennonite Church Website
Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

Pastor Bill Seymour

Elder Council

Dan Jantzi – Elder for Finance/Facilities & EC
Facilitator

Bill Seymour – Elder for Worship

Louisa Pirozzi Erb – Elder for Missions

Bev Squirrell – Elder for Community/Discipleship

Ministers: Each member of the congregation

330-682-5801

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9 am - 12 noon

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Sermon Notes

Why Pray?

Matthew 6.5-15	How to pray (and how not to)
Luke 5.16	Jesus often withdrew to pray – Matthew 14.13 (an example of this)
John 10.3-4, 14-16 John 15.4-7	Jesus' followers know his voice. Remaining in, abiding in Jesus – with a promise of receiving whatever is asked if we are remaining/abiding
Colossians 4.2 & 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18	Don't stop praying

Power in Prayer

Matthew 17.14-20	Jesus casts out demon. The disciples couldn't do it because of their lack of faith.
Mark 9.14-29	Jesus helps a man who says he has faith and casts a demon out of his boy. Why couldn't we do this, his disciples asked?" Jesus' response: "This kind requires prayer."
James 5.13-20	Call the elders of the church if you are sick. They will anoint you and heal you. "The prayer of the faithful"
Luke 18.1-8	Story of the widow and the cruel judge – her persistence wore him down. Persistence in Prayer