

JANUARY 2021

Ridgeview Mennonite Church

BUDGET

Budget	\$53,300.00
YTD Received	54,513.00
Year end	25,000.00
Foyer renovations	\$4,419.00
Holiday meal	3,325.00
Year end	1,094.00
Education Fund	\$750.00
Factory Christmas Project	\$875.00

INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INVENTORY

Paul writes a prayer to the church at Philippi. "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God." Part of that knowledge and depth of insight comes from increased awareness of ourselves, our culture, and those outside the dominant culture.

Atlantic Coast Conference's Anti Racism Task Group has compiled resources for the conference and congregations in hopes to foster desire for change in individuals and congregations. The Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) is one of the tools the Anti Racism Task Group suggests for congregations.

Ministry Team has approved members of the Administration Commission, Ministry Team and TCRC to take the (IDI) to create a pathway to guide us in the work of building awareness of experiences of people outside of dominant culture. We do this to keep integrity as a church and be committed to reflecting the way of Jesus. We wish to understand the reality and impact of white dominant culture and unhook from what that means.

The IDI is an assessment tool that measures intercultural competence, the ability to engage effectively and appropriately with people who are different from ourselves. It is designed for use by leaders in planning for organizations/groups work toward intercultural competence.

Ridgeview plans to use the IDI to develop benchmarks and create plans to foster deeper awareness about power and privilege in any cultural context. Members of the Administration Commission, Ministry Team and TCRC will take the 50 item online questionnaire. The results will be reviewed by one of MCUSA's Qualified Administrator. The QA will schedule a group debrief with the Administration Commission, Ministry Team and TCRC. The group debrief will include basic information about the intercultural development continuum and explain the group's placement on the continuum as represented by the composite scores. The QA will provide suggestions for next steps based on the current information. The IDI approach is developmental, not judgmental, and meets each individual where they are now, assuming an intention to move forward with support. *Jill Heine*



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Ben & Ruth Stoltzfus
- 15 Donald & Kathy Martin
- 16 Jake & Loretta Lapp

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sara Lapp
- 3 Judy Ebersole Martin
Robyn Reiff
- 6 Debbie Denlinger
- 7 David Crane
- 8 Steve Kauffman
- 12 Melissa Siegrist
- 14 Loretta Lapp
- 17 Patty King
- 25 Daniel Jacke
- 26 Dennis Shirk
Ruth Stoltzfus
- 27 Abby King
- 29 Janet Shirk

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes have been ordered but are late in arriving.

Until they arrive, use another envelope and put your number and date on it for recording your contribution.

PANDEMIC MUSINGS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

The Administration Commission is grateful for the work of the Community Life Commission, Kitchen Committee and volunteers who provided the December meal and for everyone who contributed to the Joining Together in December giving to advance our mission.

The commission appreciates the work of the ministry team and especially the Worship Commission that worked hard to get live-streaming to the good point where it now is. Appreciation to the numerous persons who enabled the church services to happen by reading scripture, providing music, doing monologues, running the tech equipment, etc. Also noted are those who led ZOOM connections, provided children's programs or taught Sunday School. This adds up to a significant number of persons involved in these ways.

We recognize that extra work and stress the pandemic has put on Audrey and Robert and we are grateful for their going the extra miles. The Christmas Eve program was exceptional! Thanks to the twenty-five plus persons who participated to make it possible.

As a commission we are also grateful for your flexibility and commitment to Ridgeview as we went from in person, to live-stream, to reopening and then back to live-stream only. We are aware that there are varied and sometimes strong views among us as to whether we should be meeting in person or via electronic means. The commission will be meeting soon to make a decision on whether to continue with live-stream only or again invite physical presence in the sanctuary for the church service. We anticipate the day when we can all feel safe to gather in person and appreciate the way we have been respecting what may not be our first choice on how we meet.

We want to grow and change as we learn new ways during the pandemic. It is likely we will want to continue to live-stream our church service which will enable persons who are sick, as well as Ridgeview participants who are traveling, or those who cannot be present on Sunday morning for work or other reasons, to more fully participate in the life and witness of our congregation.

As we enter 2021, we wish each of you all the best. We ask that you continue to be involved and use your gifts to witness to the love of God both in our church community, our local community and around the world. Please pray for the witness of our congregation that we may follow Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit grow as a community of love, grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to a hurting world.

The Administration Commission

JOINING TOGETHER IN DECEMBER AND THE DECEMBER MEAL

The Joining Together goal was \$25,000 for the month of December. On December 31 we exceeded the goal with a total of \$26,094 invested in our vision and mission.

The \$1,094 given beyond the goal will be used for foyer renovations. The December meal provided \$3,325 for foyer renovations, making a total of \$4,419 for the foyer project.

We were committed to reaching and exceeding the **Joining Together** goal, even in the midst of the global pandemic. Marsha Horst, our treasurer, said that "Ridgeview is a giving congregation" and that she is "inspired by the commitment to steward resources for the sake of the kingdom of God." She said that sometimes it takes us later in the month to reach a goal, but that there is strong commitment to give generously to reach and exceed budget goals.

Meeting and exceeding our giving goals enables us to keep our commitments to local, national and global ministries that are an extension of our life together in Ridgeview congregation. It also enables progress to refresh the Ridgeview building to meet current standards and programming vision. Thank you for every gift, of every size, this past month and throughout the year.
The Administration Commission



SERVING A MEAL....

On November 2, eight willing volunteers gathered in the church kitchen to assemble a meal to be distributed at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster. We have been involved in this ministry for many years, and this year it was a bit different because of coronavirus restrictions. Rather than a cooked meal, we put together one hundred lunch bags of turkey and cheese sandwich, applesauce, chips, and a chocolate chip cookie. Many willing hands made the job very easy! Char Lapp loaded them in her car to take to Lancaster. Char and Evan Lapp and Evie Hershey helped hand them out to the grateful recipients. Thanks so much for all the helpers and the support of the church to make this happen every year on the first Monday of November. *Evie Hershey*

SEIZING THE MOMENT TO THINK FORWARD

As with many organizations and congregations, we have spent several months adjusting to new technology, formats, and ways of connecting. In that acute stage we managed to find some rhythms of worship, connections and administration that have worked. However, a crisis can be more than just an exercise in endurance. It can be an opportunity for real, deep change. Adaptive change is more than technical fixes and can help congregations move past a crisis to learning and growing because of it.

The Ministry Team is putting together a small team of 5-7 people who would be tasked with starting the conversation. With so much uncertainty it is hard to say exactly how it will develop, but we would like to begin by discerning what questions we need to be asking of ourselves and the congregation as we think about what a post-pandemic Ridgeview (and broader church/society) might look like.

We would invite the whole congregation to join us in praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue to seek first the kingdom of God. *Pastor Audrey*



GO! SUNDAY – JANUARY 31ST

Isolation and loneliness are nothing new, but during the pandemic many have experienced more disconnection than usual. We would like to make this the focus of our next GO! Sunday. The goal would be to create and deliver/send care packages to people of any age who may be feeling the impact of isolation and loneliness. This could be a young adult living away from family, college student, elderly neighbor, or someone in quarantine. There are several ways you can participate.

- 1) Send us the name and age of a person who you think should receive a care package before January 24th
- 2) Collect items to go in the packages – see list below.
- 3) Help assemble the packages
- 4) Deliver local packages or take others to be mailed
- 5) Donate money for shipping costs
- 6) Pray for those who will be receiving the packages

Items to collect:

- * Notes of encouragement, pictures, poems, scripture verses
- * Puzzle books (crossword, wordsearch, sudoku, etc.)
- * Puzzles (variety of difficulty)
- * Adult coloring books (variety of levels)
- * Colored pencils or pens
- * Tea, hot chocolate, cider mixes
- * Snacks, gum, candy
- * Warm socks (anti-skid for older persons)

Pastor Audrey

January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 10:15 Worship	4	5	6 9am Food Pac 6:30pm Foyer mtg	7	8	9
10 10:15 Worship	11 7pm Admin Com mtg	12	13 9am Food Pac	14	15	16
17 10:15 Worship	18	19	20 9am Food Pac 6:30pm Ministry Team	21	22	23
24 10:15 Worship	25 Rental—1990 Hall	26	27 9am Food Pac	28	29	30
31 GO! Sunday						