

BUDGET

Budgeted	\$143,500.00
YTD Received	135,305.00
Education Fund	1,200.00

Let's Pray: Listening to God and Each Other – Prayer Guide and Summer Series

This summer we will be focusing on Spiritual practices or disciples: the things we do that keep us connected to God and each other so that we be true witnesses of the way of Jesus in our world. We will begin with a six week focus on prayer. Let's Pray booklet will be available in hard copy and includes a guide for personal prayer as well as praying for our church community. **July 18** we will conclude with a morning service in the 1990 Hall to reflect on this journey of prayer and again listen together for what Jesus is calling us to become. A fellowship meal will follow the service. The remaining six weeks of the summer will follow Leader Magazine resource entitled "Practicing Faith: focusing our vision so that the rest of life can come into perspective."



BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Merv Landis
- 6 Sara Bushong
- 7 Rick Loncosky
- 11 Theresa Yoder
- 17 Anna Esh
- 19 Barb Glick
- 23 Dick Winters
- 28 Jake Lapp
- 29 Kathy Martin

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bill & Joanne Zimmerman
- 9 Bruce & Patty King
- 16 Jeff & Melissa Siegrist
- 21 Ray & Edna Lapp

Listening Together

In Sunday School classes and sessions following Sunday morning services, we have been listening together. We have heard about each other's personal experiences and heard echoes of our own. We have heard each other's losses as well as what we have gained. We have also shared our questions, fears, hopes, and dreams for the future. A recording of responses reveals some words and concepts in this word art.



We would like to offer one more **Listening Together session on Sunday, June 13**, focusing on taking what we have heard and asking the questions, "What is next?" and "What is Jesus calling us to become?" We will follow the session with a lunch – thanks to Evan and Charlotte Lapp. Everyone is welcome to stay whether you have participated in previous discussions or not.

Up, In and Out

Remember that childhood game, Upset the Fruit Basket? Each person was a different fruit changing seats with others who were assigned your fruit identity, smooth and semi-orderly until someone calls "upset the fruit basket" and suddenly everyone must change their seat running in all directions. The challenge was to find a direction to an empty seat in the middle of chaos.

Jesus' life during his time of ministry may have seemed a little random, travel here and there, at times without a place to lay his head. And yet Jesus lived with direction – direction around three relationships Up – with God the Father; In – with his disciples; and Out – with the hurting world around him. Luke 6:12-19 follows Jesus from the time of solitude praying to God, to the calling of those who would be his closest companions and disciples, and finally to the hurting world around him.

This balance of life is echoed throughout his earthly ministry leaving a pattern for us today. As the prophet Micah named as the calling of humanity, we are also called to act justly – **OUT** in the world, love mercy – **IN** our faith community, and walk humbly with our God – as we look **UP** to God. This is how we were created to function in life and ministry, individually and corporately. It may take practice and readjustment, but when these dimensions of life are in balance there will be good fruit.



During the 2021 ACC Spring Assembly Amy Yoder McGloughlin, pastor of Frazer Mennonite shared about the process Frazier has used for the last year to engage the topic of racism. The process is outlined in Eric Law's book *The Wolf Shall Dwell with The Lamb*. I have outlined the details below. I attended as a delegate for Ridgeview. I would be happy to answer any questions about the information below:

Structure of Activity

3 questions
1 hour and 15 min
15 people in group

Touchstones

- Confidentiality
- Accept feedback with grace rather than defensiveness
- Ask clarifying questions
- One person talking at a time
- Be fully present
- Respect each other
- Take responsibility for your words

Key Assumptions

- We are part of a racist system
- We were born into the system

Role of the Process Observer

- To recognize what goes well and what doesn't
- Bring everyone back together at end to review

Recommendations from churches who have done this process

- Keep it within church members (It is a very confessional process - a sacred space - want people to feel comfortable being vulnerable)
- Have participation be volunteer
- It scares Elizabeth Soto to hear someone say "Ok, so we are all racist, what do we do?" We must recognize the need to do internal work
- Start with a small group within the congregation and then see how it spills into the larger congregation
- How to gently call out inappropriate comments - use the practice of saying "ouch" immediately after comment is shared. Also some groups have time of reflection after each question where others can call out a harmful response.
- Comment from a Black American in the group - if we focus on being politically correct Mennonites, it can hold us back from the work. Elizabeth Soto agreed and said their group has allowed anger to be an energy to deconstruct and reconstruct a new way.

ACC's second resource volume is now available on ACC website from the Anti Racism Task Group

Book recommendation by Stephen Crane
Resurrecting Church: Where Justice & Diversity Meet Radical Welcome & Healing Hope
Written from perspective of white, middle class male privilege
~ Jill Heine

Thank you to the Ridgeview family for sending me as a delegate to the ACC Spring Assembly. Zoom continues to bring us together in new and meaningful ways. Cindy Petersheim did a wonderful job of guiding us through the process of meeting virtually. We were able to complete several items of business, which included hearing and approving the 2020 Fall Assembly Minutes, reviewing the year-to-date finance report, and approving the 2021-2022 budget.

The Nickels for Neighbors project for 2021 was announced and will be supporting The New York Mennonite Immigration Program (NYMIP) to expand assistance for immigrant families within the New York City family shelters system with free legal assessments, referrals and service needs assessment for children and families.

We were also blessed by the sharing of individuals from Grace and Peace Mennonite Church who gave us a glimpse into congregational life in a virtual setting. The congregation is able to minister to a variety of individuals, some of which are in unique circumstances that make meeting in the traditional congregational setting difficult or impossible. They got their start in 2019 and though meeting virtually has its challenges, they are finding ways for church to be re-visioned. Grace and Peace Mennonite requested consideration to join ACC and the delegates voted whether to extend membership. I'm so happy to share that the voting results approved membership.

Amazingly, we also seamlessly broke into small groups for sharing and discussion on two occasions. Once to meet and greet one another and once to respond to discussion questions from the book *White Awake* which covers topics of racism and privilege. This was a wonderful time of more personal interaction. I had to smile when the time was up for break out groups. There was no herding people back to the main group and trying to have folks wind up their discussions, they simply ended. Zoom definitely shortens the process. We were finished earlier than expected, but I think everyone felt that good work had been accomplished, listening and sharing took place, and we were together in a meaningful way.
Julie Sommers



June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:15 Worship Outdoor service- dedication of pollinator garden	7 6:30 Softball game @ Paradise Park	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:15 Worship 11:30-12noon Listening Time	14 7:30 Softball game @ Paradise Park	15	16 7am Men's breakfast 6:30am Ministry Team	17	18	19 1pm Nellie Beiler Memorial service
20 10:15 Worship 1:00-5:30 pm Garden Tour FATHER'S DAY	21 7pm Admin mtg 8:45 Softball game @ Paradise Park	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:15 Worship	28 7:30 Softball game @ Paradise Park	29	30			