

# AUGUST 2021

## Ridgeview Mennonite Church

### BUDGET

Budgeted	\$180,400.00
YTD Received	167,556.00
Education Fund	-(550.00)

Everyone is invited to a time of re-engaging with each other on Sunday, August 22, at 9am. This re-engagement event will be facilitated by the Journey to Multicultural Understanding (JMU) group in the multipurpose room (gym). Please bring an object or a story that represents how you extend hospitality to others and be prepared to share with the group. We will be using the circle process in our time together to help to equalize the room, giving everyone the opportunity to share. Persons who prefer to not share a story are welcome to attend to listen as a way to re-engage with each other. After our stories are shared the JMU group will guide us in an exercise to illustrate the similarities and differences within the stories.



The goal of the event is to build the capacity to interact with difference to enable us to better share God's love to each other and our community. This goal is linked to our mission statement "Called by God to Learn and Share Together God's love with all Creation."

JMU organized this event as a result of Ridgeview church leadership interacting with the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Ridgeview's IDI score indicated building the capacity to interact with difference is a growth area for us in preparation to engage the topic of systemic racism.

We look forward to reconnecting with our church family on August 22nd at 9am. Please contact us with any questions. —Jill Heine

~ JMU members - Jill Heine, Evie Hershey, Robert Kanagy & Merv Landis



### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jade Siegrist
- 2 Steve Crane  
Jesse Kanagy  
Mariah Kauffman
- 7 Bethany Jacke
- 20 Nathan Horst
- 21 Jeff Pauls
- 24 Joanne Zimmerman
- 27 Hannah Jacke
- 29 Dennis Glick
- 30 Tony Gehman

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Steffen & Kate Sommers
- 7 Jason & Sarah Rohrer
- 9 Evan & Charlotte Lapp
- 19 Merv & June Landis
- 31 Dennis & Laura Glick

### LISTENING TOGETHER

We have been listening to God and each other this spring and summer so what have we heard? The pandemic impacted us all but not all the same. We experienced a variety of emotions, gains and losses which were both painful and sometimes welcome. We experienced fatigue and lack of motivation at times, yet many of us expressed openness to new ideas, creativity and imagination to see and seize the opportunities that this unique time may give us.

We asked you about your hopes and dreams for Ridgeview, what you are thankful for and what you would like to release. Here is a summary of your responses.

UP – Our corporate worship was a thread that kept going throughout the pandemic, but also looked quite different at times. Gratitude was given for the flexibility and hard work shown by the congregation as we worked through many challenges and see the value in continuing online options. We wondered what corporate worship might look like to different people and have appreciated the simplified shorter services that have developed. As we continue to come, we trust that God's plan continues to be revealed.

IN – We are call to love God and love each other. We experienced a sense of solidarity – though our experiences were different during the pandemic, none of us were immune to its impact. The kindness, support, and care expressed for each other were noted as well as the desire to continue listening to each other and working together. The youth and their leaders were highlighted as well the children's zoom meetings even though it is less visible. Sunday School for adults has been a huge blessing to many and gratitude expressed for our continued relationship with Branch. One group observed that there is less passive aggressiveness and more acceptance in the congregation. We desire to continue to pray for each other, eat together and enjoy fellowship with one another.

OUT – A commitment to our local community came through strongly. We desire to be a witness and a blessing, to share of our resources and service and just be present among our communities. Suggestions were made to connect with others in meeting needs in the community, including other local churches, being observant and thinking about our own words and actions, finding ways of bringing people together, and bringing a prophetic witness that interrupts hate with welcome. Many are looking forward to reinstating 55 Alive as well as thinking of new ways to be a witness in our community through areas of focus such as creation care and community needs.

As we continue to process the opportunities and challenges in front of us, these reflections are a part of the discernment process. Thank you for your participation in listening to God and each other. -Pastor Audrey

## ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION REPORT

**New Administration Commission Member:** Welcome Steffen Sommers as a member of the Administration Commission. We are grateful to Steffen for his willingness to serve our congregation in this way.

**Congregational Meeting:** A congregational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening August 18 at 7:00. We value the involvement of each congregational participant and if there is interest there will be a ZOOM connection for persons not present in person. If you want a ZOOM connection please notify Dick Thomas by Saturday August 14.

**Agenda for the meeting will be:**

### 1. Review of Foyer Plans

2. **Adjustments to the Ministry Team** section of our foundational document. This structure has been worked on by the Ministry Team and the Administration Commission and is now recommended for approval. The proposed structure will be distributed in advance of the meeting and the changes are based on a current assessment of the best way to serve the congregation as it now exists. It is built around the three words we have been working with Up, In and Out. The goal is to help focus on God, each other and our community and world that God loves and calls us to love and to seek its shalom.

Beyond focus the desire is to simplify the way we are organized and to fit our organization to the current congregation which is significantly different from the congregation when the current structure was adopted.

3. **Visioning Sunday Church Services.** COVID has brought and is bringing changes to churches as well as society as a whole. How has this changed the way we may view the Sunday Church Service? There have been suggestions that we meet in the multipurpose room at least at times to have a different feel to the church service. We have an amazing facility that would allow us to worship in the sanctuary, the 1990 Hall or the multi-purpose room. How could worship feel different in these different locations. It has been said that we shape our buildings and then they shape us. How does the sanctuary shape our church services?

We can discuss location and there are pros and cons for each of the possible locations. During the past year we have invested dollars to enable a quality live stream experience from the sanctuary. While that is an important consideration it does not provide a final answer to the question. And we could normally meet in the sanctuary and occasionally meet elsewhere.

At this meeting we want to hear each other and discuss and possibly discern what is desired when a location other than the sanctuary is suggested for the church service. Are there ways that the driving force behind the suggestion could be achieved by making some changes in how we are together in the sanctuary? How strong is the request to consider a different location for the church service? If there is support for a different location; is this support for a regular or occasional service at a location other than the sanctuary?

## 2021-22 Church Budget

Work is underway on the 2021-22 church budget which takes effect on October 1 with the new church year. As has become our custom we are asking for any budget suggestions to be submitted prior to the meeting where approval of the budget is one of the items on the agenda. Any concerns or suggestions as the budget is finalized should be submitted to Dick Thomas by September 1. A congregational meeting is being planned for later in September. If the proposed Ministry Team changes are approved we will then consider any possible additions to paid staff and this could be another agenda item for the meeting. Agenda items such as number three in the August 18 agenda grow out of suggestions by congregational participants. Such suggestions are always welcomed. —Dick Thomas



## CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling disconnected? from former friends? from church? from God? Would you like to become reacquainted and even reconnected?

One simple but powerful way to connect with God and others is in a Sunday school class. As many at Ridgeview have experienced; reading, studying, discussing, and applying together the Bible and other materials brings us closer to God and to each other.

Ridgeview is planning to restart Sunday school classes in September. In the past we have grouped primarily by age and gender. These are certainly possibilities, but now could also be an opportunity to regroup by areas of interest or topics of focus. For example, what is an area of mission that you would like to explore with others? Which book of the Bible or other book would you suggest? Or would you prefer to stay with MennoMedia's second year of "Salt and Light: Bible Study for Anabaptist Christians?" Next quarter's focus is entitled "God's Approachable Community" focusing on living together in the beloved community (church).

Our September restart gives us all an opportunity to rethink Sunday school at Ridgeview (perhaps even meeting after worship to encourage attendance). Please consider your level of connectedness and whether a Sunday school class may be an answer for you. *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit because apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5) —Dan Dietzel

# August 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:15 Worship	2 8:45pm Softball	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:15 Worship	9 Work day @ MCC Material Center  8:45pm Softball	10 6:30pm Branch 1990 Hall	11	12	13	14
15 10:15 Worship	16 6:30pm Softball 7:30pm Softball	17	18 7am Men's breakfast  7pm Congrega- tional meeting	19	20	21
22 9am Journey to Multicultural Understanding  10:15 Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:15 Worship	30	31				