

JANUARY 2022

Ridgeview Mennonite Church

BUDGET

Budgeted	\$77,450.00
YTD	78,385.00
Education Fund	1,000.00

TUESDAY ALIVE

The last senior friends gathering for 2021 was held on December 14 for a delightful morning of Holiday Classics.

The Conestoga Valley High School Orchestra Chamber String Ensemble, directed by Mrs. Emily Sheffer, provided a variety of Christmas music. Throughout the program students introduced themselves, told how many years they had been playing their instrument and what they were aspiring to as careers.

To top off the morning, a delicious meal of turkey and stuffing with all the trimmings was served by the gracious volunteers who make the event come together each month.



ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

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

JANUARY 30TH GO! SUNDAY

In many places and times, the people of God meet to worship. Much about these meetings are different, but through the same Spirit we all have access to God.

This GO! Sunday, January 30, we invite you to join in worship with Branch Community in their evening service, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

Last fall we hosted a joint service with Branch Community, inviting them into our worship time and structure. Now it is our turn to allow them to host us. If you are not comfortable meeting in person, they also live stream their church services on their Branch Community Facebook page.

CHURCH SILENT AUCTION SURPASSES GOAL

The church auction, whether silent or live bidding is a fun and important community building event that many persons look forward to each year.

After a year hiatus because of COVID and with continuing COVID concerns the auction morphed into a silent auction this year and was again a success with total receipts of \$7,749 exceeding the goal by \$1,749.

Thanks to the committee for planning a fun event and to all who participated in person or virtually.

CELEBRATING EXCEEDING THE GOAL FOR JOINING TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

The Joining Together in December goal was exceeded by \$2,792 with a total of \$22,792 given to advance our congregational vision. Thank you for helping us to exceed the goal and for your faithful stewardship and giving of tithes and offerings throughout the year. God loves a cheerful giver and there are many cheerful givers in the Ridgeview congregation!

MENNONITE EDUCATION FUND OPEN FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR UNTIL APRIL 1, 2022

Mennonite Universities/ Colleges and Lancaster Mennonite School will match church scholarships of at least \$500, and they will also match scholarships of \$1,000 for each student from the congregation.

We are currently aware of four students planning to attend a Mennonite school next school year, meaning we need a minimum of \$2,000 to have a \$500 matched scholarship or \$4,000 for each student to receive a \$1,000 match from the school.

Currently there is \$1,000 in the Mennonite education fund. We need to let schools know if we will be participating in the match and at what level by April 1. Our plan is to sign agreements with schools based on the number of dollars in the fund on April 1. If you have any questions about this plan, please contact Dick Thomas.

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW CHURCH STRUCTURE

Etta Esch and John Denlinger have been called to the newly formed Pastoral Advisory Council to give advice and counsel to Audrey and to help with some ministry tasks. Also, Dan Dietzel has been called to be the leader of the new IN Group ministries and Rick Loncosky has been called to be the leader of the newly formed OUT Group ministries. Thanks for strong congregational involvement in this process. Installation for these persons is scheduled for Sunday morning February 27.

The Administration Commission plans to continue to update the rest of the church foundational document with changes, mostly reflecting changes in practice since the document was written.

It will also look at the role and membership of TCRC with any changes to be made beginning with the new church year in October of 2022. The TCRC role may change because of the Pastoral Advisory Council. Please continue to keep this work in your prayers and pass on any suggestions you may have.

MC USA RIDGEVIEW DELEGATES

The Administration Commission has decided to send the two delegates Ridgeview is entitled to by the MC USA bylaws to the Mennonite Church Assembly in May to be held in Kansas City. The Assembly will consider a resolution to retire the Membership Guidelines which were established when the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church merged in 2002. Before this, there were no national church rules for congregational membership and if the Membership Guidelines are retired, we would go back to where we were in church polity before 2002, with decisions of congregational membership being the business of the local congregation and or the area conference rather than being at the national church level.

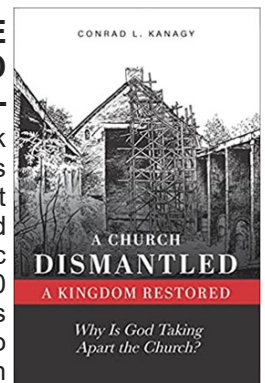
Delegates are also scheduled to vote on whether or not they want to consider a resolution on LGBTQ persons and the church that has been developed by a group of pastors and others, but is not endorsed by the MC USA Executive Board.

We are looking for our delegates to be persons who are respectful of persons who hold different understandings from themselves, persons who understand the diversity of understandings held by Ridgeview participants, and persons who are committed to unity in the midst of diversity. We are looking for delegates who care about the whole body of Ridgeview and the Mennonite Church and who are committed to prayer, and listening to others and the Holy Spirit. Please join in prayer as we ask persons to consider being a Ridgeview delegate to this assembly as well as for the broader church.

A CHURCH DISMANTLE BOOK SERIES BY CONRAD KANAGY NEW IN THE LIBRARY!

These sessions will look at one of the books in the series which is based upon 280 podcast episodes that Conrad recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic and that attracted listeners in 80 countries and 1600 cities. Conrad's writing has a special appeal to those disillusioned with the church as we have constructed it today, and who are yearning for a deeper spirituality with greater authenticity and vulnerability.

The Pastoral Team at Garden Spot Village is hosting Conrad Kanagy to expand upon the material presented in his recently published Book: *Ministry in A Church Dismantled: To Build Up or Tear Down*. Conrad will address the challenges both pastors and congregations face regarding reopening the church, getting back to normal (or not) and other quests of the church just now. Some of our staff and lay leaders plan to take part in this seminar series.

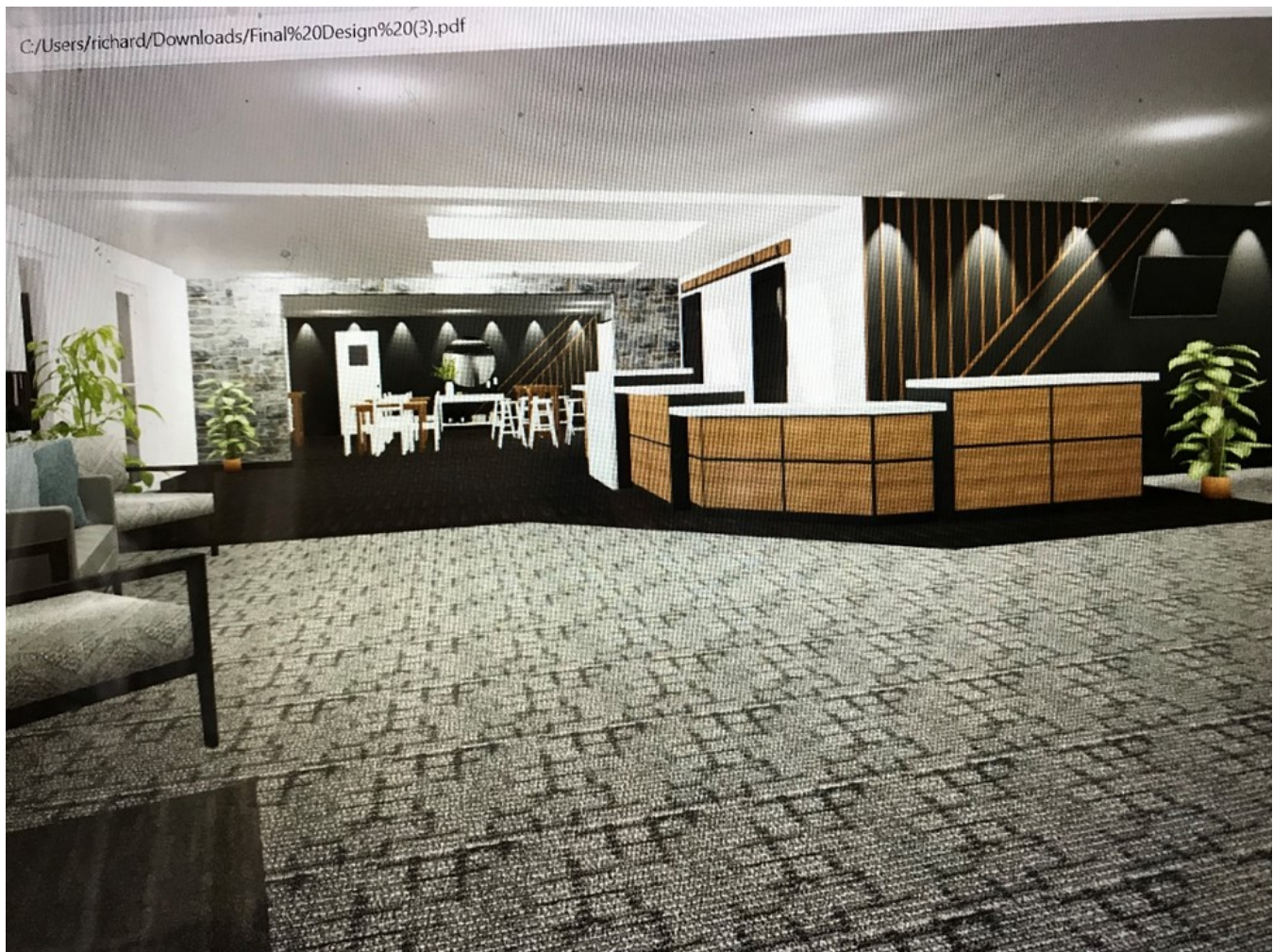


FOYER PROJECT

Plans continue for Quarry View Construction to begin work on the Foyer Project in mid-January. Some work has already been done in making space for the library. The work will include changes in hardware on the front doors as discussed at a recent congregational meeting.

After work begins there will likely be some restrictions on movement through the area currently occupied by the library. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

In the picture you will note the two dark colored doors behind the serving counter. This was the solution developed by the Interior Designer to the question that was raised at the congregational meeting. She stayed with the sliding door rather than a swinging door in this small space area and to solve the window problem added another sliding door which brings balance and also allows Audrey to have the window door open during the week so she can see into the foyer.



January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 SS & Worship	3	4	5 9am Food Pac	6	7	8 3:00-10:00pm 1990 Hall- Branch
9 SS & Worship	10 10am Pastoral Advisory Council	11	12 9am Food Pac	13	14 Lobby renova- tions begins	15 5:30-10:00 pm Rental Sanctuary
16 SS & Worship	17	18	19 7am Men's Breakfast 9am Food Pac 6:30pm Minis- try Leadership	20	21	22
23 SS & Worship	24	25	26 9am Food Pac	27	28	29
30 GO! Sunday 6:00 p.m. Wor- ship with Branch	31					