

APRIL 2022

| BUDGET | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Budget | \$121,555.00 |
| YTD Received | \$120,422.21 |
| Education | \$ 2,000.00 |

Ridgeview Mennonite Church

TUESDAY ALIVE—March 8

As the group gathered, Audrey noted the table settings in the colors of the Ukrainian flag and led in a prayer.

Sharing space...the Ridgeview/Branch story was shared by Pastors Audrey and Dave. Each told a bit about the leading up to the decision to share not only the physical building but the relationship building.



Some of the timeline:

2015 – July – a small prayer group began in homes. The group of young adults to grow, moving from homes to other community spaces.

2017 – Fall – A core group of four persons was called to lead the group.

2018 – A greater vision took time to pray and discern how to become a community with a “home”. About the same time Ridgeview called Audrey and Robert Kanagy to shared time as pastor. Audrey described walking through the large facility, praying in each room. She wondered how the space could be used more like a synagogue than a temple, a gathering space more than just a place where one had to go to worship.

She reflected that synagogues developed during the time of the Israelite’s exile when they were far from the temple in Jerusalem. Synagogues were a place for worship, learning, community events, even refuge for all, women included.

2019 – January - Audrey and Robert met with Dave and walked through the facility.

2019 – May – Plans were finalized for sharing some of the space with Branch who still considered themselves a prayer group.

2020 – March – Branch was launched as a congregation. It was the day before the Covid lock-down! The question for both congregations was “Now, how can we make this work?”

Since that time, each group realized that their needs were addressed – Branch needed a more permanent space and Ridgeview needed the rental income to continue in the facility.

2021 – October – Joint worship and fellowship meal was held.

The relationship between the two groups grew as they determined to “pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building” (Romans 14:19)

With that attitude, a number of projects were completed even during the pandemic.

~A new rubber roof was laid over the educational wing with Branch volunteer labor. Then cost and labor was shared to re-shingle the big roof.

~A play set was put on the lower parking lot.

~Rental income from Branch provided for the much needed top coat on the parking lot.

~The basement was recarpeted.

~Branch renovated needed areas in the original sanctuary area,

~Branch gave much assistance for live stream system.

~Major renovation of the lobby for multi-use by both congregations.

During all this working together, Dave noted that perspectives will show differences but what really matters becomes simple, building up relationships that build up the church. Going from seeing unity as being all in agreement to seeing the many parts necessary to be one body as described in I Corinthians 12:12-27.



He also expressed gratitude that each time Branch would share a need with RVMC administration, the response to them was always, “Let’s see how we can make this work.”

April’s gathering will be Pequea Valley Chamber Singers. This group, under Mr. Bankert’s direction, have received “Most Outstanding Choir” awards.

Following a prayer, all enjoyed a wonderful meal.

Etta Esch



DID YOU KNOW?.....Educating ourselves about the affordable housing crisis in our county. As we continue a listening tour of those who work at and are impacted by the affordable housing issue, we will be sharing some of our findings each month. This issue has many layers and challenges for all concerned. Here are just some of the challenges for renters.



Wage Gap between income and average rent
 Application fees and security deposit
 Lack of transportation

- Lack of affordable childcare
- Eviction record
- Criminal record
- Mental health issues
- Community support and social network
- Poor credit or no credit score



DEAR WHITE PEACEMAKER: Several of us from Ridgeview were able to take part in an evening event, day long seminar and/or a reflection zoom meeting around the wise words shared by Osheta Moore, author of Dear White Peacemaker and Soul Sistaz. Her invitation to anti-racism peacemaking includes both grit and grace. She encourages peacemakers to work at addressing both the personal work of reconciliation and opposing the systems that reinforce racism and oppression. This work is both individual, but also and more importantly the work of and done within the beloved community, grounded in our identity as God's beloved people. If you are interested in learning more about her work or the work of an anti-racism peacemaker, please contact Jill Heine or Audrey Kanagy



DEEP PEACE! Bel Canto choir from Hesston College

was joined by Lancaster Mennonite's Campus Chorale for an evening concert at Ridgeview. Their theme verse for the year is Ephesians 4:2-3 which is call to build each other up as a community united with in the bonds of peace.



Their concert title, Deep Peace, invited listeners to reflect on both the losses of the past years, but also the hope and peace we have in God and through the community of Christ. Thank you to Joyce and Dick Thomas, Debbie and John Denlinger, Gene and Edie Zimmerman (Audrey's parents) and the Kanagy's for helping to host the choir. Thank you to Elton Horst and Bob and Judy Martin for making and serving a wonderful meal for Bel Canto. We were able to livestream most of the concert and it is still available on our Facebook page

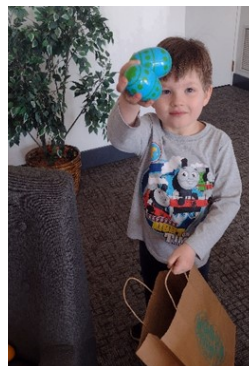
DISABILITY FRIENDLY EASTER EGG HUNT

A dozen children enjoyed hunting eggs, playing at sensory stations, and touching chicks on Saturday, April 2. Many traditional easter egg hunts are overwhelming or impractical for children with disabilities. Danielle Miklos, Pastor Audrey's niece, created this event as a way for children of all abilities to enjoy this springtime tradition.

Our renovated foyer provided an ideal combination of space, places to sit, serve snacks and eat around tables. Just one of the many ways our building is a resource to the community.

LOOK WHO'S COMING! We would like to highlight each month some of the regular and onetime events that take place throughout the week in our building. We want to celebrate all the ways this building is being used to build God's kingdom!

- *Disability Friendly Easter Egg Hunt -rental
- *Mommy and Me Prayer time – every Wednesday morning – Branch
- *Tuesday Alive - Pequea Jazz Band – Ridgeview
- *Holistic Ministry Program - Branch



VIEW FROM THE IN FOCUS GROUP

We are experiencing that although Ridgeview's quantity (attendance) may be low, we are blessed with QUALITY! One of our outstanding gifts/abilities is AVAILABILITY! Along with Dan Dietzel and Etta Esch, Debbie Denlinger and Robert Kanagy have agreed to serve as coordinators of pieces of our life together.

One example is our discernment to continue a Caring Team to respond to needs in the congregation and beyond. Let us know if you are interested in serving on this team.

Another opportunity is what we are calling Caring Connections in which participants at Ridgeview will make occasional contact (calls, emails, cards, visits) with those in our church family who are not able to connect with us as much as they would like. If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please sign up in the lobby. Dan Dietzel

OPEN HOUSE for RENOVATED LOBBY

Sunday, May 1

Guest Speaker: Adam Nagle
Executive Director, Factory Ministries

Fellowship Meal

MULCH DAY

Wednesday May 4, 6:00 p.m.
Rain date Thursday May 5



BIRTHDAYS

2 Valerie Kauffman
6 Elton Horst
22 Evan Lapp
27 Mabel Glick
30 Becky Hershey

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Merv & Jan Stoltzfus
13 Bob & Judy Ebersole
20 Amos & Jean Zook

INTERCOURSE FIRE COMPANY held their annual banquet in our fellowship hall March 30. A community event that uses our facility.



April 2022

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|-----------------------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 Branch-café & multi purpose room | 2 12noon-3pm Egg Hunt- lobby/cafe 1:00-4:00 pm Branch –1990 Hall |
| 3 SS & Worship 7pm Zoom | 4 | 5 | 6 9am Food Pac | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 SS & Worship 4-9pm Branch | 11 | 12 10am Tuesday Alive | 13 9am Food Pac | 14 | | 16 |
| 17 EASTER SS & Worship NO zoom for children | 18 | 19 7pm Admin- istration mtg | 20 7am Men's Breakfast 9am Food Pac 7pm IN Group | 21 | 22 12Noon—6pm Branch— sanctuary/ fellowship hall | 23 |
| 24 SS & Worship 4-9pm Branch | 25 | 26 | 27 9am Food Pac 7pm IN Group | 28 | 29 | 30 |