Who's Helping in November?

Welcome Center Host

Nov 1 Angie Teeter
Nov 8 Glenda Maury
Nov 15 Angie Teeter
Nov 22 Glenda Maury
Nov 29 Roxanne Miller

Greeters

Nov 1 Leon Janzen, Dallas Stutzman
Nov 8 Kendal Slabach, Bob Maury
Nov 15 Bill Zuercher, Judy Reimer
Nov 22 Atlee & Deb Preheim
Nov 29 Bob & Phyllis Weaver

Coffee Bar Host

Nov 1 Sheri Esau
Nov 8 Carrie Belshe
Nov 15 Atlee & Deb Preheim
Nov 22 Bob & Barb Esau
Nov 29 Steve & Marcia Miller

Nursery Attendants

Nov 1 Becky & Jerol Schrag
Nov 8 Kennedy Roth, Kate Klingenberg
Nov 15 Robin Slabach & Andrea Schrag
Nov 22 Kim Lehman & Gail Baumgartner
Nov 29 Toshia & Emily Widener

Connect Cooking Team

Nov 4 Kristi Martin & DeeDee Landes
Nov 11 Mariah Stauffer's team
Nov 18 Brenda Nebel's team

Connect Dishes & Clean-Up

Nov 18 1 *table clean-up needed*

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

2 Daxton Stauffer
3 Sue Moyo
5 Neil McChesney
6 Taylor Landes
9 Gavin Smith
10 River Bartel
Jake Klingenberg
11 Kylie Moore
14 Don Weaver
Veronica Sauder
16 Heather Garrison
17 Rose Buschman
Betsy Goertzen
19 Heidi Hochstetler
20 Diane White
23 Mary Lou Leinbach
25 Mark Landes
26 Peter Lehman
28 Jacob Creamer
29 Derek Hosford

ANNIVERSARIES

8 Al & Lorene Isaacs
18 Dan & Jeanette Wedel
27 Randall & Cindy Loucks

November Worship Themes

November 1
All Saints Day
Spirit Talks: Irene Weaver
Isaiah 25:6-9; John 11:32-44
Brett Klingenberg

November 8
Elisha Heals Naaman
2 Kings 5:1-15a
Brett Klingenberg

November 15
Micah
Micah 1:3-5; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8
Nathan Luitjens

November 22
Swords into Plowshares
Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7
Brett Klingenberg

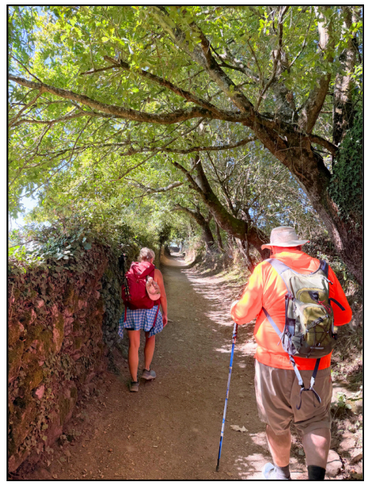
November 29
1st Sunday of Advent
God Dreams of Hope
Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:3b-6, 17-19
Brett Klingenberg

WHITESTONE Life

KEVIN'S KALEIDOSCOPE

ALL WHO WANDER ARE NOT LOST

Warning: This article is about my recent pilgrimage to Spain. Hopefully, it won't be like a long slide show.





For a little background, I attended the Apprentice Experience at Friends University in 2016-2018. It was a series of 4 week-long retreats with authors and spiritual directors over the course of two years. I became friends with Rick and Scott. We had supper about a year after graduating and decided to have an online book club. They both live out of state. We have met couple of times a month for the last 7 years. In that time, Scott decided to become a Spiritual Director and get his Doctorate. His Doctoral project is about cultivating a Pilgrim Mindset. He wants to take trips to historic pilgrim pathways and teach this mindset, so you can go back home living your life with a Pilgrim Mindset. Well, Rick and I decided that we could go on his first trip. Marilyn loves to walk, so she wanted to go. Dallas Stutzman and my daughter, Elisabeth, have both wanted to do this trip. Elisabeth recruited her fiance', Joe (Yes, she got engaged at the end of the trip). I also reached out to my friend Julie that loves to hike. Rick brought his wife, Becky, as well. We made a group of 9.

So what is this mindset? Well, you don't need to go to Spain and walk 115 kilometers (72 miles) to get it. As part of our daily devotions on the trip, there was this quote about the Celtic Christian monks. As Calvin Miller describes,

> *They were monks who had said goodbye to the cloister and set sail to pray and minister. They went for God and they went with God. They used their never-ending prayer pilgrimage as a mission to redeem the world thus enjoyed God's never-ending presence.*

In other words, they wandered around with God looking for good to do...The apostle Paul stated it like this in Colossians 4:2-6, "*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*"

I spent a lot of time thinking about what the apostles did walking between cities as described in the book of Acts and in the early church.(I also thought about the Lord of the Rings, but we won't go down that rabbit hole.) I think they wandered, listened, prayed and did good. The mindset of a pilgrim is to listen to the Holy Spirit and look for good to do. I have a long way to go on this journey, but the week with friends and walking this ancient path was a good start. May your wanderings be filled with prayer and good deeds.

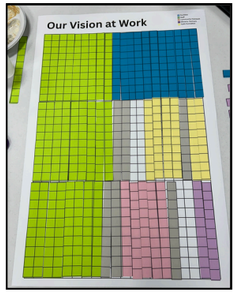
VILLAGE VISIT RECAP

Mitch Stutzman, Stewardship Elder

At our recent Village Visit, we took time to reflect on our shared mission: “To be a community that creatively risks sharing the transforming love of Jesus.” Together, we considered if this is who we are called to be, how should we organize our lives and resources to live into that calling?

Around tables, we imagined what a dream spending blueprint might look like if it fully reflected our hopes and commitments. These conversations were not making decisions or committing to new spending. It was an opportunity to dream together, listen for common themes, and explore how our shared financial life might better support our shared mission.







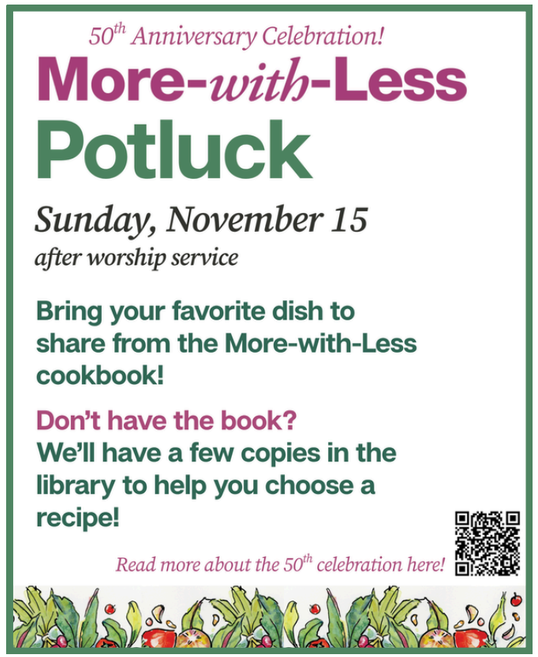
Some clear themes did emerge from that exploration. Every table imagined increasing staff time dedicated to church programs and community outreach. Groups also highlighted the importance of investing in children and youth, strengthening existing ministries that are going well, and being mindful of the ongoing costs of maintaining our facilities. Across the board, table groups envisioned a larger annual general fund budget than we have operated with in recent years.

In response to these data points, I have wondered: What might these themes mean for our planning as a congregation? How might we invest more deeply in the people and ministries that help us live out our calling? And what commitments are we ready to make together?

Our fall congregational meeting on November 15 is an opportunity to take the conversation one step further. The Village Visit helped us identify themes and overall directions. The Finance Team is using those insights as it prepares a proposed budget for the coming year. As we gather in November, we will have an opportunity to consider how those hopes translate into real numbers and meaningful commitments through considering a draft budget for next year.

Your voice matters in this process. Come ready to share your questions, reactions, and passions. Together, we can discern how our financial decisions reflect the community we want to be and the mission we feel called to pursue.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the **More-with-Less** cookbook by having a **potluck** with recipes from the book! We have free recipe cards in the library next to the cookbooks to give ideas of what to bring!



Our **fall congregational business meeting** will follow our shared lunch together.

MYF FUNDRAISER UPDATE



On October 18 our high school youth group partnered with Clay’s Cones to sell ice cream as a fundraiser. The youth helped pre-scoop pint container, set up tables and games, and make waffle cones. They also supervised and played with many children throughout the evening. Over 100% of the profits and all tips were donated directly to the youth group. In total **we raised over $2,200.00**!

The money that we are raising this year will go towards the travel costs of taking the youth to the Mennonite Church USA convention this summer in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 6-10, 2027.

A special thank you to everyone for coming out to support the youth. We’re grateful to Whitestone for their special way of making things happen!

What’s happening in the wider church community?

Mennonite Central Committee

'Seek Peace' poster contest - MCC invites participants of all ages to design a poster interpreting the theme “Seek peace” through one of three scripture verses. The purpose of the contest is to motivate our communities to continue to strive for peace and to have hope in the daily actions each person can take to make their corners of the world more peaceful. MCC will print and distribute the winning poster! Visit mcc.org/seek-peace for full contest details.

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

Jr. High (Jan. 15-17) & **Sr. High Snow Camp (Feb. 13-15)** - The time has come to start planning to enjoy the beauty and chill of RMMC in the winter once again. Come play in the snow and on the ice and then be ready to come inside for good food, fellowship and worship together. Registration: www.rmmc.org. Please note that we are moving Sr High Snow camp to Sat-Mon this year to avoid the late night drive of some of our attendees from Kansas.

Scrapbook Retreat: Jan. 29-31. This is your opportunity to create paper or digital photo books and share ideas and conversation with other scrapbook participants. Lisa Longacher will return as our program resource for the retreat and help facilitate a variety of activities. NEW - This retreat has been extended to begin Thursday. Register online www.rmmc.org.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

New Years Cookies Committee is in need of individuals interested in stepping into the leadership of the group. If you are interested in making sure the sale will continue selling New Years Cookies, or know someone who would be good in that leadership role, please contact KMRS board chair, Eric Litwiller, elitwiller1@gmail.com.

Central Plains Mennonite Conference

CPMC is looking for a Conference Minister for Ministerial Leadership. This position gives leadership to the credentialing, pastoral transitions, and leadership development and training in Central Plains and serves as a pastor to the ministering persons of the conference. Interested individuals should contact Michael Swartzendruber, Conference Moderator, at mswartzendruber@gmail.com.

Mennonite Church USA

Executive Director Glen Guyton will conclude his role on Dec. 31, 2026, and will not seek renewal for a fourth term. On Jan. 1, 2027, he will begin a new role as president and chief operating officer of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Executive Board will oversee the transition process and keep the church informed as plans develop.