Newsletter

Howard-Miami Mennonite Church 3976 East 1400 South Kokomo, IN 46901-8849

February, 2021

Vol. 41 Issue 2

Wonders, Doubts, & Love

Do you ever wonder about things? Do you ever have doubts? My wonders and doubts at the moment are:

- I wonder who will win the Super Bowl. I doubt if Craig Miller, the football guru statistician of our congregation, even knows that!
- I wonder if we will ever have a blustery snowstorm before spring arrives. I doubt it because it's getting late in the season!"
- I wonder how old I will be before I figure out what I want to do when I grow up. Since I'm already kind of old, I am beginning to doubt if I will ever know!

I am self- declaring February 2021 the Month of Wonder, Doubt – and Love!

I'm a curious person with wonders and doubts.

There are so many things that I can't figure out.

My mind's full of questions and things I don't know

Like where does wind come from and where does it go?

When I think of the earth floating somewhere in space

With billions of people all over the place On the top, sides and bottom just look all around

If you live on the bottom, do you hang upside down?

Deep in the ocean, swimming around There are jellyfish, starfish, and whales to be found

They romp in the seaweed and swim where it's deep

When they get tired of swimming – Do they yawn? Do they sleep?



As the snow floats and dances from the sky to the ground It's fluffy, it sparkles, it swirls all around When it snows in the daytime there's a blanket of white Why does the snow blanket turn blue in moonlight?

What are your wonders and doubts?

While you are thinking, there is ONE thing that I will readily share with you that I do not doubt! For me it is this:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:4-8,13.

Know this: **GOD IS LOVE** (I John 4:16), and He loves you! We never have to doubt that we are loved by God! And so, with a song in your heart sing at the top of your voice "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!"

Sending God's love to you all!

Teresa Miller

African-American Mennonite History

The Mennonite Brethren denomination was among the first known to begin work among people of African-American origin, in a mining community of Elk Park, North Carolina in 1886. The Mennonite Church baptized its first black members in 1897 in Cocolamus, Pennsylvania.

James Lark, the first black Mennonite bishop (ordained as minister 1945, and bishop 1954, Chicago, Ill.), had a vision for reaching people of African-American origin. He saw the church pouring its resources into overseas mission, and encouraged the church to greater effort in urban ministry in the U.S. His wife, Rowena, was an important partner in their outreach, as she was a gifted soloist and children's storyteller. James' first contacts with Mennonites were at the Rocky Ridge Mennonite meetinghouse near Quakertown, Pa.

The Lark vision helped start churches in black communities in Sarasota, Florida; Youngstown, Ohio; Saginaw, Michigan; and Los Angeles, California, all of which became early communities of black Mennonites.

The original 13 Mennonite churches among African-Americans were:

- Welsh Mountain, Lancaster County, Pa., 1898
- South Christian Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa., 1933
- Diamond Street Mennonite Church, Philadelphia, Pa., 1935
- Andrews Bridge, Christiana Pa., 1938
- Buttonwood Mennonite Fellowship, Reading, Pa., 1938
- Broad Street Mennonite Mission, Harrisonburg Va., 1935
- Thirty-fifth Street Mennonite Mission, Los Angeles, Calif., 1940
- Bethel Mennonite Church, Chicago, Ill., 1944
- Dearborn Street Mission, Chicago, III., 1945
- Rehoboth Mennonite Church, St. Anne, Ill., 1949
- Ninth Streeet Mennonite Church, Saginaw, Mich., 1949

- Rockview Mennonite Church, Youngstown, Ohio. 1947
- Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland, Ohio, 1948

As late as 1950, the total number of black Mennonites was approximately 150. During the years from 1950 to 1980, the membership grew to a little over 1600 members in 49 black and integrated churches. Today, Calvary Christian Fellowship, Los Angeles; Calvary Community Church, Hampton; and Lee Heights in Cleveland, Ohio all merit special mention as thriving, self-supporting African-American congregations. The church in Hampton in 2015 was the largest Mennonite church in the U.S.—black or white.



During the 1985-1995 decade, the Mennonite Church engaged in a concerted period of outreach and growth especially among urban areas. Today there are approximately 50 African-American integrated congregations in the Mennonite Church.

In 1983, Joy Lovett was elected as associate general secretary of the

Mennonite Church.

In 1994, Stanley Green, of South Africa, was installed as president of Mennonite Board of Missions.

In 1997, Dwight McFadden, began a two-year term as moderator of the Mennonite Church.

Portions excerpted from The Black Mennonite Church in North America, 1886-1986, Le Roy Bechler, Herald Press, 1986. Used by permission.

African-American Mennonite Association

The African-American Mennonite Association (AAMA) is an associate group of the Mennonite Church USA The purpose of AAMA is to reach out and bring together its constituent churches to keep them informed, educated, and empowered enabling them to realize their destiny, while developing a viable church with a holistic view of ministry in the twenty-first century and beyond.Learn more http://africanam.mennonite.net/.





February 7

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sermon: Journeying with Jesus: Power that

Testifies – Matthew Yoder **Scripture:** Luke 5:17-26

Worship Leader: Jeanne DeAngulo **Music:** Debbie Statton & Teresa Miller

Usher: Elsie Horner

February 14 – Valentine's Day

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sermon: Journeying with Jesus: The Struggle is

Real – Matthew Yoder Scripture: Mark 1:1-20 Worship Leader: Jane Mast Music: Margi Bontrager Usher: Keith Hullinger

February 21

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship Sermon: Matthew Yoder Worship Leader: Jeff Cranor

Music: Debbie Statton Usher: Craig Miller

February 28

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship **Sermon:** Matthew Yoder

Worship Leader: Lynelle Mellady

Music: Joyce Dittfield Usher: Brian & Jane Mast

February Worship Coordinator: Joan Ebert



For a complete list of upcoming events, visit www.HowardMiami.org/events.

Men's Breakfast

BREAKEAST

February 13 @ 8 a.m.

Come enjoy a good meal, good message, and GREAT fellowship. Men's Bible study will follow breakfast. No registration or fee required.

Women's Coffee & Conversation

February 13 @ 8:30 a.m.

All ladies are invited to enjoy a time of fellowship on



February 13 at 8:30 a.m. at CrossAmerica (located off US 931 at 840 Daniel Drive, Kokomo). No registration or fee required. This event is sponsored by the Women's

Council.



More events in February:

2/2 CMT 6:30 p.m.

2/8 Women's Ministry Council 7 p.m.

2/9 Church Council 7 p.m.

2/13 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.

2/13 Ladies' Coffee & Conversation at CrossAmerica

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/23 Outreach Team Meeting 6 p.m.



Who You Gonna Call?

Contact Information for the coming months:

- Buddy Bags Linda Miller
- One Call Ruth Andrews
- Pastoral Care Dean Bontrager or Interim Pastor Matthew Yoder
- Funeral Planning Dale Birkey
- Worship Coordinator for Feb. Joan Ebert
- Office for Feb. Lynelle Mellady

Do you have an announcement or prayer request for the bulletin or CrossTalk?

You can submit prayer requests, praises, and announcements for the weekly bulletin and CrossTalk by emailing office@howardmiami.org, calling the church office during regular office hours, or placing a note in the church office mailbox. The bulletin and CrossTalk are finalized on Thursdays, so please make your submissions before this time. If you have an urgent request or announcement, please contact Ruth Andrews, who handles One Call. You can find Ruth's information in the church directory.

Get Connected!

Connect with Howard-Miami online!

- Website:
 - www.HowardMiami.org
- Worship Services/Past Sermons: <u>www.HowardMiami.org/sermons</u>
- Bulletins, Newsletters & Calendars: <u>www.HowardMiami.org/bulletins-calendar-newsletters</u>
- Facebook: Don't forget to like and share our posts!! www.facebook.com/ HowardMiami



- YouTube: Don't forget to subscribe!!
 http://bit.ly/3aTkUNi
 (or go to www.YouTube.com
 mand search "Howard-Miami Mennonite Church")
- CrossTalk:
 Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter at www.HowardMiami.org
- Online Events Calendar: www.HowardMiami.org/events

January Online Highlights

We are reaching people across the globe! Here are the countries from which people interact with us online.



Performance on Google

This information is from when people Google anything from Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, Anabaptist Church, Mennonite Church, Evana Network Church to just "Find a church near me." Whatever they search, they are seeing our website!



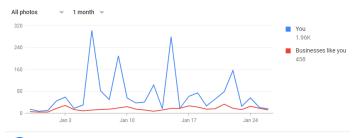
Website Activity

This information shows total site sessions, meaning our website has been visited 437 times, and 172 of those visits were from people who have never visited our site before.



People Enjoy Our Photos!

(HUGE thanks to Elizabeth Hannah for these!) This chart shows that our photos were viewed 1.96 thousand times. Compared to other churches our size, we received 328% more views!



LIBRARY NEWS

If you're not using our church library, you are missing out! Here is what's available you may not know about:

- Copies of the past 2 weeks of the Kokomo Perspective are available to read on the front table
- Monthly publications such as Anabaptist World, Mennonite Central Committee, and Anabaptist and Mennonite-related education institutions are available on the front table
- DVDs & VHS tapes (yes, they are still there) for all ages from children to adult
- DVDs of current and past worship services can be checked out
- New books are clearly marked and featured on the desk along the back wall

New DVD

A Vow to Cherish (book also available)



New books

Home to Chicory Lane, Chicory Inn Series #1 By Deborah Raney



Audrey Whitman's dreams are coming true! Now that their kids are grown, she and her husband have converted their home into a cozy bed-and-breakfast. But then their daughter shows up during opening weekend with a loaded moving truck---and no husband. Can Audrey figure out how to help Landyn and run a new inn?

Two Roads Home, Chicory Inn Series #2 By Deborah Raney

Another Way Home, Chicory Inn Series #3 By Deborah Raney

Waves of Mercy

By Lynn Austin

In 1897, Geesje de Jonge is asked to write a memoir about her experience emigrating from the Netherlands to Michigan. As Geesje recalls the events of her past---including the story of her one true love---a young visitor named Anna mourns a broken engagement. What lifealtering surprises await the two women before the summer ends?

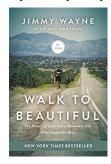
Legacy of Mercy

By Lynn Austin

Nicholson can't seem to focus on her upcoming marriage. The new information she's learned about her birth mother continues to pull at her, and she hires detectives to help her find the truth. But as she meets people who once knew her mother and hears stories about the past, Anna soon discovers that some secrets are better left hidden.

Walk to Beautiful: The Power of Love and a Homeless Kid Who Found the Way

By Jimmy Wayne



Imagine yourself a 13-year-old hundreds of miles away from home, in a strange city, and your mom leaves you at a bus station parking lot and drives off into the night with her lover. That's the real life story of country music star Jimmy Wayne. It's a miracle that Jimmy survived being hungry and homeless, bouncing in and out of the foster care system, and sleeping in the streets. But he didn't

just overcome great adversity in his life; he now uses his country music platform to help children everywhere, especially teenagers in foster care who are about to age out of the system.

The Shepherd's Voice

By Robin Lee Hatcher

For 10 years, Gabe Talmadge languished in prison, convicted of a horrible crime. Now, he is free once again but unable to find work in the midst of the Great Depression. In desperation, Gabe returns to Ransom, Idaho, hoping that his uncaring father will give him food and shelter, if not love. But the prodigal son is not welcomed home. Hungry and hopeless, Gabe is rescued by the owner of a sheep ranch south of Ransom.

Firstborn

By Robin Lee Hatcher

Erika Welby had a secret she thought no one would ever discover. But someone knew ...



"Dear Mrs. Welby, I know you were only 17 when I was born. I've got many questions. I wonder if you have questions to ask me, too." Erika's worst fear is realized when her well-kept secret shows up on her doorstep. As she reaches out to the daughter she gave up for adoption 21 years ago, her husband pulls away, leaving Erika with an impossible choice.

(Continued)

(New Books Continued)

A Promise Kept

By Robin Lee Hatcher

God was going to save her marriage, Allison was sure of it. But neither her husband nor her marriage had been saved. What had become of His promise?

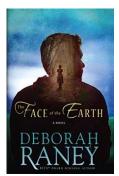
A Nest of Sparrows

By Deborah Raney

Reserved contractor Wade Sullivan never expected to fall in love with Starr Parnell or to love her three small kids as if they were his own. But that's exactly what happened. As their wedding draws near, however, tragedy strikes—and Wade must put aside his own grief in order to help Starr's children cope.

The Face of the Earth

By Deborah Raney



When Mitchell Brannon's beloved wife sets off for home after a conference, he has no idea that his life is about to change forever. Mitch returns from work early that evening, surprised that Jill's car isn't in the garage. But her voice on the answering machine makes him smile. "Hey, babe, I'm just now checking out of the hotel, but I'll stop and pick up something for

dinner. Love you." Hours later, Jill still hasn't returned, and Mitch's irritation turns to dread.

A Vow to Cherish (DVD also available)

By Deborah Raney

The battle they face will either ruin them or bring the deepest fulfillment they could ever know. When his precious wife receives a devastating diagnosis, John Brighton feels his world has fallen apart. As Ellen slips away from him day by day, their love is tested as never before. Desperately needing someone to confide in, John meets Julia Sinclair, a young widow who seems to understand his pain as no one else can. Torn between doing what he knows to be right and what his heart tells him surely can't be wrong, John soon discovers that the heart cannot be trusted where true love is concerned.

Listening to Love – Amish Journey Novel Book #2 By Beth Wiseman

Falling in love can only mean trouble for an *Englisch* girl and an Amish boy... unless there's another way for them to listen to their hearts.

Beneath a Southern Sky, Camfield Legacy #1 By Deborah Raney

Her Second Husband Healed the Sorrow of a Tragic Loss. Her First Has Just Returned from the Dead. Which Man Has the Right to Claim Daria's Heart? After two years of serving as a missionary in a remote area of South America, Daria Camfield has returned to the States to mourn her husband, reportedly killed while providing medical aid to a neighboring Colombian village. One family discovers how God can redeem any tragedy.

After the Rains, Camfield Legacy #2 By Deborah Raney



Amigo Centre is a camp and retreat facility that belongs to the IN-MI Conference congregations and is located near Sturgis, MI. In its effort to be good stewards of Amigo's resources and your resources, Amigo Centre heats its three largest buildings with wood from the Amigo property. Amigo is for all types of groups-families, churches, business groups, and more.

Upcoming Activities

- Summer Camp We are hopeful there is a safe way for us to do summer camp in the coming year. We are in the process of planning and hiring for next year and could use all of the prayer we can get. We aren't 100% sure what the landscape will be in June but are hopeful.
- Family Camp –We will be having some type of family camp this year. We currently have one scheduled for July 21-23 and are exploring opportunities for a variety of different family experiences.
- Family Outdoor Education Experiences We are going to be offering a variety of afternoon or evening activities for families to experience creation. These will range in dates and topics – be on the lookout for more information.
- Personal Retreats Even with our restrictions, we are available for personal getaways. If you're in need of a change of scenery or just want to get away, we have opportunities available that are safe and secluded. They can include food service or you can bring your own. Depending on the time of year or season, there are activities such as tubing, skiing, or hiking available. Lodging options include the Retreat Center, West Shore Lodge, and a few staff housing options on camp property.



2021: Year of Appreciation

The Year of Appreciation has officially begun! Throughout 2021 we will recognize every single congregant at Howard-Miami Mennonite Church. We might be a small congregation, but we don't always know one another as well as we should.

Every congregant brings their own spiritual gifts to the table to make our church amazing, so let's recognize one another for what each brings to our community table.

Congregants are chosen at random and will be recognized for one full week. We will recognize all congregants, including children, members, attenders, shut-ins, and others who may not attend but are still part of our church family.



An Appreciation Station is set up between the pastors' offices in the Fellowship Hall. It includes postcards (some already pre-stamped), pens, and slips of paper that say.

"I've been praying for you this week." There is also a basket to place notes, cards, small gifts or whatever token of appreciation you feel led to give.

You don't have to use the Appreciation Station. There are many other ways to show appreciation such as sending a letter, giving verbal praise, taking someone out for coffee, visiting them, or calling, emailing or texting.

Congregants are randomly chosen. We will recognize ALL congregants including children, members, attenders, shut-ins, and others who may not attend but are still part of our church family.

The purpose is for us to get to know one another and to also remember that we all need to be uplifted. And, most importantly, this is a reminder to always show appreciation and love to all of God's children – even after 2021 ends.

February Congregants

January 31 – February 7: Courtney Lawson February 7 – February 14: Vernon Schrock February 14 – February 21: Danny Miller February 21 – February 28: Anthony Statton



NEWS FROM MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC)

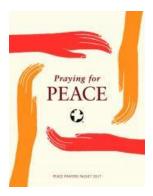
Use your skills or try something new! MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) home repair program is looking for summer staff in Harlan, Kentucky and Kimball, West Virginia.

These three-month positions will allow you to explore new cultures and stretch your faith and understanding of Christ's call to serve others. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but there may be a few assignments for junior staff members. An hourly wage plus room and board are provided.

- Job Site Coordinators: Will maintain open communication with homeowners, volunteers and SWAP location coordinator. With guidance from location coordinator, will coordinate materials and tools needed for job sites, and will oversee work projects with the volunteers. Together with the SWAP staff team will help facilitate or assist with evening sessions and worship.
- Meals Coordinators: With guidance from location coordinator, duties may include menu planning, food preparation and coordinating volunteers for kitchen duties. Will also assist with other tasks at the SWAP location. Together with the SWAP staff team will help facilitate or assist with evening sessions and worship.

For more information and to apply, visit mcc.org/swap-summer-staff or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at (606) 633-4008 or Appalachia Admin@mcc.org.

MCC Encourages Praying for Peace



Mennonite Central Committee encourages congregations to pray for peace around the world. The Peace Prayers Packet includes prayers submitted from MCC workers, staff and partners around the world. To download the packet, visit https://mcc.org/media/resourc.gs/7332 You can also

es/7332. You can also download it in Spanish.

CONNECT TO THE EVANA NETWORK

www.EvanaNetwork.org

Howard-Miami Mennonite Church is a member of the Evana Network. Evana Network is a movement of pastors and churches who want to see God's kingdom come through the power of Jesus Christ. Our common ground is an evangelical Anabaptist theology, as articulated in our network covenant, which can be downloaded here:

https://evana.wildapricot.org/personal-covenant.
Our common vision is to see Jesus bring transformation to our local communities.

PULSE is the monthly newsletter/blog from Evana Network. You can read and subscribe to PULSE at https://evananetwork.org/blog/.

Resources: Evana Network offers a variety of resources and support to help churches engage, grow, and live out their callings. You can learn more at https://evananetwork.org/resources/.

Events: Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Evana Network online at https://evananetwork.org/events/.



re•gen 2021 Youth & Adult Gathering

July 1 @ 3:30 pm - July 5 @ 11:30 am Taylor University, 236 W Reade Ave Upland, Indiana 46989

We are gathering together across many denominations to celebrate Jesus Christ and the mission He has given us. This is a time of calling and commitment for all ages and a celebration of new life and transformation. Mark your calendars and bring your youth groups. Learn more at https://evananetwork.org/event/re-gen-2021/.



<u>Worship</u> Sundays 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship

OUR VISION

Howard-Miami Mennonite Church exists to love, glorify and worship God, to love and serve others, to share the Gospel, and to encourage each other to become fully devoted followers of Jesus, empower med by the Holy Spirit.

> The Howard-Miami Mennonite Church Newsletter is published monthly by

Howard-Miami Mennonite Church 3976 E 1400 s Kokomo, IN 46901.

Phone: 765-395-7509 Email: office@howardmiami.org Website:www.HowardMiami.org

We are a member of the Evana network.

www.EvanaNetwork.org

Evana means "God Is Gracious"

and is of Latin origin.



A LOVEly Word Search

Ε Ν Т L Ε Ν 0 Ι S S Α Ρ М 0 \subset Ζ Z G Ε \subset А Ε Ζ Ε Ι F F G J \subset S Ν F F F L L U Н D Υ ٧ Q Q R Ι Ρ U М W U U J Ε 0 Ν W Α Υ \subset Ι Ζ R S Ν J \subset J Q D А Ε D \subset 0 Ρ Ε Т Υ U Α Ν Q 0 К 0 J М Ε А R Т S Ι R R Ι Ι G D Υ D U \times В Ν 0 U R 0 Т Т R Н Т Т 0 В W Ε А Ν Ι 0 \subset S R R F Н S C G А К D J Ι М Μ В Υ Н L Т 0 ٧ М F R S G Z Ε S Z А Ν Ε V А Q V U V Z U 0 Ζ J В R Υ Η Ν R L Q А R Х Q \subset S Ι Ε Ε Н М А R Ι U F Ε S S G Ν Ι L Ι А Ν U U S Ε J Ι М Ι D В Ι Х Ε Ι F L Ι F Ε 0 Υ D Н U S 0 S Q А D Q Ν Υ S Ε Ι U Ν R R D G D F Ν \subset S G Т 0 S S Υ Т \subset Υ U D S Н ٧ Ι R Т U Ε S R R Υ Ε Р R 0 S Ε R Ι Т S Q S Ε G В Ι Т Ε Ε D Н Ε G D R 0 G Т Ν К Ν Ν Υ W F Ν Т 0 S S Ε Т C Ι А Ε D V Ν М V В Ι Х Н Q D G Т Q Μ Ι Z F D Q 0 Ι Ε Н Н ٧ U Ν А Α R G Т Ε Z Т Ε D × 0 Ε А А U Т Ν L L × Ι W L Т Q J Н А Ε Ρ F D Q Ι S Р Ι R Ι М Ν Υ Ν Μ S S Т \subset J U R V × Ρ Т Ε S R R D Ε Ρ R Т Ν 0 0 × Ι Ι Ν U Н L К Ν R U V Ι Ε C Ν \subset ٧ R D S C Z U G × В Ι S R R J Т G 0 G Ν Н Ν F Ι R Т F R R D А L W D W W 0 Н R U 0 Z \subset К М ٧ S J Ρ Ε Ι D Ε G Z Н D К Н 0 Μ × Ε \subset Ι F Ι R \subset Т н н \subset Т Ι А S Ν U L К Ν ΥT ٧ Υ W Α \subset × Ι К Н Т U R Т Ρ Ε

Abundance
Complete
Friend
Gift
Heart
Humble
Life
Love
Mind
Precious
Respect
Sincere
Strength
Understanding
Virtues

Atonement
Devotion
Fulfilled
God
Honor
Jesus
Lifetime
Mercy
Patient
Prosperity
Righteousness
Soul
Trust

Unfailing

Compassion
Faith
Gentle
Good
Hope
Kind
Lord
Mighty
Peace
Rejoice
Sacrifice
Spirit
Truth
Unity



Cut out the Valentine's Day Cards below to share with friends & family!

