

Newsletter

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

November, 2019

Vol. 38 Issue 5

Roundabouts, Clouds and Fire

Last month, I spent some time reading about the Israelites when they left Egypt. I had been doing a study on scriptures where God makes a way for people. At the end of Exodus 13, there are some things we can learn from the way that God led the people.



First, Exodus 13:17 says that God did not take the most direct way, because God knew that if the Israelites faced war, they would run back to Egypt. Instead God took them on a much longer, roundabout way of the wilderness, toward the Red Sea.

So what could that mean for us?

Is it possible that God gives us the gift of a long journey, because the shorter, easier, faster path would make us run in the wrong direction? It's so easy to want the quick fix to problems. But maybe God wants to take us the longer, roundabout way because it's the best thing for us.



Then, in Exodus 13:21, it says, "The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night."

This idea of God lead with a cloud has captured my attention. Typically when I think of a cloud in my life, it's a time of confusion. When we get a cold we talk about our head being in a fog. When we're uncertain about the future, we sometimes describe it as a cloud in front of us. And yet God went in front of the people in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them along the way. The very thing that I connect to confusion and lack of clarity is the tool that God used for the Israelites.



And God also provided light, in the form of a pillar of fire. In the beginning, in Genesis 1, the first thing God speaks into being is light. Jesus says that he is the light of the world. God doesn't want us to live in darkness, but to live in light.

Through pillars of cloud and fire, God leads and guides the Israelites.

The final verse of Exodus 13 says that the cloud at day and the pillar at night never left its place in front of the people.

Even though it was a roundabout, longer path, God was leading and guiding His children. God was with them. God never left them.



I don't know about you, but I have experienced some foggy, confusing times in my life. There have been seasons where life is hard, or I feel stuck from going where I want to go, or my prayers are not being answered the way I think God should answer them.

Exodus 13 reminds me that God knows best. Even though it takes longer, God protects the people. God leads the people with a cloud and a pillar of fire. And God never leaves.

Maybe you're in a place in your life where you feel like there's a cloud in front of you and you can't see clearly. I want to invite you to consider that God might be leading you, just like God led the Israelites. Look for the light, and know that God is always with you!

Pastor Sarah



Women's Sewing



Mennonite Women gathered together on **October 3rd**, to carry on the work of knotting, quilting, and sorting donations received from the Rescue Mission. We were greeted by the new president, Karen Kendall. She opened with leading us in singing "They That Wait upon the Lord Shall Renew Their Strength." We need to rest and wait. We shared prayer concerns of the sick and those traveling.

Elsie Horner shared a display honoring her Mother-in-Law, Rose Horner. Rose was a faithful in attending Mennonite Women. She served on the packing committee and packed many boxes to send to MCC.

Jeanie Miller shared in devotions, emphasizing the theme of generosity. She attended the Relief Sale in Goshen. There she saw generosity from those donating pies, quilts, dried flowers, garage sale items, and the list goes on. It takes generous donations and generous buyers to make to sale a success year after year. We sent twelve quilts/comforters selling for \$2,310.00. Many willing hands worked to contribute one-hundred-fifteen pies from Howard-Miami.



Ruth Andrews donated dried flowers and worked in the booth selling them. That booth brought \$2,200. Generosity changes our hearts. He who gives much is rich. ***Ephesians 6:7&8 says "Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free."*** We serve God when we serve others.

Our project was a monetary gift to Kokomo Urban's Outreach ManUp Program. Next month we will send a gift to the girl's program called StepUp. Deb Zent will speak to us in November about sewing gowns for hospice patients.

We completed one comforter. We each enjoyed our sack lunches. We will again have a sack lunch in November.

Everyone is welcome to join us for working and fellowship.

Linda Mast, Secretary



November 2019, Sermon Texts

Theme:

Date:

Nov.3
Nov 10
Nov 17

Nov 24

Texts:

I John 1: 1-4
Leviticus 14: 1-9
Phillip Leichty Evana
Regional Pastor
Psalm 138: 1-8

A Letter of thanks to the our women for their part in the Michiana Relief

Sale

Dear Howard Miami Sewing Group.
Thanks so much for your many the donations to the Michiana Relief Sale's Quilt Auction.
The quilt "Early American Sampler" sold for \$775.
Anything goes comforter, \$200
Summer Flowers comforter, \$85
By the Sea comforter, \$75
Day and Night comforter, \$125
Color me Bright comforter, \$100
Cross in Autumn wall hanging, \$30
Cross Stitched Violets quilt, \$500
Appliquéd Hearts quilt, \$200
Midnight Madness comforter, \$125
Little Zoo comforter, \$75
Just Ducky comforter, \$50.

Thank you so, so much for making this great donation to the relief sale. The quilt auction raised **\$103,105.00** for the global work of MCC.

On behalf of the people in many parts of the world thanks to you for your donations.

-Helen Glick



BUDDY BAGS

Buddy Bag needs 16 oz. Peanut Butter!

Maconaquah Buddy Bags is packing a special pre-Christmas break Buddy Bag and we want to include a small jar of peanut butter in each bag. You can bring donations of **16 oz. peanut butter jars** to Pastor Sarah's office. You can also give money to Sarah to purchase peanut butter, and any extra money will go into the Buddy Bag account. **We need 122 jars of peanut butter by Sunday, November 10.** If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sarah.

Mark Your **CALENDAR**



12/5 CMT 6:30 p.m.
12/5 Women's Sewing & Fellowship 9 am – 3 pm
12/12 Pastor/Elders 6 p.m.
12/14 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 p.m.

Treasurers' Update: 2019

Year-to-date Offerings: \$150,730.08

Expenses \$146,153.36

Budget \$159,562.68

Average Weekly giving: \$3,505.35



**MEN'S
PRAYER
BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, November 9,
7am**

**Come and enjoy a good meal, a good
message and GREAT fellowship**

2017 Worship Attendance:

Sept 29	67
Oct. 06	67
Oct. 13	64
Oct. 20	61
Oct. 27	66

2019 Yearly Average: 68



Thank you!

We are so grateful for the many expressions of love and support and words of affirmation during Pastor Appreciation Month. We are honored to be your pastors, and are humbled to be invited to walk alongside you in your faith journey. May God continue to bless each of you in the days and years to come.

Love, Ben and Sarah



Men's Bible Study Group

The Men's Group will begin meeting again on **Saturday, November 9 after the Men's Breakfast, and will continue meeting each Saturday at 8 am.** The Men's Group spends its time doing three things:

- 1) Discussing Scripture,
- 2) Discussing current events, and
- 3) Praying together. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in relationship with God and with other men of the church. We hope to see you there!

Children's Ministry Team Hosts Family Fun Farm Adventure!

On Sunday October 6, 2019, twenty four people went to the Kendall Family Farm Adventure. The farm is only a hop, skip and a jump down the road from the Howard-Miami Mennonite Church. We met at the church at noon for pizza, chips, fruit and cookies. Then off we went for our adventure.

With lots of adults along, it made it easy for the kids to scatter to the different activities that they were most interested in. Some went right to the corn maze and some to the corn pit. There was a peddle cart track with small and large trikes for all ages, a farm petting zoo, and 2 old fashioned water pumps that the kids could race plastic ducks with among other activities and games. There was a lot to do and everyone had fun.

After a while a bunch of us took a hay ride around the Adventure area. It was such a nice day to do all these activities. The farm also offered a pumpkin patch where you could go and pick your own pumpkin. The kids seemed to enjoy the corn maze; hayride and the corn pit the best. It was a very pleasant way to spend the afternoon and well worth going to for our Fall party for our children.

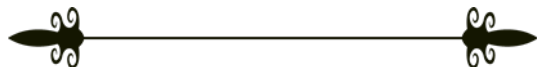


THANK YOU LETTER FROM MCC

Thank you to all the children and adults at Howard Miami for your generosity and enthusiasm in supporting My Coins Count this year at the **Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (MMRS)** with your contribution of 1979.25. Congregations, along with matches from local businesses, raised over **\$121,000** for MyCC - helping families gain access to life-giving water.

Available water in Nairobi, Kenya helps kids improve their health and gives them a better chance to succeed in school. In Afghanistan, available water makes kitchen gardens possible, with better nutrition and health for the whole family. Clean water in Haiti reduces the spread of deadly cholera. Water is life and its availability improves lives and reduces conflicts over scarce resources.

The **MMRS** total this year will be over **\$445,000**. Thank you for your work and support of the sale, and for sharing your resources in the name of Christ, so other families can have their basic necessities met through Mennonite Central Committee and our partners around the world. – John Martens, MyCC Coordinator, MMRS



Buttermilk/Cornmeal Fried Chicken

From Garden to Table by Beulah Cobb

Ingredients:

2 cups buttermilk 1 tsp. hot pepper sauce
1 chicken cut in 8 pieces
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup flour 1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper 1 tsp. chopped sage leaves
½ tsp. paprika ½ tsp. garlic powder

2 cups lard or corn oil

In a large bowl stir together the buttermilk, and hot pepper sauce. Put chicken pieces into mixture.

Cover and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

In a flat baking dish, combine and mix flour, cornmeal, and seasonings. Remove chicken from buttermilk allowing excess to drip. Coat pieces with seasoned flour, and place in a baking dish.

In a large sauté pan over medium heat put oil/shortening. Heat to 360 degrees F. Put pieces in skin side down. Do not crowd. Reduce heat and cook until golden brown, about 12 minutes. Using tongs, turn the chicken. Cover and cook through. Uncover and finish cooking to crispness. Transfer to paper towels to drain. Repeat with other pieces of chicken, if necessary.



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. Amigo is special every season!*

Upcoming Events

Nov. 12-15

Transitional Ministry Training

Nov. 30-Dec. 2

Scrapbooking, Crafting & Quilting Retreat #4

Dec. 1-2

Mother-Daughter Crafting Retreat
2020

Jr. High Retreat

February 7-9

Peace Camp

February 14-16

Amigo Centre Wish List

This list has items that would be helpful to Amigo Centre. If you have these items and would like to donate them or would like to donate funds toward the purchase of these items please contact Matt Ropp. info@amigocentre.org

Go Pro - Drone – Point and Shoot Camera - Tip Trailer -
Portable Saw Mill - "Pack-N-Play" Baby Changing Station-
"Large" Smart TV - Trail Camera



You are Welcome here

Sunday Morning

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

Pastors: Ben & Sarah Schlegel

The Howard-Miami Mennonite Church Newsletter is published monthly by **Howard-Miami Mennonite Church at 3976 E 1400 S, Kokomo IN 46901**. Phone: 765-395-7509 Office hours: 8-12, Monday thru Thursday.

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