

# Newsletter

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

November, 2020

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## Judgements in Disguise

Judged anyone lately?

Unfortunately, I have, and I am certainly not proud of it. Often, it's not intentional but small snap judgements made quickly without thinking – like when someone cuts me off in traffic or another parent disciplines (or doesn't discipline) their child the way I would. It's hard not to immediately think less of a person based on your own personal expectations. Most of us are familiar with

**Luke 6:37: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven."**



world changed their gut reactions to imperfect situations? Instead of thinking, "I would never let my child get pregnant as a teenager," we think, "Children are a blessing! I wonder what I can do to help the family in this situation" Or move from, "I would never stay with a man who cheated on me" to "My marriage has seen its problems, and it helped when I talked openly to a friend. Maybe I should call my sister and just listen." What if these thoughts of mercy were our first and not those of questioning others' actions?

When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well who had five husbands and was currently living with a man to whom she was not married, he did not judge her – he openly recounted her situation and offered her living water.



However, my favorite part of this story is not the reaction of Jesus, but his disciples. In **John 4:27**, it says, **"Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?'"**

Yes, the disciples were surprised that Jesus was talking with a Samaritan woman – a Samaritan woman living in sin – but did they judge the woman? No! They didn't even ask a question!

My challenge for us all is to transform our questions of judgment into statements of grace and mercy. No, we are not perfect and never will be, so why do we expect others to react perfectly? And is there a perfect reaction? Only God can know what that is.

The one thing we are called to do is offer the living water to those in need. Let's dissolve our judgments with the living water of Christ and help our neighbors never to be thirsty again.



The big question, though, is: Are we even aware we are judging others? You may be thinking that's a silly question, but often times our actions of concern and love can actually be judgements in disguise. For example, a friend's teenage daughter gets pregnant and you think, "I would never let

that happen to my child." While this is a "normal" reaction, it shows judgement upon the parents.

Or you find out your brother-in-law had an affair, and you think, "I would never stay with a man who cheats on me!" Again, judgment. Or, your grandson ends up in jail on drug-related charges and you choose to bail him out. Instead of hearing, "What can I do to help your family in this situation?" you keep hearing, "Why didn't you just let him stay in there to learn a lesson and get clean?"

Our judgements are based on our own personal experiences and expectations of others. We expect our Christian friends and family to react to situations the same way we would. However, how do you really know how you'd react unless you were faced with the same hardship?



But we do know how Jesus would react in these situations – with mercy and grace. And this is what we need to show others in difficult situations. What if the

Lynelle Mellady

## **Mennonite Women Sewing**

**October 1, 2020**

It is always a joy to meet together to knot blankets, sort donations, and quilt on the first Thursday of each month. There were seven of us this month who met to carry on the work of Mennonite Women. This group, formerly known as Sewing, has been meeting for many years. There is a continuous need for comforters to be sent to MCC. Of course, the quilts go to the Relief Sale. We sent two quilts to the 2020 Virtual Relief Sale selling for a total of \$515.00.



Our day was a normal work day of adding stitches to the quilt, knotting one comforter, sorting donations from the Rescue Mission. The donations are in turn donated to various organizations we think may use them. Thanks to Judy Otto for bringing these items from the Mission.

Linda Mast shared in devotions from various sources. She shared from Francine River's book Earth Psalms. She shared the reading "Believing in the Unseen". This devotional reminded us of the changing of the leaves every fall. We see the green all summer and believe they will turn to the beautiful colors we see each fall. The author referenced the verse in I *Corinthians 4:18. It says "We don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen, for the things we see now will soon be gone, but things we cannot see will last forever."*

Our project was to send a donation to Man Up, a ministry to young boys provided by Kokomo Urban Outreach. Next month, we will send a donation to Step Up, a ministry for young girls. Karen Kendall will have devotions.

Linda Mast, Secretary



**Sunday Services**  
**Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.**

### **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, empowered by the Holy Spirit.***



**Saturday,  
November 14, 7 am**  
Come and enjoy a good meal, a good message and GREAT fellowship. Men's Bible study will follow breakfast.



**At Cross America Saturday, December 5th from  
8:30-10:30 AM.**

Ladies, mark your calendars! The Women's Council is sponsoring another Coffee and Conversation. We had such a wonderful time chatting and catching up in October, that we all agreed that we should try to make a point to do this more often. We would love to have you join us!!



### **EVERENCE**

**Make Medicare an easy step.** Gain confidence and clarity about moving to Medicare with guidance from Everence, a faith-based organization that partners with our church. Attend educational webinars to learn your key steps to get Medicare, how to move from your current coverage, and enrollment details and deadlines. Visit [everence.com/easy-step](https://www.everence.com/easy-step).

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We are a member of the Evana network:

Evana means God Is Gracious - and is of Latin origin

## November 2020, Sermon Texts

### Theme: It Takes Two

Date:	Texts:
Nov. 1	Galatians 5:13-26
Nov 8	Romans 12: 9-21
Nov 15	1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:1-11
Nov 22	Thanksgiving
Nov 29	Advent weeks 1

## Treasurers' Update

2020 Year-to-date: Jan 1, October 25

Offerings..... \$146,409.22  
Average Weekly Offering .....\$ 3,404.86

My Coins Count for 2020 total =\$1,512.87



### Attendance:

September 27	53
October 4	60
October 11	49
October 18	no service
October 25	52
<u>Yearly Average: 42</u>	

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November, 2020

11/2 CMT 6:30 p.m.  
11/5 Women's Sewing & Fellowship 9 am – 3 pm  
11/8 Fall Congregational Meeting 1 p.m.  
11/14 Men's Breakfast 7 a.m.  
11/9 Friendship Haven Board 6:30 p.m. at Parkview  
11/9 Women's Ministry Team 7 p.m.  
11/10 Church Council 7 p.m.  
11/24 Outreach team 6 p.m.  
11/26 Thanksgiving –Church office closed

### November Birthdays

4 Weldon Mast  
8 Beulah Cobb  
12 Carolyn Myers  
15 Jeremy Boyce  
28 Danny Miller  
29 Megan Hannah

## My Coins Count Update from MCC

Thank you to all the children and adults at **Howard-Miami** for collecting coins for My Coins Count this year for the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (MMRS). We are delighted with your contribution of **\$1,512.87** - helping families gain access to life-giving water. Thanks to congregations and local business matches, we expect to raise over **\$140,000** for MyCC this year.

Your coins will help buy pipes to bring water to farmers and villages in India, will help buy tanks and pumps to provide water to school children in Jordan, and help drill wells to bring clean water to children in Mozambique and other equally important water projects around the world. Water is life and its availability improves lives and health and reduces conflicts over scarce resources.

Thank you 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

Thanks again for all your support for the work of MCC!  
Blessings, Les Gustafson-Zook

## A Thanksgiving Recipe!

### BLUEBERRY DESSERT – Grace Zehr

Mix well and SPOON into greased pan:

**1&1/4cup GRAHAM CRACKER CRUMBS**

**¼ cup MARGARINE, melted**

**¼ cup SUGAR**

**BEAT until smooth:**

**8 oz. CREAM CHEESE**

**2 Tbs. MILK**

**ADD 1 cup SUGAR**

**BEAT well and set aside.**

**PREPARE**

**2 oz. DREAM WHIP, as directed**

**FOLD in cream cheese mixture. SPREAD over graham cracker crust. SPREAD evenly over all -1 can blueberry (or cherry) pie filling.**

**CHILL several hours before serving.**





# NEWS FROM PASTOR ALEX

Greetings and love to you on this first day of October.

Generally, the situation here in Uganda is getting back to normal. Schools have been allowed to reopen for only the finalists. Last Sunday, places of Worship officially reopened for a maximum of 70 people. It was my joy to celebrate Mass in the church with the congregation after 6 months of lockdown.

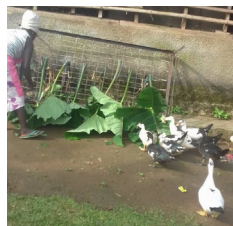
It has been raining from mid-August and we planted a number of crops which are now at weeding stage. Last season's produce was bountiful. We managed to raise \$410 after the sale of the produce; part of this we used to buy seeds we planted in mid-August and another part we agreed to use it in facilitating our youth activities.

During the last month of September, I spared some time to visit the initiatives started by some of our youths. I was so much touched on how they are putting into use the skills they have been learning from our garden project. Some have planted small but well managed banana plantations of about 15 plants. Others have small nice looking maize, beans and sweet potato gardens.



I was delighted when I visited Noeline who developed a strong interest in rearing of ducks. She started with two birds she got from our project and she has now reached 40 birds. She shared with

me that during the time of lockdown, she got a serious malaria and she was able to meet the treatment expenses after selling three of her ducks. She appreciates being part of our group because she has discovered her potential which she formally was ignorant of. I encouraged her to even inspire other people around her to undertake the same initiative. I have attached her photo while feeding her birds.



I am so happy that at least some young people who were so desperate are now continuously becoming focused, self-reliant and are now living a purpose driven and guided life using the little resources at their disposal. I thank you for the sacrifice you made which has profoundly helped us to realize this achievement.

One of our parishioner linked us to the ministry of education which has a program called "Skilling Uganda" the objectives of this program are similar to our youth garden project. We were given an offer of training 25 youths from our parish into cattle and piggery rearing. This is yet another opportunity we thank God for, since through it my youths are going to acquire additional skills in these fields.

I pray that God continues to bless us all with good health of body and mind as we minister to his people.

Your African son,

Alex

## Contacts Information for the coming months:

**Buddy Bags - Linda Miller**

**One Call - Ruth Andrews**

**Pastoral Care - Dean Bontrager**

**Funeral planning - Dale Birkey**

**Worship – for November Jeanne DeAngulo**



**Fall at Amigo Centre should not be missed. The trees are putting on quite a show this year and we are constantly reminded of God's presence by them. I'd encourage you to consider making the trip to come and walk the trails in the next few weeks. I think most of us could all use a long walk in the woods.**

**Below are a few different things that have been happening at Amigo Centre over the past 30 days. In addition to what you see below we have been running our homeschool program. We hosted Bethany Christian 8th graders for a day of canoeing. We hosted a number of families and small groups of scrapbookers and quilters. If you would be interested in reserving a space for a personal retreat or a small group gathering let us know by emailing or calling us at 269-651-2811.**

**Thank you to everyone who has given volunteered and prayed for us.**

**-Matthew Ropp, Executive Director**

## **Nominate Amigo Centre For a Sturgis Area Community Foundation Grant**

**You can help Amigo Centre receive a grant by just nominating us. The Sturgis Area Community Foundation is requesting nominations for a number of grants up to \$5,000. If you go to [www.sturgisfoundation.org](http://www.sturgisfoundation.org) you can nominate Amigo Centre or any other non-profit in the Sturgis area. Winners of the grants will be announced on Dec 1.**



## **Prayer requests from Mennonite Mission Network: November 1:**

Tuesday is Election Day in the United States. Join Mennonite Mission Network in prayer for the vote to take place without violence and that leaders will be elected who will lead the country in ways of justice and peace.