

Menno Bulletin Weekly

Bulletin Announcements for March 29, 2020

Witmer Heights Church Life Activities Calendar - All previously announced activities canceled or will be rescheduled.

From Pastor Randy (Sent out Thursday evening. Copied here in case you didn't get it.)

Dear Church Family,

Good evening to each of you, I pray you are well. Thanks to those that returned the survey. It's been really helpful in knowing how you are doing and coping and how our church can support you.

As you know, these are quite unusual times, and I want to do my best to pass along information I am receiving from our Conference, LMC. So I am copying a part of moderator Keith Weavers email below for you all to read:

"At the risk of stating the obvious, LMC's earlier recommendation to suspend worship gatherings for two weeks must be extended indefinitely. In response to current guidelines from the CDC and our own desire to be part of the solution, LMC strongly recommends the continuation of social distancing practices for the foreseeable future, that is no gathered worship services." ~Keith

The other day, Bishop Rodney sent an email to the district pastors naming how hard it is that we need to come to the reality that we will not be gathered together for Easter. I share in that sentiment of how hard it is to not be gathered together for such a special day in the Christian calendar. Yet I know that the best thing we can do right now to slow the spread and flatten the curve, is to practice this social distancing.

I also believe that God continues to invite us to grow in new ways through all of this. That is, to let go of our need to be in control and to let God- the potter continue to form us. To do this is to place our trust in God in the midst of some challenging unknowns. We will continue to send worship resources Sunday morning so that you can worship in your home, and we will continue to give opportunities to connect via a zoom hangout. **The next one being Wednesday April 1 at 6:30 PM or whenever you are able to join in. (Look for additional email with details)**

Finally, I want to end with some more words from our moderator, Keith Weaver.

"Most importantly, remember the promise found in Romans 8:38-39 - ...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." ~Keith

I continue to hold you all in prayer each day, God is with us!

Grace and Peace,
Randy

~Connecting with my church family....

~From Mim Eberly

For those of you who participated in the Zoom Meeting last Sunday night, thank you for your prayers for my great niece Jade and her husband Samson Ranger. Prayers were answered. Monday morning they received permission to have their German visas extended until the end of May. They were also told if they need to stay longer there will be another extension.

For those who were not participants I had asked for prayer for Jade and Samson. They are in Germany for a month participating in an orientation with Vision for Asia and their visas were due to expire March 28. Had they not been able to extend their visas Jade would have had to come home to the US and Samson return to India. God is good in intervening in their situation. So far the virus has not been seen in their small town of Edelberg however it is present in the next village.

Thanks again for your prayers and continue to pray while they need to stay in Germany.

~From Randy and Emily

Emily is now working from home as a case manager for at risk families in Lancaster. Please pray for her clients that they can get the resources they need to get through this time. Randy in addition to pastoring in new "virtual" ways is still working at Ann B Barshinger. He now needs to wear a mask at work, and they check his temperature before he can go in. Please pray for continued health and strength and to take one day at a time. We both practice self care by going for walks and runs, reading books, and staying connected with friends and family virtually.

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~From Don Ranck

We need to look to the future after the COVID-19 spike and plan our lives.

We hear that once a person who was positive conquers the disease and tests negative twice in 24 hours for the RNA of the virus, why are we not allowing those people to go back to work without fear. We are not being told who or how many are cured! On the other hand, if those who are cured could become infectious again, then what would be the value of a vaccine?

The agricultural community has dealt with an extremely infectious avian influenza way back in 1983, where poultry developed swollen throats that led to asphyxiation, which caused 10 million of Lancaster County's 20 million chickens to die. A vaccine is not used. If that is the case with COVID-19, will we have to test and treat people long, long into the future?

~From Lois Weaver

I miss you ALL. There is e-mail, texting, letters, face-book, and phone. That is nothing like actually SEEING your dear faces. After two Sundays away from the Gathered Church, yes, I miss you all.

~From Anna Kauffman

I personally am deeply enjoying our time at home. I am blessed to have four kids who say that even if we stay in quarantine for a year, they wouldn't get tired of being with each other. I doubt if the country will be up and running by Easter and am already grieving that we won't be able to host you for a sunrise service. I told Clair that perhaps we could have a drive thru sunrise service here on the farm. He applauded my wildly creative mind but knew that I hadn't personally thought through all the logistics of that one. -- My wild ideas and his logic balance each other well. Love to all!

~From Merle and Ruth Ann Reinford

Merle and I worked at the food bank again this week, filling carts for clients since they cannot come into the building. We put the groceries in the cart and staff members take them out to the car. We also shopped for someone who we deliver food to once a month. The food was left at the front door, instead of taking it into the house. We're glad for sunny days when we can get outside. We've also spent time doing several different jigsaw puzzles.

~From Madeline Mast

Thanks Witmer Heights, for your thoughts and generosity! I loved receiving the care package that you all contributed to! I especially loved getting so MANY little Valentines. It was fun to look through and see that so many of you were thinking of me! I've definitely looked forward to receiving that care package each February these past four years. Thanks too, to everyone who has sent me encouraging mail and emails throughout my college career. They've meant a lot.

~THANK YOU for your generous support of the CVCCS Oatmeal drive! A little more than 75 pounds of oatmeal was donated for CVCCS! It was very much appreciated!

~RE: Offerings for Church and "My Coins Count" If you wish to contribute to our church offerings during the COVID-19 "shut-down," please make checks payable to First Deaf Mennonite Church and mail to Witmer Heights Mennonite Church 2270 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602. Checks will be deposited into the General Fund unless otherwise indicated. Checks received through Thursday, March 26 for Witmer Hights general offering totaled \$1,700. It will be considered the March 22 offering and be deposited in the bank March 27. Thanks for your giving! ~Merle Reinford

If any checks are for the My Coins Count project (which ends this Sunday), put that information in the memo line. The Grand total as of March 8 was: \$1,195.16. This total will likely be partially (if not all) matched. Information received from the MCC My Coins Count coordinators (Darrell and Lisa Mast) indicates that the MCC Board is discussing how the cancelation of the Relief Sale April 3 and 4 impacts getting the coins delivered and counted for the program this year. **It is still unsure whether they will be able to reschedule the 2020 Relief Sale.** In the meantime, they are in my safe-keeping.

~Sophia Mast

~2020 WH Fellowship Meal Dates: May 17, June 14, July 12, August 9, October 11, November 8

~Church Directory Updates: Please make these corrections in your Church Directory.

Add John H. Landis' birthday- 11-12-1928. (It was mistakenly deleted.)

Email additions and/or changes: Kirsten Kauffman – kirstenkauffman2005@gmail.com.

Nathan Buckwalter – nathanbuck40@gmail.com.

Emily Keener – eminkeener@gmail.com.

~The April Birthday Calendar prepared by Merle Reinford is an attached document to the Hear Ye! Hear Ye! mailing.

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~**May 3** – First Deaf will have a 75th Church Anniversary during 10:30 am worship followed by a fellowship meal. Witmer Heights congregation is invited to join First Deaf in this 75th celebration during worship and meal. Flyer with details coming later.

~**May 24 and 25** – A backpacking trip (1 overnight) is being planned and is open to anyone interested. The tentative plan is to leave after church May 24 and return May 25. (Memorial Day) If interested talk to Randy Keener.

~**Continue to keep the Elder Team in prayer** as they move forward with the pastor search process. Input from the congregation is valued. So if you have questions or insights you are welcome to approach and communicate with any of the Elder team members. (Vanessa Boyer, Rose Kennel, Eileen Ranck, Jonathan Stoltzfus, Judy Stoltzfus)

~**Canceled - The Parent & Preschool Center Sub Sale.**