

Newsletter

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

February, 2019

Vol. 37 Issue 8

Signs of the Times

Christianity was birthed into a time in history that was chaotic, pagan, and sometimes downright evil. The Roman rulers over Judea were brutal. The temple leaders murdered followers of Jesus. The teaching of the apostles was twisted. And the Romans worshiped and served all sorts of false gods.

(Sarcasm font on) Boy, I sure am glad that we don't live in a world like that! (Sarcasm font off)

My mind has been on the sin of the world recently for (at least) a couple of reasons. First is the law made in New York last week concerning abortion, and the ability of a woman to abort a child right up until the time the child is born. Evil, confusion, and lies are growing bolder around us.

Second, in our Saturday morning men's group, Dan DeAngulo has been leading us in discussing current events. It is so good to hear the perspectives of other people on what is happening and how we can respond. Our discussions keep me sharp, like iron sharpens iron. I want to invite all the men to join us Saturdays at 8 am at the church. On the 2nd Saturday of each month we begin after Men's Breakfast.

Where do we go for instruction in times like this? This morning I read **2 Peter 3:14-18**, and it has much to teach us about how to live in these times.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things [Jesus' 2nd coming], strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters.

There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace

and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

There is so much to mine in this passage! But, here are a few bullet points about these verses, and couple of suggestions for you.

1. Peter and Paul believed that the spread of wickedness in their world meant that Jesus would be returning very soon. Yet, history presses on. Jesus may return today, or not for several more millennia. We are only told to be ready for it at any time.

2. ***“Beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your stability.”***

There are so many teachings around us that sound good, but are false. We have to be careful and help each other, using the Bible and the Holy Spirit as our sure guides.

3. ***“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*** If our connection to Jesus is deep, we will have our feet planted securely. Then we will be less susceptible to winds trying to blow us off course.

And a couple of suggestions:

1. Be firm in what you believe! It is so important to be in the Word, asking questions about how this applies to my life and our world.

2. Be firm, yet always gentle and loving, with people. 2nd Timothy 2:24-25a says, *“And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correctly opponents with gentleness.”*

Conversation may bring conflict, but it need not make us quarrelsome.

3. Know that the sin and evil of the world are more than what we can fix. Not apart from Christ. So the role of prayer cannot be overstated. And what we hear in prayer, we live out in obedience to God.

Pastor Ben

Mennonite Women Sewing

January 3, 2019



A group of ladies met to do the work of Mennonite Women here at Howard-Miami. It was a great day of quilting and knotting three comforters. Our project was diapers for the Healthy Families organization in Kokomo. Anyone in the church is invited to participate in this. If you would like to contribute, place your donations in the sewing room in the fellowship hall.

President Jeanie Miller called us together for devotions and any business. We received a thank you note from MCC for eight comforters recently donated. She read a poem about New Years. It's time to turn the page to begin a new year.

Pastor Sarah Schlegel and son, Joshua, led us in devotions. Joshua "read" us a story from his devotional book. Thanks, Joshua! Sarah shared how she has been able to do reading for pleasure since she finished her seminary classes. She stressed there is power in a great story. She enjoys reading Christian fiction. She discovered books by author Susan May Warren. As she reads Christian fiction she often finds characters who teach her more about forgiveness, faith, trust, seeking God's direction, and living the Christian life. We each have a story to tell. We each have twelve chapters and three hundred sixty-five pages to write in 2019. What will your story be? Our story is God's story and God's story is our story. She encouraged us to pay closer attention to stories. Watch for little "grace moments". She invited us to tell our stories and listen to other's stories. Thank you, Sarah for sharing with us.

In order to donate more comforters to MCC and the relief sale, we will be knotting comforters and quilting each Thursday in January and February from 1:00-3:00. Anyone is welcome to come and join us.

We will collect paper products for the "Crossing" in February (7th). Bring a sack lunch.

Linda Mast, Secretary



Reminders for church attenders:

Please **do not** bring drinks into the sanctuary during worship. Quench your physical thirst in the Fellowship Hall before coming to receive the Living Water!

The East Church doors are being kept locked
They are not accessible on Sunday mornings. This is to keep us all safe while in services, while still being an emergency exit when needed.



Saturday, February 9, 8 am

Come and enjoy a good meal, a good message and GREAT fellowship
Followed by a "Men's Group" meeting.
All men are welcome to attend.



Children's Winter Bible School

Survivor Bible Style

Friday, February 15, 6-8 p.m.

Children, age 4 to grade 5 this month, children will learn about; "Gideon."

Children will enjoy a meal, music, story, crafts, games, and activities.

Sign up at the Information Center by **Sunday, February 10** so the Children's Ministry Team knows how much food to prepare for supper.



February 2019, Sermon Texts

Theme: The Book of John

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Texts:</u>
Feb 3	John 12: 37-50
Feb 10	John 13:1-38
Feb 17	John 14: 1-14
Feb 24	John 14:15-31

Live each day so that you will neither be afraid of tomorrow nor ashamed of yesterday.

Evana Network Announces New Executive Director and Board Chair



January 21, 2019,

Evana Network, an evangelical Anabaptist network of churches across the United States and Canada, has announced the appointment of Matt Hamsher as the new executive director. Hamsher had previously served as board chair for Evana and is finishing up his role as lead pastor at Longenecker Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship in northeast Ohio.

Board secretary Virginia Leichty said of the board's decision, "It was clearly evident that Matt has a deep faith in God and a desire to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance. He demonstrates a calm, respectful demeanor with people, including those with whom he disagrees. He also has a deep understanding of Anabaptists. He has a broad range of connections among diverse Christian leaders and seeks to find what we have in common."

Evana Network began in 2015 and has grown to 45 churches in the eastern United States and Canada. It has also formed partnerships with eleven mission and educational institutions, developed resources and tools for church revitalization, and bridged relationships between evangelical Anabaptist denominations. Hamsher will be sharing his vision for the future of Evana at Flourishing, an event for pastors and church leaders, in Fruitland Park, FL, February 15-19. Registration is still open for that event until the end of January.

When asked why he accepted the role, Hamsher said, "I have felt a sense of God's call throughout this process. Even though I had initially decided against applying, it kept coming up in my prayer time and then was confirmed by the encouragement and words of others at critical times in my discernment process." Matt hopes to connect the past, present, and future as he moves Evana forward.

He brings a listening ear and a leadership capacity to connect with Anabaptists from diverse backgrounds. He concluded, "I am excited to serve as Executive Director at this critical time in our history because of the

opportunities that lie in front of us." Hamsher is married to Kristina Hamsher and they have two children.

The search process began in the summer of 2018 when John Troyer, the current executive director, announced his plans to step down in the first half of 2019. The board formed a search team consisting of Terry Diener, search team chair and board member; Gene Yoder, consultant; Larissa Moore-Willard, board vice-chair; Virginia Leichty, board secretary; Sonya Miller, board member; and Carl Wiebe, pastor at Kidron Mennonite. They looked at a number of applications from both inside and outside the network, and Hamsher was selected from three finalists. The full board unanimously accepted the recommendation and made the appointment.

Larissa Moore-Willard had been serving as vice-chair of the board and will now give board and delegate leadership as the new chair. "I'm going into this with God's vision," she says, "to lead the board and stay the course." Moore-Willard is a church planter and pastor and is known across the network for her prophetic gifts, her commitment to prayer, and love for the church.

Troyer will continue in his current role through April, and he and Hamsher will be working closely together. "I'm grateful for the way God brought all of this together with the transition," Troyer said, "Evana has always been larger than any one person, and I see that in the ways lives have been changed, churches have been revitalized, and communities are being transformed. One of our greatest strengths has been the growth in cohesion and mission in our churches." Wes Furlong, director of church development will be continuing his work with Evana's City Flourish initiative and the Vital Impact Assessment.

You can find more information about Evana Network at evananetwork.org, City Flourish at cityflourish.com and the Vital Impact Assessment at vitalimpact.church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March:

- 3/2 Cattle Project Chili Supper fund raiser 5-7 p.m.
- 3/4 Children's Ministry Team 6:30 p.m.
- 3/6 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- 3/6 Buddy Bags 6:30 p.m.
- 3/7 Women's Sewing 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 3/8 Children's Winter Bible School 6-8 p.m.
- 3/9 Men's Breakfast 7a.m.
- 3/10 First Sunday of Lent
- 3/10 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 3/11 Friendship Haven Board at FH 6:30 p.m.
- 3/11 Women's Council 7 p.m.
- 3/12 Church Council 7 p.m.
- 3/13 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- 3/14 Pastor/Elders 7 p.m.
- 3/20 First day of Spring
- 3/20 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- 3/26 Outreach 6 p.m.
- 3/27 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Howard Miami Mennonite
Women's Ministry Council

Would like to invite you, your friends and family to a morning of service at a local non-profit called...



When: Saturday, February 23rd from 9 am – Noon (come and go as you please!)

Where: Cross America Inc. 840 Daniel Dr. Kokomo, IN 46901 (On the east side of 931 across from Menard's. If you need transportation, we would be glad to arrange that for you – just ask!)

What: We will have a time of fellowship while preparing crosses to be mailed. Everyone **young and old** can participate! Cross America's goal is to "send a cross and a path to salvation to every home in America." If you would like to learn more about their mission before our event, you can visit www.crossamerica.net.

A Few Notes: Cross America has a coffee shop (Doubting Thomas) that serves sandwiches, waffles, sweets and drinks. You are welcome to bring a snack and a drink of your own (other than coffee) if you would like, but we would encourage you to sample what the coffee shop has to offer. **You won't be disappointed!**



People Reaching People:
Reaching Out with God's Love

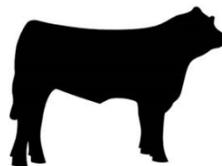
Christians want to reach other people with the life-changing gospel of Jesus, but we don't always know how. Join Tom Richardson to learn more about how you can be a messenger of God's good news!

WHEN: Saturday, April 27 1-4 p.m.

WHERE: Radiant Life Christian Church, Westfield IN

Go to peoplereachingpeople.net for more information about Tom Richardson and his ministry.

CHILI SUPPER
For The Cattle Project



Saturday, March 2
5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Come and choose either mild or spicy chili, veggies and dip, and yummy desserts.

All proceeds will go to The Cattle Project, an outreach project that provides beef for Kokomo Urban Outreach.

Don't miss this great event!



Buddy Bags News!!!

Because of generous donations from many churches and community members, we are able to expand the Maconaquah Buddy Bag program!!!! Maconaquah Buddy Bags was able to match \$20,155.82 through Meijer in 2018.

For the upcoming **2019-2020 school year at Maconaquah** we will be able to provide Buddy Bags to **Kindergarten through 4th grade students** who are eligible to receive them!



We are amazed at how God continues to do incredible things, like providing the resources to add more grades next year!

We will be packing twice as many bags and need to pack twice a month. We will also have to deliver totes at Pipe Creek and Mac El, so additional volunteers will be needed. If you'd like to help with Maconaquah Buddy Bags, please talk to Jessie Myers or Sarah Schlegel.

Plastic Grocery bags are always needed, so if you have some to get rid of please send them our way. Thank you for helping feed children.

Thanks from the Stewardship Team



February,

06 Emery Bontrager 06 Edna G. Mast
07 Glenn Mishler 12 Brent Myers
15 Fran Gingerich 23 Marilyn Mast
25 Tom Andrews 25 Alma Miller
25 Theresa Overman 28 Rex Chism
28 Clarence Cobb

Wedding Anniversaries:

21 Jeff & Kathy Cranor
21 Casey & Lynelle Mellady
26 Carson & Verba Engel

Our church has always had a spirit of financial generosity when it comes to extra pleas for special projects. We want to thank you for your giving to the many financial aspects that it takes to run a church. We say thank you for your contributions however great or small.

Due to your generous giving in 2018, our income exceeded our expenses this year. Buddy Bags, Cattle Project, Jon/Lindsay Birkey and Justin/Hannah Mast received additional contributions as our way of tithing from our extra income.

We also appreciate everyone who gives of their time and talents in various ways to the work of the church that is beyond financial. We couldn't do it without you. You are not to be taken for granted, but are appreciated very much.

Again, thank you for your time, talents and efforts, and your financial support to our church.

Best regards,

Stewardship Team and Pastors



Library News:

Are you aware that we have some exciting DVD's for children in our church library?? They can also be viewed by those of us who want to be or pretend to be children again?? The Buck Denver asks "What's in the Bible?" videos are somewhat corny by adult estimation, but they tell the stories like no other. Phil Vischer, creator of Veggie Tales is a very gifted person and speaks all of the characters.

First there is Michael riding with his mom and little brother in their mini-van on the way to grandma's house. Buck Denver is a TV news reporter, and then there is the Sunday School Lady, Ian, and Clive, the preacher, the Bentley Brothers and several other characters who all want a piece of the action. If you have not checked them out for your children – or yourself do so. You may learn some new facts about the most popular book ever written.

"What's in the Bible?" is a set of 13 DVD's; each one has 2 episodes about 25 minutes long. They start with Genesis and go through the entire Bible. Check one out and see what you might learn!

What Is Love?

Love is an attitude-
Love is a prayer,
For a soul in sorrow,
A heart in despair.
Love is good wishes
For the gain of another.
Love suffers long with
The fault of a brother.
Love give water
To a cup that runs dry,
Love reaches low,
Love reaches high.
Seeks not his own
At the expense of another,
Love reaches God



You are Welcome here!

Sunday

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
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