

**THE SECOND
CENTURY
CHRONICLE**



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EAST UNION MENNONITE CHURCH

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The Seasons Are Changing

To me, fall seems to be the culmination of the seasons. Winter is cold yet glistens with the sun reflecting off the snow and icicles. We wait and wait through the cold and long dark nights for the signs of spring. Then spring gives us the new life of green grass, multi colored flowers and warmer days. Summer comes with its heat, the growing seasons of crops and produce, and a myriad of outdoor activities. And then fall comes with the changing color of leaves on trees as they shower down, cooler nights, and the harvest of crops.

I want to express my appreciation to East Union Mennonite Church for seventeen years of invested ministry and to remind us all that ministry transitions happen in time as the seasons change in time. Some people prefer the summer and have a hard time transitioning to the fall. Others like fall and can't stand the winter months. There is a few that love the winter as much as spring and fall but dislike the heat of summer. For me, I have received a bountiful harvest of memories. I have seen gifted people come into opportunities of ministry through the growth of their faith and I have seen families and individuals discover the power of God in their lives as they dealt with the heart ache of this fallen world. I truly have a wealth of testimony to take with me as a resource that will assist me in the next season of my ministry.

I also pray and hope that there will be resources I have influenced in your lives that you will be able to use in the season to come at East Union. As brothers and sisters in Christ we are called to feed the Lord's sheep as Jesus asked Peter to do and we are called to the fields of harvest as Jesus sent His disciples to give witness to the day of the Lord. Whatever season we are in, there is work for Christ to be done; whether together as a group or as individuals we have work to do for the glory of God. And, I thank God for the opportunity to share the work of the harvest and feeding of all God's children with the faithful believers at East Union.

As we move forward to each of our own seasons we can pray for each other and stay on task for the work of Christ in the world around us. I want to enter this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas by offering more prayers for people I do not know and, if the opportunity presents itself to even ask a stranger or two if there is some way I can pray for them. I think prayer is a great gift for anyone and can be added to one's greeting, "Have a Happy Thanksgiving and can I offer a prayer about anything in particular for you?" Another thought I heard was that since most clerks have name tags, to just simply call them by name and ask if it is ok to say a prayer for them as you exit the store. One individual told me they were shocked by how many people would express a specific prayer concern when such an offer was presented to strangers in a large mall. I think it is a great opportunity to touch the season of another person's soul.

May God's grace minister through us no matter what the season and no matter where we are so that the world may know God's glory and grace.

God's blessing and peace

Pastor Jay

Notes From Past Bulletins:

60 years ago: 1953

Nov. 1 – Services will be at the church Thurs., Nov. 5 at 2:30 commemorating the 50th wedding anniversary of Bishop and Mrs. Dan J. Fisher. S. C. Yoder of Goshen, IN will be guest speaker. Bishop and Mrs. Fisher will have an open house at their home in Kalona on Thurs. evening from seven to nine.

Nov. 22 – Evening service by Ruth Fisher who will speak on her 3 years of service in Formosa.

Nov. 29 – Evening guest speaker is Mr. John Holt. He is the American Consulate General in Greece, and is acquainted with our PAX boys stationed there.

50 years ago: 1963

Nov. 3 – We wish to thank the East Union congregation for the flowers, letters and cards received on our 60th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. Fisher

Nov. 17 – R. G. Letourneau will be speaking at the Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids this afternoon at 2:30 pm. Some of our PAX boys in South America have used some of his large road equipment.

40 years ago: 1973

Nov. 4 – The Wednesday evening MYF Bible Study will be discontinued; those interested are welcome to attend the Thursday evening Bible Study.

Nov. 18 – Morning and Evening services are by Ivan Kauffman.

Nov. 25 – We extend congratulations to the couples that were married this past week:

Clifton and Muriel Gingerich were married Nov. 21. Richard and Emma Lou Boller were married Nov. 23.

30 years ago: 1983

Nov. 6 – Evening Service: Melanie Yoder will tell of her experiences as an MCC Trainee in Germany and Switzerland.

Nov. 13 – Church Council Notes: The Peace and Social Justice Study Group gave a report on their interest in “Overground Railroad for Central American Refugees to Canada”, and the council encouraged them to continue to explore the possibilities of involvement.

In response to a number of expressed concerns, a three member committee was appointed to evaluate the Sunday Evening Programs.

Nov. 20 – Thurs. at 9 am. Thanksgiving Brunch. 10 am Thanksgiving service will include an MCC CROP offering.



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Core values:

We value the Scriptures as our guide to faithful living.¹

We value lifelong spiritual growth in the way of Jesus.²

We want to be a worshipping community that loves one another.³

We want to share God's love with others in word and service.⁴

We want to be a light of hope here and around the world.⁵