



God we surrender, bring us together

by Elvesta Hochstedler

Together

*I will sing with you my family; will you sing with me?
The notes won't always come out as I like,
But I will learn to see the log in my own eye.
God, I surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.*

*I will sing with you my neighbor; will you sing with me?
My words will be imperfect, but I'll try.
Bringing my assumptions to the light, I'll pray,
God, I surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.*

*I will sing with you my rival; will you sing with me?
Diff'rence is a place where God is found.
In seeking peace, we're walking onto holy ground.
God, we surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.*

*We will sing our song together; sing in harmony.
Jesus feels our pain; he sets us free.
The Spirit's given us this song of hope to sing:
God, we surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.
By Nathan Grieser (Voices Together 389)*

These are powerful words to the theme song for the Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC) Annual Meeting 2021. I pray it becomes familiar to us all as we learn new songs in our new hymnal.

I was happy to spend a few hours on a June day hearing about the work of the churches and leaders throughout our seven state, forty-eight congregation conference network.

Our tasks included celebrating meeting our budget this year and approving a budget larger than the previous few years, mostly due to at this time having all the CPMC leadership positions filled.

We approved leadership's strategic plan: http://www.centralplainsmc.org/uploads/1/3/1/1/13118061/strategic_plan_2021-23.pdf The plan is a blueprint of the work CPMC leaders hope to guide us in, to imagine together, *Imaginemos: to build biblically grounded communities, grounded and led by God's Holy Spirit, to discern what it looks like to faithfully follow Jesus in our local contexts.*

We lamented for and released two congregations who chose to withdraw from our denomination. And we celebrated the joining up of Freeman House Church to the conference.

We received explanation of a task group (Faith, Life and Practice) being put together to discern CPMC thought on MCUSA's work on their membership guidelines. As the task force is created, care will be given to having a variety of perspectives represented.

Delegates were blessed to listen to David Fitch (Mennonite pastor and author) lead our thoughts on the future of our church in a post Covid world. He encouraged the churches to ask questions – what, how and why are we God's people?

Will we go back as before or will we take time to cultivate our practices, our presence and to have an awareness of places we can be church? God is working; let us discern.

God we surrender, bring us together.

Grateful for our Goodly Heritage



60 years ago: 1961

July 9 - Cathy Jo was born to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Hochstetler on Thursday, June 29.

July 23 - The marriage of Lois Breneman and Owen Swartzendruber will be solemnized at East Union this afternoon.

50 years ago: 1971

July 4 - East Union is responsible for morning devotions at Pleasantview Home this week. Those who will be serving are: Ike Yoder, Gary Mullet, Ed Hershberger, L. David Yoder, Henry H. Miller, and Leola Hershberger.

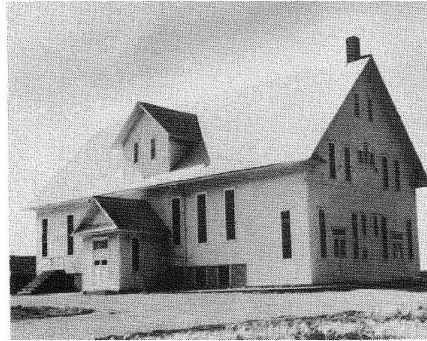
July 11 - Bruce and Karen Harvey have moved to Akron, Penna., where Bruce is involved in interviewing applicants for the TAP program.

July 18 - Mr. and Mrs. Eric Thirtle are the parents of a daughter, Crystal Joy, born July 9.

40 years ago: 1981

July 19 - We extend congratulations to Vernon and Hilda Fisher as they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. They invite everyone to attend open house this afternoon from 2-4 o'clock in the church fellowship hall.

July 26 - A number of families of our church are on a bicycling retreat this weekend.



30 years ago: 1991

July 7 - Evening Service: Marge Gingerich and Emery Rhodes will talk about life in a wheelchair.

July 14 - We are receiving Sterling and Myrtle Stoltzfus into our congregation today. They are transferring from Central Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio.

July 21 - You are invited to attend an open house for Ed and Esther Yoder given by Rodney, Bob, Eric, Melanie, Maribeth, and Celia for their parent's 40th anniversary from 7-9pm here at the church house. They request no gifts.

20 years ago: 2001

July 8 - Friends of Nolufefe Mtuntuto are invited to an Open House farewell from 5-8 pm at Loren & Elvesta's. She will be leaving to return to South Africa on July 17. Stop by to say goodbye and have some refreshments.

10 years ago: 2011

July 24 - Congratulations to Kara Stoltzfus and Dominik Porter who were married yesterday.

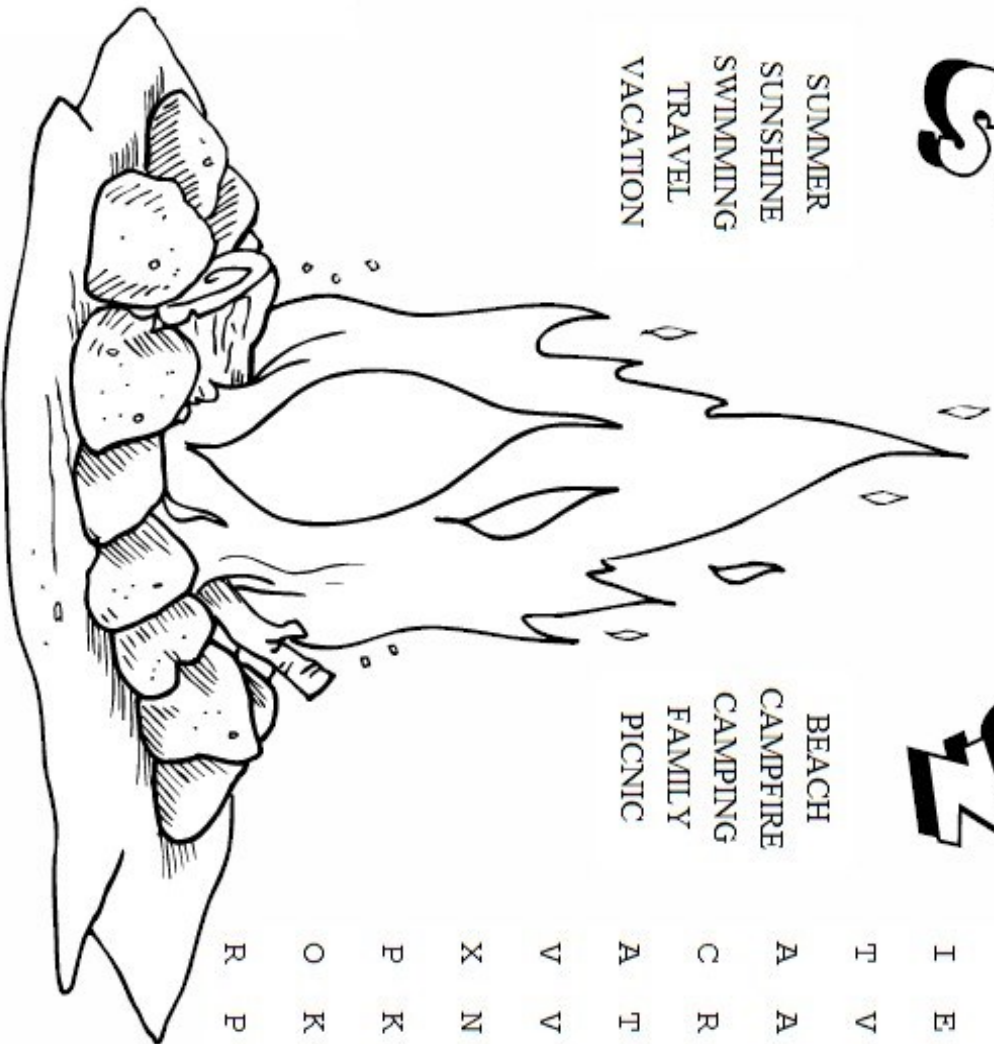
July 31 - Joel & Christine Beachy are the parents of a son, Lucas Ffloyd, born July 22.



SUMMER FUN

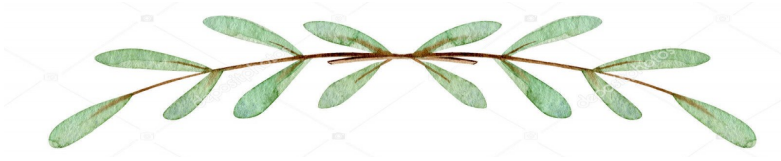
SUMMER
SUNSHINE
SWIMMING
TRAVEL
VACATION

BEACH
CAMPFIRE
CAMPING
FAMILY
PICNIC



WORD SEARCH

N K Z F L T C P L D W L
 O L W I E R I F P M A C
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 T V M U K J K E C H N I
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 O K T U G N I P M A C E
 R P I C N I C W C O C R



JULY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Jeff Yoder Donavon Yoder Dick & Jane Yoder-Short '79	2 Jane Miller	3
4 <i>Morning Worship</i> Church Potluck	5 Marvin Rempel	6 Mennonite Women Meeting Halid Saner-Harvey	7 Owen Higdon Kyle & Allison Troyer '12	8 Paulette Hershberger Kenna Schrock	9 Olivia Dachtler	10 Eve Yoder
11 <i>Morning Worship</i>	12	13 Caleb Detweiler	14 Cindy Dickel Luke Yoder Macy Yoder	15 Sandy Schlabaugh Randy & Jill Miller '06	16 Rena Miller Lynford & Ami Knepp '94	17 Joel & Christine Beachy '04 Chad & Annika Miller '93
18 <i>Morning Worship</i> Carey Miller	19	20 Greg Yoder Tripp Carolan	21 Julia Boller Carolyn Detweiler Sandi Rhodes Jill & Thushan Hemachandra '12	22 Lucas Beachy Dirk Logan LilaKate Milani Joe & Carrie Schmidt '00	23 Deb Miller Ava Miller Herb & Kathy Miller '83 Kara & Dominic Porter '11	24 Judy Yoder Ed Hershberger Randy Miller
25 <i>Morning Worship</i>	26	27 Dale Rhodes	28 Gaylord Yoder	29 Jacob & Hannah Geyer '12	30 Justin Boller Caleb & Heidi Detweiler	31 Allison Troyer Matt Miller