



From the Pastor's Desk

The year behind us has again “gifted” many surprises. We have rejoiced in the availability of vaccinations and the subsequent freedom to do more gathering together safely. We have lamented at times when there have been resurgences of covid cases and the need to go online. We continue to know people who struggle mentally, physically, and emotionally from the stresses of day-to-day life, especially life during a pandemic. We have lost friends and family due to covid, and it still hurts.

God's faithfulness to our congregation and our people, however, remains steadfast. I am so thankful for the ways that God has helped us to worship together over the last year. The online services, outdoor services, and indoor and in-person services have been excellent. The efforts of the worship committee, tech teams, nurture committee, elders, etc. to provide excellent, scripture-filled, music-laden, engaged, and interactive services is amazing. I'm so thankful to so many folks for making our worship a central part of who we are and what we do at East Union.

One of the most exciting aspects of worshipping in person again is to see all of the kids during children's times and Sunday school. They are eager and excited to be at church, and that gives me a lot of hope! I'm thankful and grateful for the many ways that folks at East Union have cooperated to create safe worship conditions so all may worship freely at East Union. This has not been easy, but it is important work that is ongoing. We care so much about each other at East Union, and it shows through our ability to worship together in difficult times.

A highlight from 2021 for me and my family has been our sabbatical this past summer. The generosity of East Union to grant the sabbatical will have a long-lasting impact on our family. We bonded together in ways that we had not anticipated, and we will cherish those memories. What we learned, what we saw and experienced, all these activities have enriched our understanding of who we are and who we are called to be as Christ followers, and so once again we say, “Thank you!”

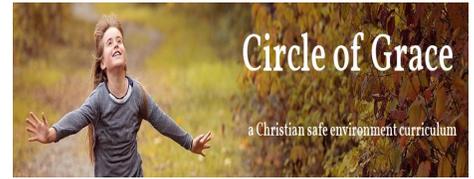
God has demonstrated faithfulness to East Union in the care that people have received during very difficult times this year. Illnesses, falls, broken relationships, and even death have weighed heavily on many of us this past year. Despite all the hardships, I have seen God's resilience borne out in the way that people have cared for one another. Y'all have shared meals to each other, sent cards with words of hope, prayed for each other, and simply shown up in unexpected ways. This important work reminds us that God is alive and faithful in our church community. Thank you for the ways that you continue to shine God's light in the dark places of the world.

Finally, in endings we also anticipate new beginnings. I am excited for the 2022 year and all that God will provide our little congregation this year! Dream with me and lean into the miraculous work that the Holy Spirit is doing in each of our lives and in the life of our community. May we remember the encouragement in Hebrews 12, ¹“let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

There is much in this life that tries to hold us down and entangle us. Sin is an ever-present impediment to our wellbeing. May we lean on the One who is able to overcome all these things and continues to encourage us in the year to come. May it be so.

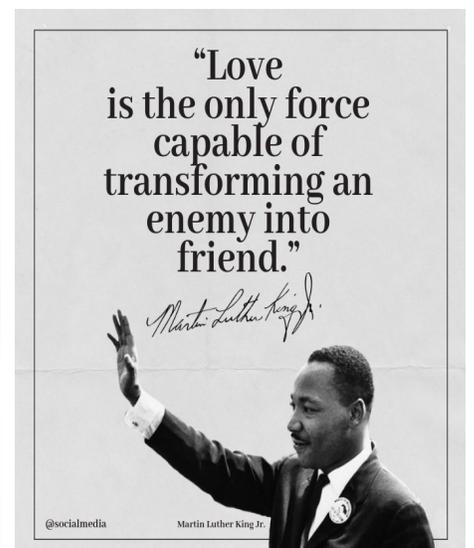
Peace and blessings, pastor Joel Beachy

Grateful for our Goodly Heritage



East Union Mennonite Church believes everyone should have the freedom to worship in a safe environment. We offer *Circle of Grace* lessons to our children to teach about healthy, respectful relationships, and we provide training for those who work and volunteer with children and youth. *Circle of Grace* lessons for all children and youth will resume in February 2022. During the Sunday school time for the month of February, they will be taught from the *Circle of Grace* curriculum, a Christian safe environment curriculum that helps to form and educate children and youth about the value of positive relationships with God and others. To learn more about *Circle of Grace* lessons, visit <http://dovesnest.net/circleofgrace>.

Anyone with questions regarding the upcoming Circle of Grace lessons can talk with a member of the Nurture Committee: Christine Maust Beachy or Pam Stoltzfus.



70 years ago: 1952

January 20 - Bishop D. J. Fisher will worship with the members of the Iowa City Congregation this morning.

January 27 - A special program will be given this evening at 7:30. Four foreign students, representing four different nationalities, will present the program. They are students at Hesston College.

60 years ago: 1962

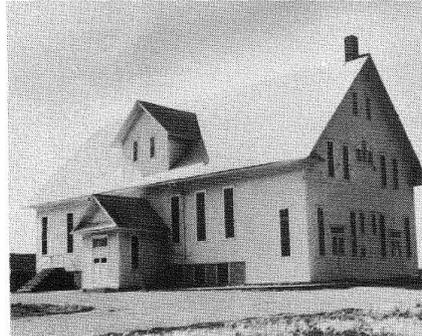
January 21 - M.Y.F. will meet Wednesday evening at Melrose Pond for skating. The small cabin has been rented so you should meet there.

January 21 - The newly appointed parking committee consists of: Dennis Miller, John Christner, Menno Helmuth, Omar Schlabaugh, Robert Schrock, and Vernon Zook

50 years ago: 1972

January 16 - Those who are serving at the Washington County Home today are Clifton Gingerich, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Fisher, Pauline Slaubaugh, and the Orlin Hochstetler family.

January 23 - Mr. and Mrs. L. David Yoder, Mr. and Mrs. J. John J. Miller, and Lonnie Yoder attended a Mission Forum in Davenport yesterday afternoon and evening. This was sponsored by the General Mission Board.



40 years ago: 1982

January 17 - We extend our congratulations to Elvesta and Loren Hochstetler on the arrival of Katie Ann. She was born las Sunday, January 10, at Mercy Hospital

30 years ago: 1992

January 26 - The Mid-Prairie Pulpit Exchange for East Union will be next Sunday, February 2. Joan Erbe, pastor of West Chester United Methodist Church will be preaching at East Union and Michael will be preaching there.

20 years ago: 2002

January 13 - Congratulations and best wishes to Lori (Boller) and Nolan Gerber on the birth of their daughter, Sarena Nicole, born Sunday, January 6. Sarena weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz. Grandparents are James and Ruth Boller; great-grandparents are Martin and Leona Boller.

10 years ago: 2012

January 29 - Alta Marnar will be 100 years old on Feb 10. The family suggested sending cards with a prayer of thanksgiving for Alta's life and witness in Christ. Her address is Parkview Nursing Home.

New Year's Eve Word Search

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

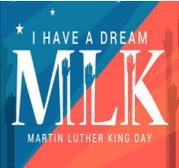
CALENDAR
CLOCK
MIDNIGHT
COUNTDOWN
RESOLUTION
PARTY

JANUARY
HOURGLASS
FIRST
YEAR
TIME
CELEBRATION





JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  Joel & Catrina Miller '11
2 Morning Worship	3 Simon Detweiler Theodore denBleyker Emily Yoder Teresa Boshart Yoder Linda Tones Victor & Megan Gingerich '09	4 Iva Showalter	5	6 Sarena Gerber	7 Jacob Geyer	8
9 Morning Worship	10 Adam denBleyker Lori Hochstetler Jerre & Tammi Erb '81	11 Blake Hemachandra	12	13 Tim Yoder	14 Joe Fernau Warren & Emily Yoder '17	15 Etta Graber
16 Morning Worship Liz Rhodes	17 	18 Dale Troyer	19 Church Council Meeting 7 pm (online)	20 Laurie Droll	21 Letha Yoder Pam Stoltzfus Tim Litwiller	22 Jace Swartzendruber
23 Morning Worship Dennis Miller Matt Rhodes	24 Lois Gugel	25 Nita Miller	26 Angela Beary Dale Miller	27	28	29 Michael Santoro
30 Morning Worship Gladys Schlabaugh Stacey Milani	31					