



From the Pastor's Desk

¹¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NRSV)

"Pastors and Leaders/Deep Faith" week is always something that I look forward to each year. The last in person meeting we had was in February 2020 just before everyone fully realized the extent to which Covid-19 would impact our lives. There are many reasons why I love this conference, but one of the most important has been its timeliness and relevance to what we are doing at East Union.

In 2020, the theme of the conference was "How to lead in the digital age." This took place just three weeks before almost all churches had to implement some form of online presence due to covid. This year, the theme has been "Formed in the Wilderness, Leading in Hope." The emphases of speakers and teachers were focused on how the Israelites, Jesus, and the early church were formed in the wilderness. The book, *Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire* by Alan Kreider, helped us to remember that the early church experienced rapid growth even as Christians suffered under immense persecution from Rome.

The encouragement that I received this week came in multiple ways. The conference opened with a powerful sermon from Sibonokuhle Ncube a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) who also holds a Masters and Phd. Ncube is a social justice advocate who works in development, humanitarian relief, and peace. She challenged the audience to #BreakTheCode. With her call and response style she helped us to reimagine our current circumstances as the wilderness in which the people of God found themselves in the Old Testament, guided by a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. Ncube encouraged us by stating that we are in a place and moment where we are learning what God is doing as we experience it.

The rest of the conference was divided into three different parts. There was a Bible study each morning, led by Tom Yoder Neufeld, a former New Testament professor from Conrad Grebel seminary in Canada. He inspired us by relating Hebrews to that of a letter or sermon and using the text as a way to understand our roles as pastors and leaders in our contexts. The main sessions were guided by Eleanor Kreider, widow of the late Alan Kreider, gave summaries from *Patient Ferment* that encouraged a patience that embodies a "hope with muscles." Respondents then gave thoughts on specific chapters reflecting on both Alan's book and Eleanor's notes in relation to their contexts. The result was a word of hope to wearied leaders across the church.

Finally, breakout workshops provided resourcing to help face a myriad of topics, everything from political idolatry, faith formation, curriculum decisions, and trauma. These workshops were tailored to the needs of pastors and leaders in many contexts. The intention of the entire conference really centered on validating the experiences of pastors, leaders, and congregations as well as offering hope for the future.

Maybe the most hope-filled aspects of the conference for me are the relationships that I build there. I love meeting and talking with pastors and leaders from around the nation. I always make new connections and rekindle old friendships. These encounters open up time for deep conversations where we can listen to one another and encourage each other in the faith and leadership that we have been called to. This gives me hope for our conferences and our denomination. East Union is a part of a long tradition of people of faith. We may be in a wilderness period, but this does not mean we are not without hope. Like the early people of God, we are being formed by our wilderness experiences. May we have the capacity to learn from this moment in time, to lean into what God is doing in our congregation, and to have faith. May it be so.

Peace and blessings, pastor Joel Beachy

Grateful for our Goodly Heritage



70 years ago: 1952

March 16 - Bishop D. J. Fisher is worshipping with the congregation at Wellman this morning.

60 years ago: 1962

March 11 - Mrs. Owen Swartzendruber will speak this evening concerning the work among the Old Colony Mennonites in Canada. The message will be illustrated with slides.

50 years ago: 1972

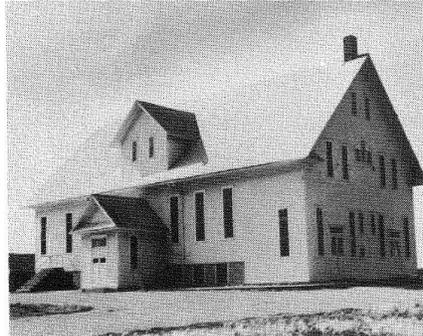
March 19 - We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Joe M. Yoder who were married Saturday afternoon, March 11.

March 11 - The six girls who are receiving instruction for membership will be baptized next Sunday morning. They are: Marcia Gingerich, Kathy Hochstetler, Lola Miller, Cathy Mullet, Jeanie Yoder, Julie Yoder.

40 years ago: 1982

March 28 - Congratulations to Ed and Bobbie Hershberger on the birth of their son, Tyler Lloyd, born March 2.

February 21 - We extend congratulations to Sally and Dennis Miller on the arrival of Aubree Denise. She was born Tuesday, Feb 16.



30 years ago: 1992

March 1 - Please take notice of the art work of the 4th grade class in the foyer. The class includes Tyler Hershberger, Austin Hershberger, Karen Bontrager, Katie Hochstedler, Jace Bailey, Aubree Miller, Shantell Detweiler, and Adam Yoder.

March 8 - Congratulations to Lee and Pam Miller and grandparents - Marlin and Rosemond Brenneman, on the birth of Brian Michael. He was born on February 27th.

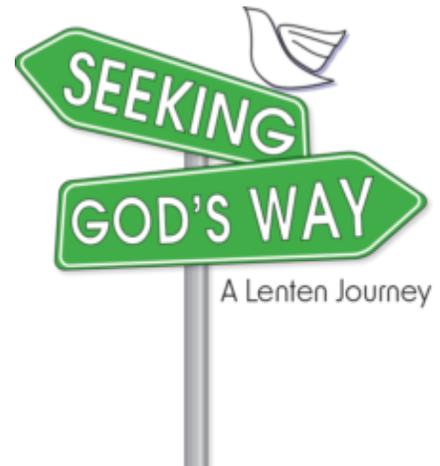
March 15 - Thank you to that unknown person that placed in my mailbox a handmade box filled with my favorite candies. This was a special surprise. Alta Marner

20 years ago: 2002

March 3 - All post-high school young adults are welcomed to attend a dinner discussion with Souled Out Ministries, to be held at East Union Mennonite Church on Wednesday, March 6. Souled Out is a traveling evangelism group. If you would like to attend, please inform Marvin or Grace Rempel.

10 years ago: 2012

March 25 - Please pray for Jay, Jeff, Beth, Nyle and Lauralee who are traveling in India.



A Note from Worship team

"Seeking God's Way" will be the theme used for worship through the season of Lent.

As we travel together on a Lenten journey, the six weeks prior to Easter, we invite your household to focus on seeking God's ways. Lent is a time to repent -- to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. We hope within the theme of "seeking God's Ways" you will find space and encouragement to explore how you are being called to greater faithfulness,

We are blessed with an at-home resource which complements what will be used at worship each Sunday. There is a guide available with complete and detailed ideas for personal and family worship. Or, simply pickup place mats for your table with a calendar of daily worship prompts to guide you through Lent. It centers on Bible reading, prayer and lighting candles and it encourages users to do as many or as few activities as they desire. This is intended for all ages: children through mature adults.

The following link or website will take you to an on line copy of the guide, or you will find printed guides and placemat calendars in the foyer. Please help yourself to as many as you want, more can be made easily.

[Lent At Home 2022 | Mennonite Church USA \(mennoniteusa.org\)](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Lent-At-Home-2022)

<http://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/lent-at-home/>



Spring



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

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| • APRIL | • BASEBALL | • BREAK |
| • BREEZE | • CLEANING | • CLOUDS |
| • JACKET | • KITE | • MARCH |
| • MAY | • PICNIC | • PUDDLES |
| • RAINBOW | • RAINCOAT | • SEASON |
| • SHOWERS | • SPRING | • SUNSHINE |
| • THAW | • UMBRELLA | • WINDY |





MARCH 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mennonite Women Meeting Lindsay Swartzendruber Marlan & Ortrun Logan '69	2  Elise Hartsock CHOW	3 Jen & Kerry Saner-Harvey '07	4 	5
6 Morning Worship	7 Jacob Boller	8	9 Idonea Saner-Harvey	10 Anna Yoder	11 Bruce Harvey Shirley Yoder Carrie Miller Danny Hershberger	12
13 Morning Worship 	14	15 Christine Maust - Beachy	16 Samuel Yoder Elijah Yoder	17 Judy Showalter Russell Yoder Dave & Lisa Yoder '84 	18 Ortrun Logan Grace Miller Ralph Fisher Jennifer Saner - Harvey	19
20 Morning Worship Rich Droll 	21 Alyssa Hershberger	22	23	24 Carmen Fernau	25	26 Clayton Hershberger Price Yoder
27 Morning Worship Jerre Erb	28 Emily Miller Carol Boller	29 Jonathan Miller	30	31		