

Howard-Miami Mennonite Church Newsletter

3976 East 1400 South
Kokomo, IN 46901

May 2022

Volume 42 Issue 5

Should We Celebrate Mother's Day?

This past week I was reminded that the Newsletter article deadline (April 26) was fast approaching. For most churches, the month of May anticipates many days and events filled with topics to write about. Whoever writes the front page article shouldn't struggle with figuring out what to write. I wish I could say that were true for me. But I can't. The reason is simple — this is not a typical May for me.

I originally planned to about celebrating mothers since Mother's Day is in May. But the more I tried to wrap my mind around such a wonderful topic I simply couldn't bring myself to write about it. The pain was too intense because of Larissa's passing.

You see, as I write this article it is April 25. For me, it's much more than just the day before I should have the Newsletter article complete. It's my wedding anniversary. Nineteen years ago on a beautiful day in a rural Virginia church I married my best friend. She wasn't just my best friend, though. In time, she would become a mother to five children. Outside of her desire to be a Jesus-follower, she loved nothing more than being a mom. Some ladies dream of bigger houses, more bling, or a better career. Larissa dreamed of being a grandma. That's how much she loved our children. This Mother's Day will be hard for me. It will be hard for my children. I believe you see why I could not bring myself to write the typical Mother's Day article for this Newsletter.

What do I do? Ask someone else to write it? Write about something else entirely? These questions and others descended upon my mind like a dense fog. But then a precious and powerful verse from Isaiah cut through that fog. It was then I knew exactly what I needed to write. That verse was Isaiah 40:8. Here it is in context:

"A voice was saying, 'Cry out!' Another said, 'What should I cry out?' 'All humanity is grass, and all its goodness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flowers fade when the breath of Lord blows on them; indeed, the people are grass. The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.'" (Isaiah 40:6-8 HCSB)

I know churches love to take those days and make much of those folks. In many churches it happens on Memorial Day. In others it also happens on Father's Day and, of course, Mother's Day. But an inescapable reality challenges the wisdom of such celebrations. Hang with me. We're about to get a little personal and little messy. Isaiah says at the end of verse 7, that "people are grass," and then at the beginning of verse 8 "the grass withers."

This means, in part, that on any given Mother's Day, when you gather for worship you will undoubtedly have those present who know what it feels like to experience the pain of the grass that has withered. Sure, you will have quite a few mothers present. But some of those mothers may have lost children, in some cases their only child. You will have others present who are not mothers but have desperately wanted and tried to be. Then, of course, there will be those present who cannot call or go see their mother to say "Happy Mother's Day, Mom. I love you." They may be adults who had many, many Mother's Days with their mom. Or they could be teenagers or young children who had but a handful of Mother's Days with their mother. The grass withers.

Please don't hear me wrong. I am not saying don't celebrate Mother's Day. In fact, if you're able to wish your mother a happy Mother's Day, you better do it! I am merely suggesting that when you gather to worship on Mother's Day your worship shouldn't be centered on mothers. In the same way that Father's Day should not be about fathers and the Sunday before Memorial Day should not be about those who have served in the military. In fact, no Sunday should be about anything but the One true God AND his word.



Go back to Isaiah. After we are told the grass withers there's a "but ..."

"But the word of our God remains forever."

When we devote our time in worship to celebrating and lifting high that which cannot wither and cannot fade we will bless not only the mothers that are present but also those who have lost their mothers. Not only that, but we will also provide something I would argue is desperately needed on that day in particular.

Look back one more time at Isaiah 40. This time you will need to take your own bible and look up the chapter because you will need to go back to the very beginning of chapter 40. Take note of what God says in verse 1. "Comfort, comfort my people ..." Everything that follows in this chapter, including verses 6-8 is intended to provide comfort to God's people. When we are cognizant of the fact that grass withers AND the word of God never will, we can provide comfort to God's people. We have a chance to do just that this Mother's Day. May God give us the strength and courage to make that day and every Sunday about His word and nothing else!

- Will Douglas



For a complete list of upcoming events, visit www.HowardMiami.org/events.

May Worship

Worship Coordinator: Elizabeth Hannah

May 1

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: Will Douglas

Worship Leader: Craig Miller

Music: Debbie Statton & Karen Kendall

Usher: Elsie Horner

May 8 –Mother’s Day

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: Will Douglas

Worship Leader: TBD

Music: Margi Bontrager, Teresa Miller & Adam Thompson

Usher: Keith Hullinger

May 15

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: Will Douglas

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Hannah

Music: Debbie Statton & Karen Kendall

Usher: Terry Kendall

May 22

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: Will Douglas

Worship Leader: Courtney Lawson

Music: Margi Bontrager, Karen Kendall & Adam Thompson

Usher: Brian and Jane Mast

May 29

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Sermon: Will Douglas

Worship Leader: Linda Miller

Music: Debbie Statton & Teresa Miller

Usher: Craig Miller

Church Bike Ride

Sunday, May 1 @ 1:30 p.m. @ Bennetts Switch



The Children’s Ministry Team is sponsoring their annual church bike ride. It begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Bennetts Switch Nickel Plate Trail. You can bring a sack lunch to enjoy after church, if you’d like. If not, meet at 1:30 p.m. Ride or walk. All are welcome.

Women’s Sewing & Fellowship

May 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



This event will leave you in stitches! Come ready to work on various mission projects while sewing new friendships. Please bring a sack lunch. Beginning sewers welcome!

Men’s Breakfast

May 14 @ 7 a.m.



Come enjoy a good meal, good message, and GREAT fellowship. Men’s Bible study will follow breakfast. No registration or fee required.

Women’s Coffee & Conversation

May 14 from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. – Cross America



All ladies are welcome to come for a hot beverage and fellowship at Cross America in Kokomo for Women’s Coffee & Conversation.

Every Ladies’ Birthday Party

May 15 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.



Women’s Ministry is sponsoring an “Every Ladies’ Birthday Party” on May 15 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. All ages are welcome. Sign up at the Information Center.

More Events in May

May 1 @ 1:30 p.m. – Church Bike Ride @ Bennetts Switch Nickel Plate Trail

May 2 @ 7 p.m. – Women’s Ministry Team Meeting

May 3 @ 6:30 p.m. – Children’s Ministry Team Meeting

May 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Women’s Sewing

May 8 – Mother’s Day

May 10 @ 7 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

May 14 @ 7 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast

May 14 from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. – Women’s Coffee & Conversation @ Cross America in Kokomo

May 15 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. – Every Ladies’ Birthday Party

May 30 – Memorial Day

May 31 @ 6 p.m. – Outreach Team Meeting

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 8

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

- Proverbs 31:31





Mennonite Women Sewing Minutes April 2022

We met as usual in March and April. There were no January or February meetings due to weather.

The work of quilting and knotting comforters was continued. Three comforters have been completed. Boxes of donations from the Kokomo Rescue Mission were sorted. Items suitable for The Depot in Goshen were packed and delivered to them. The Depot is a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) thrift store in Goshen.

Linda Hullinger led devotions. She reminded us to keep faith, be joyful in hope, and patient in affliction. God is faithful, and He understands and hears our prayers. Thanks to Linda for sharing these thoughts.

As always, we meet the first Thursday of each month. You are welcome to join us. Bring a sack lunch.

- Linda Mast, secretary



Summer Bible School is June 12-16

Children ages 4 to 8th grade are invited to join us for crafts, games, music, Bible lessons, snacks, and so much more at Summer Bible School, which will be held June 12-16 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Information Center closer to the date to register your (grand)child. This year, the theme is "Come to the Table."

Gospel Echoes Hosts Kokomo Banquet

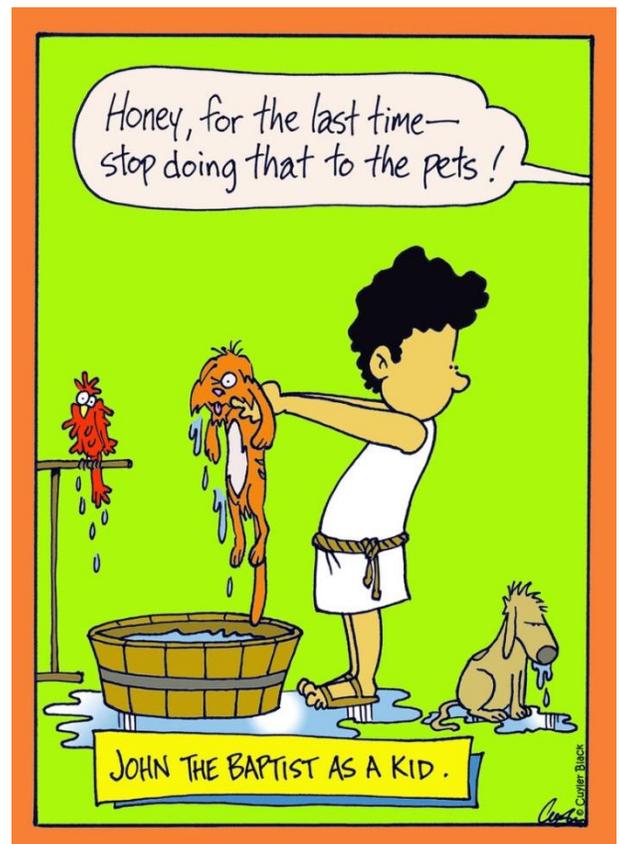
The Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry is hosting a Kokomo Banquet on Friday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Bethany Fellowship School, located at 5169 North 600 East, Kokomo.

People will enjoy Gospel music, including selections from Easter Project, multi-media presentations, dinner, prison testimonies, and ministry updates.

For complimentary tickets, please contact:

- Steven & Susan Beachler, 765-865-7316
- Noah & Loretta Herschberger, 765-628-5950
- David & Barbara Wagler, 765-470-1005

For more information or questions, visit www.GospelEchoes.com.



Afghan Refugee Team Update

The Afghan Refugee Team has been very hard at work finishing up training, paperwork, and other requirements needed before a family is placed with our congregation.

Quality pieces of furniture were purchased at an auction well below their value, but the team is still in need of donations.

Donations Needed

- Financial contributions
- Furniture (mattresses, drawers, baby furniture, etc.)
- Kitchen wares
- Household goods

Financial support is very much appreciated, as it will take time for the family to find work and be able to fully support themselves, so the team wants to be able to serve the family in this way.

Refugee Resettlement Fund

A Refugee Resettlement Fund has been set up to accept donations. Please write "Refugee Resettlement Fund" in the memo line of checks or choose "Refugee Resettlement Fund" when donating online at www.HowardMiami.org/Give. Financial support is much appreciated - it will take time for them to find work and be able to fully support themselves, so we want to be able to serve them in this way.

Volunteers

The team is in need of volunteers to assist with various tasks both now and when a family arrives. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Hannah.

More Than \$440,000 in Donations Were Given to Support Nonprofits

This past January, Everence Financial® donated over \$444,000 to 560 charitable organizations and congregations through its [MyNeighbor program](#).

With the MyNeighbor program, individuals and businesses generate reward dollars for their favorite nonprofits every time they use their MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union. Howard-Miami has this credit card and is evaluating where our donations will go.

Each time a cardholder buys groceries, pays bills or makes other purchases, Everence will donate 1.50% of the purchase total to the charity of his or her choice. Then in January, Everence writes and sends checks to the selected charities.

As the MyNeighbor program grows, so does the involvement and impact of our nonprofits. For example, one nonprofit this year received over \$20,000 generated by 78 MyNeighbor cardholders.

Since its inception in April 2017, the MyNeighbor program has generated **\$1,729,054**.

Year	Total dollars generated	# of nonprofits receiving donations
2017	\$205,446	264
2018	\$347,354	408
2019	\$386,561	496
2020	\$345,168	511
2021	\$444,525	560

Linda Miller is our Everence representative.





Annual Bethany Fellowship School Consignment Auction

The Annual Bethany Fellowship School Consignment Auction will be held on Saturday, June 4 at 9 a.m. at 5169 North 600 East in Kokomo. All proceeds from the auction will go to The Bethany Fellowship Christian School. As many as four auction rings will be selling simultaneously.

The Sale Committee is accepting consignments from Tuesday, May 31 through Friday, June 3.

Consignments Wanted

- All types of farm equipment
- Tools
- Vehicles
- Lawn & garden equipment
- Furniture
- Antiques
- Glassware
- Collectibles
- Flowers
- Nursery stock
- Guns
- Hunting equipment
- Coins
- Toys

No electronics, TVs, pianos/organs, or animals will be accepted. The sale committee reserves the right to reject any or all merchandise.

There will be pork BBQ and ice cream Friday night and more food and a bake sale on Saturday.



2022 Summer Camp Information

Summer camp is almost here! Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Michigan, offers day camps and overnight camps for all ages. They also offer family camp. Registration will begin online in mid-April at www.amigocentre.org/summer-camp.html.

Camp Activities

Active worship, overnight camp-outs, arts & crafts, cook-outs over the fire, fishing, swimming, burger bash, nature center, pontoon picnics, canoeing, archery, co-op (low ropes) course, cabin time, exploring nature, and more!

2022 Schedule

- Week 1 - June 20-24 - Day Camp
- Week 2 - June 27-July 1 - Day Camp
- Week 2 - June 27-30 - Family Camp
- Week 3 - July 4-8 - Day Camp
- Week 4 - July 10-15 - Overnight Camp
- Week 4 - July 11-15 - Day Camp
- Week 5 - July 18-22 - Day Camp
- Week 6 - July 25-29 - Day Camp
- Week 6 - July 25-28 - Family Camp

More Information

Get more information online at www.amigocentre.org/summer-camp.html.

Year of Appreciation

May

- May 1** – Terry Boyce
- May 8** – Jan Boyce
- May 15** – Carol Brubaker
- May 22** – Rex Chism
- May 29** – Clara Chism

We are extending the Year of Appreciation to 2022. If you have not filled out a questionnaire, please pick one up at the Information Center and turn it into the office mailbox. Let's all give thanks to one another & show the love of Christ.



First Fruits Gift Helping Near & Far

Dear Friends,
Thank you! Your generosity is responding to urgent needs near and far. We pray that you also experience many blessings through the act of giving. We are so grateful that you are part of MCC!

Thank you for your generous gift of \$300. Through this donation, you are helping to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. This gift was given from the Children's Sunday School fund.

Warm wishes from MCC,
Ann Graber Hershberger
MCC US Executive Director

New Life in a Season of Resurrection

For women like Ruth Nabola in Uganda (pictured below), best practices for maternal health care are not affordable. And pregnancy and birth – always times of risk – become much more dangerous.

With your help, MCC is providing a better start for mothers and babies. Thanks to the care and support of MCC partners, "I could give birth with confidence and hope," says Nabola, shown with daughter Peninah Mukite.

This is just one of the ways that your gift to MCC can meet urgent needs today and help save lives.

Will you join us in bringing this kind of transformation to more people? You can donate online at www.donate.mcc.org/cause/new-life-season-resurrection.



Current Needs List

Kokomo Rescue Mission is always in need of donated items. You can drop off donations at the **Main building at 321 W. Mulberry, Monday 9:30 am – 4:00 pm & Tuesday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm**. When you arrive, please ring the doorbell located on the left of the door and someone will be out to assist you. The current needs list is updated weekly and can be found online at <https://kokomorescuemission.org/get-involved/donate-items/>.

Canned Food

Fruit (106 oz. #10 size can)

Other Food

Vinegar, instant mashed potatoes, pancake mix ("just add water" kind), and seasonings.

Perishable Items

Bread, milk, butter, cheese, bagged lettuce and salads, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Cleaning Supplies

Paper towels, toilet paper, bleach, all-purpose cleaner, and Lysol.

Personal Hygiene

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, men's deodorant, feminine hygiene (tampons, pads), and denture glue/cleaner.

Other Items

Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D & 9-volt), and first-aid supplies.

Monetary Donations

You can donate money to the Mission online at www.KokomoRescueMission.org/donate.





'ReGeneral' Worship Event in June

The Evana Network is sponsoring the Ohio "ReGenal" Worship Event June 11-12, 2022, at Kidron Mennonite Church in Kidron, OH. Mark your calendars for a special Evana regional worship event! Saturday evening and Sunday worship and teaching sessions will be led by members of Ohio Evana churches & feature special speakers Carolyn & Chad Yoder. All Evana churches across the Network are invited. Stay tuned for more info or visit www.EvanaNetwork.org.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

MDS Seeks Families to Volunteer for a Week at Amigo Centre

A way to have summertime fun together as a family while serving others!

Through the MDS Family Program, families can work and serve together in the U.S. (and Canada).

The projects have age-appropriate work for everyone; even the youngest family members can participate in an MDS volunteer experience!

The days are filled with a balance of family fun, work, good food, activities, campfires and spiritual growth. It's a great way to introduce children to the work of MDS and the spirit of volunteerism.

Although we are sometimes able to offer accommodations, families usually bring their own campers, RVs, or tents to stay in. MDS covers the cost of hookups when available; we also provide all meals for volunteers. We can provide more details about accommodations for each project site when you contact us.

While families that participate in the program are often parents and their children, we've also had grandparents come with their grandchildren--and families of up to four generations!

The dates are July 11-14 and July 25-29. For more information, visit <https://mds.org/family-program/>.

Howard-Miami First Fruits Giving

Dear Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, Mennonite Mission Network is so thankful for your partnership! Together, we are actively engaging God's mission in the world and living into God's call to be transformed (2 Cor. 5:17, Isaiah 43:19). Beginning last fall, Mission Network initiated a realignment process to expand how we serve MC USA conferences and global partners to develop fresh resources and opportunities, and to extend our discipleship training and church planting programs. Our transformation is supported by our commitment to undo racism and build intercultural competence.

Vital parts of our work are made possible through a new division called Ventures. This division is made up of three departments: Global Partnerships, which includes what was previously International Ministries and Christian Service; Constituent Engagement, which centers on connecting with MC USA conferences and congregations, as well as networking with other Anabaptist affiliates; Training and Resources, which focuses on church planting, discipleship, mission education and urban ministries.

As we grow into these changes, we continue to serve the church through our local and global partnerships. Your support through prayer and generous financial contributions supported ministries in 47 countries and national placements in more than 30 states. This included 116 partner organizations and more than 161 U.S. and international workers and participants. With your support, we also continued our peace and justice work; training in peace church planting; and production of church resources, such as *MissionWary?* podcast, the *Merienda Menonita* podcast currently found at www.anabaptistworld.org, and the *Stir Up Peace* video series.

Mennonite Mission Network exists to equip and empower the church as we partner in God's mission around the globe. **Thank you, Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, for your gift of \$6,000 in 2021!** Your prayers, participation and generous support empower us to serve and collaborate with partners across the street and around the world, so that people may be transformed by Jesus Christ.

We are privileged to partner with you in participating in God's mission in the world and look forward to continuing to work alongside you as you respond to God's call in serving your neighbors both near and far!

God's peace and grace be with you,
Marisa Smucker
Senior Executive of Ventures
Mennonite Mission Network

GET CONNECTED

Keep up with the latest news, events, and praise and prayer requests through the following ways:



Website: www.HowardMiami.org



Worship Services/Past Sermons:
www.HowardMiami.org/sermons



Bulletins, Newsletters & Calendars:
www.HowardMiami.org/bulletins-calendar-newsletters



Facebook: Don't forget to like and share our posts!!
www.facebook.com/HowardMiami



YouTube: Don't forget to subscribe!!
<http://bit.ly/3aTkUNI> (or go to www.YouTube.com and search "Howard-Miami Mennonite Church")



CrossTalk: Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter at www.HowardMiami.org



Online Events Calendar:
www.HowardMiami.org/events

Funny Church Sign



Worship with Us!

Sundays

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship



Howard-Miami Mennonite Church exists to love, glorify, and worship God, to love and serve others, to share the Gospel, and to encourage each other to become fully devoted followers of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Howard-Miami Mennonite Church Newsletter is published by:

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We are a member of the Evana Network. Evana means "God is gracious" and is of Latin origin. Learn more at www.EvanaNetwork.org.

KIDS KORNER

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

There are seven.



Jesus Teaches About Prayer

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:10 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 11:1-9 (NIV).



Ask

Seek

Knock

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

FIND	PRAY	OPEN	TEMPATION	FRIEND
SEEK	FATHER	NAME	KNOCK	RECEIVE
MIDNIGHT	DAILY	TEACH	LEAD	BREAD
SINS	KINGDOM	HALLOWED	FORGIVE	ASK