

OUR CHURCH FAMILY: August 1, 2021

Birthdays

Sunday	Fernanda Portillo
Monday	Hailey Gingerich, Willa Showalter
Thursday	Colette Hostetler
Saturday	Ira Swartzendruber

Sunday, Carol Wise, executive director for *Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests*, will bring the message and present our congregation with membership into the [Supportive Communities Network](#) which offers us support, resources, and dialogue with other supportive congregations.

Terry and Karen will be out of the office next week as they have children and a granddaughter visiting. They will be available by text, phone, or email and will be checking messages periodically.

Next Sunday we'll celebrate Communion together using pre-packaged gluten free cup/bread elements (in the sanctuary).

Thank-you for your patience as we live into hybrid worship. There will be a limited number of print bulletins available on Sunday on the Narthex table. Also, the **West section of pews** as you enter the sanctuary will continue to have marked off benches for socially distanced seating for households with children and others who may require distancing.

Next Sunday, Aug. 8 at 5 PM on the lower lawn- Intergenerational Worship in Creation: Karen will lead an informal worship time which will include group gathering with singing, quiet time to reflect, and opportunity to explore our church grounds and learn from one another. Please bring a chair, **a blanket or beach towel** and a water bottle.

Mark your calendars for more summer worship gatherings:

- August 15 -- 6 PM **Outdoor hymn sing** using *Voices Together*
- August 22 -- 10 AM Outdoor worship and **baptism** service: If you wish to be baptized, having decided to follow the way of Christ in your life in partnership with those gathered as FMC Iowa City, please text/phone Terry at 319-512-8625.

The evening outdoor services will not be recorded. The regular morning worship service in the sanctuary and via Zoom will continue to be offered those days.

Bible School Registration is Now Open - Ages 3 through those who just finished 5th grade are invited to explore *God's Great Big Beautiful World* on Saturday, August 21 from 8:45 - 11:45 AM. Register now at <https://tinyurl.com/firstmennoniteVBS>.

My heart is full when I think of my time with the congregation at First Mennonite. I have stayed away from too much contact with crowds of people

Worship leader/Scripture reader: Terry Zimmerly
Children's time: Allison & Ruby Goertz
Song leader: Drew Willems
Centering/Prayer music: Willems family
Message: Carol Wise
Ushers: Rosie & Bill Hochstetler
Flowers: Kari Clark
Greeters: Glenda & Dave Sickles, Jerry Partridge
Technical support: Katrina Schrock, Jon Hershberger

TOGETHER WE PRAY ...

... for administrators, school boards, and teachers as they prepare for a school year wrapped in continuing COVID uncertainties and stresses.

... for peace, strength, and courage during life transitions for Doris Nafziger (moving to WV), Colette Hostetler (upcoming surgery and a move to VA), Isaac, Lisa, Marie, and Alma Schrock (moving to WI), and Malerie Plank (moving to SC in Sept.).

... for the presence of Crowded Closet in our community, and for the many volunteers working there together for the mission of MCC.

... for Service Adventure unit leaders as they prepare to welcome participants in three locations — starting this month through October — in Albuquerque, NM, Anchorage, AK, and Jackson, MS. And for Zaden Issah as he applies for participation for 2021-22.

... for Indonesia and Myanmar where COVID numbers are surging, oxygen supplies low, and hospitals at capacity. We pray for Mennonite congregations in these countries.

.... Loving God, help us to embrace the queer within us and around us, the queer in others and in creation. Help us see you in the diversity and celebrate all uniqueness!

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH Open Hearts, Open Minds, Rooted in Christ

405 Myrtle Ave. Phone: 319-338-0302

Email: firstmenno@msn.com Website: firstmennoniteiowacity.org

Our Mission: God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as a community of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Find **FMC Events, Announcements, and Information** at
firstmennoniteiowacity.org

FMC follows Safe Church practices:

<https://www.firstmennoniteiowacity.org/safe-church-policy.html>

Office hours: Mary (T – F, 8 AM – 1 PM) Karen (T–TH, 9–Noon) Terry (T, W, F, 9–Noon)

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Pastors: Terry and Karen Martens Zimmerly. Pastoral concerns may be shared with the pastors or one of the Elders: Erma Coppinger, Isaiah Goertz, Nancy Halder, Isaac Hooley, Roger Schrock, Maya Kehr Yoder.

because of an upcoming neck surgery on August 9. Because of the surgery, my retirement has been advanced, and my last day at work will be August 6. My sister will be coming to help care for me the week of my surgery, and I would appreciate your prayers for the both of us! I plan on moving to Virginia after I recuperate, sell my house and more importantly, find a house to move into in Virginia. I will miss all of you so much! – Colette Hostetler

Please remember to keep **sending your pictures that represent joy** for our summer worship series *Joy Ride*. Please send your picture(s)/video to Mary in the **church office** or via text (319-430-1296) by WEDNESDAY NOON each week.

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

JPOG (Just Peace Outreach Group) invites you to hear Adam Fleming describe his activities helping people in Syria and Egypt rebuild their families, businesses, and churches after a variety of disruptions in civil society. Training groups bring Armenian Orthodox and Catholic Christians together around a curriculum designed to help non-profit groups coach their leaders in rebuilding their organizations. Join us at West Union Mennonite Church, 3253 305th Street, Parnell, on Sunday, August 1, at 6 PM for a finger food potluck (please BYO table service) and conversation, or at 7 PM for Adam’s presentation. Questions? Contact Roger Farmer (319-653-2547) or Jane Yoder-Short at wilmajane17@gmail.com.

Gardeners often have extra of easily grown vegetables such as peppers, summer squash, zucchini, or tomatoes-- rather than letting this excess go to waste, Table to Table is asking gardeners to donate. We have been using the [Fresh Foods Connect](#) app to coordinate our individual gardeners, drop off times, and locations. We’re only in our second year of this new program and we need more gardeners! **Will you consider signing-up as a T2T garden donor so that whenever you have an abundance, we won’t let it go to waste?** Any questions about this initiative can be directed to gardenrecovery@table2table.org.

From the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale Committee (MCC):

- At the annual Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale meeting on Tuesday, attendees voted to send \$100,000 to MCC from this year’s Sale proceeds. The online auction raised \$39,690; meals \$10,815; My Coins Count \$3,212; and general donations were \$47,863. The Board solicited ideas for the 2022 Relief Sale. Thank you to FMCers who donated \$827.44 for the My Coins Count project and \$5,570 for MCC and the Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale. If you are interested in helping plan the 2022 Relief Sale, contact FMC’s rep Susan Gingerich.

From Mennonite Church USA (MCUSA):

- Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, discusses his new book, “Reawakened” and provides eight keys to help congregations develop the abilities they need to bring hope and healing to their communities. Watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

- Menno Snapshots:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee released the *Voices Together* hymnal and many resources for in-person and virtual worship. Committee member Katie Graber looks at how we have been “Sharing in God’s story through our voices, together” through the last year. Read more [here](#).
- Menno Snapshots:** In his blog, “Church cash reserves: How much is enough or too much?” Beryl Jantzi of Everence explains why churches should consider building cash reserves for financial emergencies. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/church-cash-reserves>
- Menno Snapshots:** In the face of difficulty, is silence your natural response? Should it be? In June Mears Driedger’s blog, “Directed silence,” she shares her experience with the healing power of silence: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/directed-silence>.
- Menno Snapshots:** Overall, Sunday morning worship attendance has been slowly declining over the past few decades. How do we fix this problem, or do we even need to? Michele Hershberger discusses this topic in [her blog](#), “There’s an elephant in the sanctuary.”

From Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS):

- The July edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS volunteers celebrate creativity during the pandemic, how the Covid Relief Fund kept church doors open, and what hope looks like in small town Texas. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3emcUFF>

From MennoMedia:

- Staying Connected:** Read about new publications, the latest *-ing* podcast, and more of the [latest from MennoMedia here](#).

From Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):

- Read the latest from MMN in *Network News and Beyond* [here](#).

This week at FMC
Wednesday: 7 PM Mission Commission 7 PM Worship Commission

Attendance 7-25-2021	Online viewing: 30 /In person: 68
Offering	\$780.00 general fund

August 1 worship

9:55 Music & slides of Joy

10:00 Centering Music: Drew Willems

Welcome/Call to Worship VT #862

You who open doors and dismantle barriers, open our hearts to praise you,

that we might live the full truth
of who we are,

that we might live as neighbors and friends
no longer strangers and enemies;

open our hearts to the transforming power
of your love,

that we might forgive and reconcile,
making peace and learning war no more,

that we might be your people,
one body in one Spirit,

to tell your grace to all the world.

We pray in the name of the One who walked among us as brother and friend. Amen.

Hymn: #11 Mountain of God

Children's time

Scripture: Leviticus 11: 1-2

Message: *Lobsters, Mennonites, and other Queer Things*

Hymn: #409 For we are strangers no more

Meditative music: Drew Willems

Sharing & Prayers of the People

Blessing

Sending song: #803 We shall overcome

Centering/Prayer music: Willems family

Worship leader/Scripture reader: Terry Zimmerly

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