

WEST UNION MENNONITE CHURCH

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Vol. 74

November 12, 2023

No.46

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Pre-Service

Pat Lamb

Welcome and Call to Worship

Jane Yoder-Short

Leader: We are here to worship the God of generosity.

People: We come as people from different social status.

We come from different economic ranks.

Leader: We come to worship the God who sees.

People: See those who are dressed in fine linen.

See those who are hungry.

Leader: We come to worship the God who notices.

People: Sometimes we notice the needs around us.

Sometimes we walk past oblivious to hardships.

Leader: We come to worship the God who wants us to hear.

People: Hear the message of Moses and the prophets.

Hear the message in the stories Jesus told.

Leader: We come to worship the God who gives understanding.

People: We come knowing we depend on You for insight.

We come knowing we would be lost without Your grace.

Leader: As we worship

All: Give us a deeper understanding of Your call.

Grant that we will see the needy around us with loving eyes. Embrace us with Your love.

Opening Prayer

Congregational Singing

Kate Slater

Praise to the Living God

VT 204

Jesus on the Mountain Peak

VT 301

God of Grace and God of Glory

VT 716

Offering

Hillcrest Academy

Mission Moment

Wilbur Litwiller

HEARING GOD'S STORY

Scripture Readings

Luke 16:19-31

Sermon

Lazarus

John David Kenney

RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

Song of Response

When I needed a neighbor

Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Sending Song

Christ Has No Body Here but Ours

VT 568

Benediction

We welcome all guests and visitors to our Worship Service today. We trust you will be enriched by Jesus as you worship and fellowship with us. Please, visit us again.

Those assisting in the service:

Ushers: Sandy Gingerich, Ryan Trotta

Sound: Tony Boshart

Zoom Host: Keith Slater

Greeters: Lon Marshall

Coffee: Heidi Gingerich

Nursery: Ledru and Annette Miller

Fall Harvest Display: Mary Yoder

Mission Statement

The sisters and brothers at West Union,
united by the gospel of peace,

gather in worship to meet the living God,

plant and nurture the seed of God's word and

spread the love of Jesus to others so that all people are

welcomed to new life in Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

TODAY: Sunday, November 12, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:45 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. 90th Birthday Celebration for Anna Mary Yoder

Saturday, November 18, 2023

6:00 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Meal

7:00 p.m. Session with Glen Guyton

Next Sunday November 19, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Glen Guyton

10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School with Glen Guyton

John David's Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.-Noon Tuesday

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Wednesday

8:00 a.m.-Noon Friday

Day off - Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY Glen Guyton will bring us the message. John David Kenney will be our worship leader and Diane Zaerr Brenneman will lead singing. Come hear pre-service music by Ting Davidson at 9:15am.

Last offering – November 5, 2023

Attendance at West Union - 108

Attendance on Zoom - 5

Offering: Home Fund \$5815 Shared \$1360

Offering next Sunday: Home Fund

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Our Church Family:

- Please pray for John David as he recovers from surgery.
- Pray for those in our congregation for whom the holiday season is painful.
- Keep those in our family who can't be with us today in your prayers. This week we especially remember Kathryn Slaubaugh, Eleanor Yoder, and our young adults Garrett Durlfonger and Sarann Durlfonger.

Beyond the Congregation:

- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Matthew and Toni Krabill, as they prepare to move from the Paris Mennonite Center (France) to The Sanneh Institute in Accra, Ghana, to continue their work and ministry. Pray for them as they collaborate with partners in the Francophone Mennonite Network, who are launching a French-language theological training program.
- Central Plains Mennonite Conference: We give thanks for the work of our Conference Ministers and send Susan Janzen blessings for her sabbatical that begins next Sunday. We pray that in these three months of retreat and rest, God would renew and reinvigorate Susan for her ministry here in Central Plains.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to the drop in 90th birthday celebration of Anna Mary Yoder at West Union Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **TODAY**, November 12, 2023, from 1:30 – 3:30pm. Cake and ice cream will be served. Cards are welcome. No gifts, please. Hosted by Roberta, Suzanne, Karla, and Kevin Yoder.

You are invited to a wedding shower for Shawn and Elizabeth (Yoder) Behrends on Sunday, December 3rd at 3:00pm in the West Union Fellowship Hall. Elizabeth is the daughter of Lowell and Mary Yoder. Shawn and Elizabeth were married on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The couple is registered on [Amazon](#). Men are welcome to come.

Saturday, November 25th is West Union's turn at Free Lunch. We need chili soup, corn muffins, grated cheese, and items for fruit salad. Thanks to Diane ZB there is ground beef in the freezer to use for the soup!! We also need workers. The sign-up sheets are on the table by the coffee. You can bring things next Sunday or get them to the church or to Heidi by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday the 25th. Please label the things you put in the freezer. Talk to Heidi or Jane if you have questions.

The elders invite you to join in a study of LGBTQ+ understandings during the usual Jan – Feb special Sunday School series. We will examine Biblical references as well as social and biological thinking. We welcome your participation and prayers for this study.

All are welcome for a Thanksgiving service, Thursday, November 23, 10:00-11:00 a.m., at West Union Mennonite Church. Dave Boshart will bring the message. Dave pastored for more than 25 years in Iowa and Virginia and served as conference minister for Central Plains Mennonite Conference 2010-2019. Since January 2020, he has served as president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

Mark your calendars! Thursday, December 7th Jr. MYF and Girls Club **Silent Auction**. The youth will hold a silent auction in the fellowship hall for all to attend. A light soup supper will be served at 6:00pm and bidding will begin at 6:45pm. All donations are welcome and can be left on the table in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will help support activities for the youth throughout the year.

Thank you to those who have completed the congregational, pastoral survey. The deadline for completing the survey is Sunday, November 19, 2023. As a reminder, the survey can be completed online or if you prefer, there are paper copies on the shelf under the mailboxes. Please let the survey committee know if you have any questions. Survey Committee: Lowell Yoder, Dick Yoder-Short, Maria Durlfonger, Helen Lindstrom

Last week Aidan Yoder called on us to be a friend to the people of the Middle East where violence has caused devastation and a humanitarian catastrophe. He challenged us to advocate for a cease-fire. In response, Mission and Service has letters available to send to our Congressional representatives. You are invited to sign them this Sunday. Although we do not put our hope in political systems, we feel it is important to speak out in response to the violence that is happening.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Crowded Closet Thrift Shop as full-time Retail Lead! Work with a team voted "Best Retail Staff". Choose a meaningful vocation where your service makes relief, development, and peace possible worldwide. Looking for a self-motivated, dependable leader who is ready to grow in this rewarding role. Learn more at www.crowdedcloset.org/employment.

Bad Angle Events is hosting Proximus 5 for a holiday concert, December 2 at 7 p.m. Based in Winnipeg, Canada, Proximus 5 brings "exquisite," "spine tingling" unaccompanied voices to sing timeless, deeply moving music from across the ages – including folk, contemporary covers, and contemplative classics. They create restorative a cappella music that celebrates human connection, sung by a core group of five seasoned vocalists. More info and tickets available at www.BadAngleEvents.org.

MCC's Meat Canning Trailer will be in Kalona in December. Help is needed to set up on Wednesday, December 6th and with the canning on Thursday, December 7th and Friday, December 8th. Detailed information is in your mailbox and on the orange poster in the fellowship hall.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser: Lower Deer Creek Church is once again making homemade cheeseballs just in time for the Christmas season! This year's proceeds will go toward our youth mission trip to Costa Rica with VidaNet over Spring Break 2024. Place your orders by November 27 and pick them up on Saturday, December 9 from 9-11 am at the church (1408 540th St SW, Kalona). You may order from our church website <https://ldcmc.org/>, the Lower Deer Creek Facebook page, call the church (319)656-2076 or email donna@ldcmc.org. The flavor options are pineapple, veggie or ham and the cheeseballs are \$14 each. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Crooked Creek Christian Camp: Join us for these upcoming events:

- **Annual Meeting** – November 14. Dinner at 6:15 at the retreat lodge, followed by the business meeting at 7:00pm.
- **4th Annual Online Auction** – November 28-December 3. We are currently taking items (baked goods, meals in homes, handmade items, themed gift baskets). Contact Heather heather@crookedcreekcamp.org or Amanda, amanda@crookedcreekcamp.org if you have items to donate.

Hillcrest Academy:

- **Kalona Chocolates** -The Hillcrest Academy sophomore class is selling Kalona Chocolates until November 17 to be delivered just in time for the Christmas holidays. See a sophomore to buy chocolates or order online at www.hillcrestravens.org/kalona-chocolates.
- **Basketball & Rook Shirt Information** - The Varsity Boys Basketball Jamboree will tip off starting at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 20 at Hillcrest Academy. Come out and get a first look at the Ravens boys' team, along with other local teams. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Hillcrest passes cannot be used. Also, save the date for the annual Alumni Night game on December 15 versus WACO. Be sure to order your vintage, Rook/Ravens shirt to wear for the game on the school's website at www.hillcrestravens.org/rookshirt. Order by November 15.
- **Fall Visit Days** - Wednesday, November 22 8:00 AM-1:55 PM, 8th graders and transfer students are welcome to visit Hillcrest Academy for the day. Come shadow a student and see what we're all about. Lunch will be provided. Sign up at www.hillcrestravens.org/visit-hillcrest-academy.

Upcoming Events

November 18 & 19 – Spiritual Emphasis Weekend with Glen Guyton, Executive Director of MC USA

November 19 – Jr. MYF will meet at East Union from 5-7pm

November 23 – Thanksgiving Service at West Union 10:00am – 11:00am

November 25 – Free Lunch in Iowa City

November 30 – Girls Club will meet at WU Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:30pm

December 7 – Jr. MYF and Girls Club Silent Auction at West Union 6-8pm