

WEST UNION MENNONITE CHURCH

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Vol. 74

November 5, 2023

No.45

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Pre-Service Annette, Addison & Clara Miller

Welcome and Call to Worship Jane Yoder-Short

Leader: We meet to worship the God who forms good fruit.

We gather from a world tainted with violence.

We gather longing for a world where goodness rules.

People: As we worship, fill our hearts with love.

Leader: We come longing for a world where kindness flourishes.

People: As we worship, fill our hearts with peace and patience.

Leader: We come longing for a world where enemies make peace,

People: As we worship, fill our hearts with love for those we find hard to respect.

Leader: We come longing for hearts where tenderness and self-control rule.

People: As we worship, fill our hearts with gentleness.

Leader: We come longing for transformation.

All: As we worship together, create in our hearts your good fruit. The fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience.

Opening Prayer

Congregational Singing Worship Team

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Here I Am to Worship

Be a Sower

VT 227

VT 789

Offering Home Fund

HEARING GOD'S STORY

Scripture Readings Luke 6:43-45, Galatians 5:22-23

Sermon Fruit John David Kenney

RESPONDING TO GOD'S STORY

Song of Response *He Came Down* VT 239

Congregational Prayer and Sharing Time Edie Hochstetler

Announcements

Sending Song *Let us talents and tongues employ* STS 123

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: Ken Bender, Ron Brenneman

Sound: Ledru Miller

Zoom Host: Diane Zaerr Brenneman

Greeters: Steve and Jean Gingerich **Coffee:** Jean Gingerich

Nursery: Ariel Kenney

Fall Harvest Display: Mary Yoder

Worship Team: Galen & Gloria Yoder, Holly Blosser Yoder, Lon Marshall

Mara Weaver Boshart, Doug Schneider

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 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

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

4:30 p.m. Baby Shower for Mo Stoddard at West Union

Next 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

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 John David Kenney will bring us the message. Jane Yoder-Short will be our worship leader and Kate Slater will lead singing. Come hear pre-service music by Pat Lamb at 9:15am.

Last offering – October 29, 2023

Attendance at West Union - 99

Attendance on Zoom - 8

Offering: Shared \$ 4070 Home Fund \$200

Offering next Sunday: Hillcrest Academy

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

Our Church Family:

- We give thanks for the successful treatment for Rena Yoder's cancer. Continue to keep them in your prayers as they continue the healing process.
- Pray for Nathan and Mo (Brenneman) Stoddard as they prepare for the arrival of their first baby in March.
- Keep those in our family who can't be with us today in your prayers. This week we especially remember Joe & Elizabeth Kanagy, Grace Slaubaugh, and our young adults Josiah Beachy and Meredith Blossom.

Beyond the Congregation:

- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Johnstown Service Adventure unit, which is made up of Elias Wolff, Henriette Preuss, Leni Schreiber, and Marie Haller, as well as unit leaders Josh and Stef Musser and their children, Jacob and Noah. Pray for a harmonious household, deepening faith, and service that reflects God's love through clinics, Head Start, school and after-school programs.
- Central Plains Mennonite Conference: As the conference ministers for all area conferences of MC USA and MC Canada prepare to gather in Banff, Canada later this week, we pray for safe travels and formative conversations. We pray also for our sister and brother congregations across MC USA, each in their own unique ministry contexts. Help each of us to be faithful followers of Jesus.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to the drop in 90th birthday celebration of Anna Mary Yoder at West Union Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 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.

Dear friends, Last Wednesday, October 25, I received the news that the golf ball size tumor in my small intestines is malignant. Next steps: Tuesday Oct. 31st I will have a CT scan to see if the tumor has spread. Wednesday, I have a surgical consult in preparation to remove the tumor. Other steps ahead are unknown at this point. Please pray for me. Thank you. --- Bro. Tom

From the Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee: As a new PCRC forms, we'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of this committee's work. The PCRC exists to care for the relationship between the congregation and the pastor. We are available to members to hear concerns and test perceptions of both John David and the congregation. John David welcomes feedback and invites you to bring any concerns directly to him so he can best understand. The PCRC supports direct communication with our pastor as a way to build trusting relationships and avoid triangles- the seeds of conflict. The PCRC is available if you feel your needs and concerns are not heard. The members of the PCRC are Diane Zaerr Brenneman, chair, Galen Yoder, and Keith Slater.

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.

It is time to complete the congregational, pastoral survey. The survey is made of three parts: A children's survey, a congregational survey, and a pastoral survey. The survey committee encourages every person who is an active participant of West Union Mennonite Church to complete this evaluation process. If you have children who are unable to complete a survey independently, we ask you as a parent to assist them. The survey is available in paper form and online. The online version of the survey was sent by email last week. If you can complete the survey online, that will make compiling the results more efficient. For those who would like to complete the survey via paper, there are a few paper copies under the mailboxes. Once completed, please submit your paper copy in the box under the mailboxes. Please let the survey committee know if you have any questions. Survey Committee: Lowell Yoder, Dick Yoder-Short, Maria Durlinger, Helen Lindstrom

The Southeast Iowa Churches will be hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. If you would like to help plan this event or want more information, please contact Pastor John David. The main areas that need planning are worship, food, childcare, and lodging. Your prayers are cherished by all those working to plan this event.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for a Bluegrass Gospel Concert with Grand Ole Opry Veteran Daryl Mosley, a 3-time Songwriter of the Year, as he shares the stories behind his many hit songs including the Gospel classic "(Ask the Blind Man) He saw It All". November 12th 6:00 PM at Kalona Mennonite Church. All are welcome to attend. A freewill offering will be taken.

You are invited to the 118th Election Night Supper at West Chester Community Church, 403 Franklin Street, West Chester, IA on Tuesday, November 7th. Doors open from 4:30 to 7:00pm. Dine In or Drive Through. Menu: Chicken Pie, or Ham, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, cranberry salad, coleslaw, Jello, pie, or cookies. Free-Will Offering.

Get your feather or foam pillows cleaned, sanitized, deodorized & NEW TICKING on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Kalona Mennonite Church, 902 6th Street. Sponsored by Kalona Mennonite WMSC

You are invited to join us for a hymn sing on November 6th at 7 pm at Kalona Mennonite Church featuring Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and the stories that inspired the authors, hosted by the Mennonite Historical Society. A soup supper will be available from 5:30 - 6:30 pm for a donation.

Join us for our second Learn. Pray. Join: End Gun Violence webinar, Intersectionality of Gun Violence, focused on the intersectionality of gun violence and the call to explore our Anabaptist response to it. This webinar will provide information about the impact of gun violence on different communities, as well as provide information about mental health impacts, including suicide and how congregations can walk alongside those at risk and their family/friends. Register: [HERE](#) View the PDF: [HERE](#)

Next week is the final week for folks to register for the upcoming Facilitation Training at Des Moines Mennonite Church, November 17,18, 2023, led by Ted Lewis of the Restorative Church project. "Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Foundations for Facilitating Harms, Conflicts and Divisive Issues in Church Communities." \$100 registration via [this webpage](#) under Congregational Leaders/Support for Conflict on the Central Plains website. Arrangements can be made for free lodging with Mennonite host families in Des Moines. For more information, contact Ted Lewis at tedlewis76@gmail.com or call 715-205-5945.

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

- **Craft Retreat** – November 10-12 – Registration is now open on our website: <http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/craft-retreat.html>
- **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:

- **Have you heard the news? Hillcrest Academy will be adding 7th & 8th grades for the 2024-25 school year!** Join us on Monday, November 6 at 6:30 PM in Celebration Hall for the **Middle School Exploratory Night**. This evening is for parents with a child in 7th grade, who have interest in exploring the option of sending them to Hillcrest for their 8th grade year. We will have time to share information, answer questions and get input from families about 8th grade. Attending the event will not commit your child to coming to Hillcrest. We hope this evening will give parents an idea of our plans for the 2024-25 school year, as well as gather information from parents! A Middle School Informational Night for incoming 6th - 8th grade families will be in January 2024. More information to come.
- **Blood Drive** – The Hillcrest Academy Compassion Club is hosting a blood drive on Monday, November 6 from 7:30 – 11:30 AM. Plan to donate blood by scheduling a donation time through the Hillcrest Office at 319-656-2073. Thank you for helping your community in this special way!

Upcoming Events

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

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