

Marion Memo

Marion Mennonite Church of Franklin Conference

Volume 19, Issue 4



April 2016



Some of the special days
celebrated in April are:

- Administrative
Professionals Day —
April 27, 2016 .



Connections

Today, as I write this, on March 15th, 2016, I am fully aware the day began with a flurry of random connections. I heard that Glenn and Rachel (Chambersburg, PA), while doing a volunteer stint at Menno Hof (Shipshewana, IN), visited our son Aaron's and daughter-in-law Renita's church (Goshen, IN) and as they had seated themselves down in church next to a couple realized, as they began talking, that they were sitting next to Ken Mininger, Grace Chace's younger brother and Rhoda, his wife. Glenn and Rachel also made a connection with Renita.

I also heard, through Connie (Chambersburg, PA), via RuthE (Waynesboro, PA) that Linda McFarland (Waynesboro, PA) through visiting Hawley Memorial Presbyterian Church (Blue Ridge Summit, PA) and upon a 'greet and meet' conversation with pastor Carl (theirs, not ours) found that he knew me from our years in a joint ministerium in Susquehanna, PA.

When I arrived at the office this morning Carl (ours, not theirs) was readying for a meeting. Before long an EMU van (Harrisonburg, VA) arrived and as folks emerged I recognized Jennifer. She and husband Kendall had gone to the same church (Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, VA) and were in the same small group with Connie and I. I also worked two summers with Kendall for Lehman Construction, (Harrisonburg) and had gotten to know him well enough that when he, Kendall, was making summer vacation trip plans to Vermont inquired about staying over a night and camping at my brother Mike's and wife Lorrie's house (Jackson, PA). It has probably been 20 years since we had

seen Jennifer but with surprised astonishment and warm hugs quickly renewed our connection.

And when I think of a connection my mom (Montrose, PA) made on Quilt Blitz day at the Cumberland Valley Relief Center (next door) with a woman from Diller Mennonite Church (Newville, PA) who had been a 70 year ago classmate of hers in school (Franconia, PA) I wonder about all the connections we make through our lifetimes. Which connections remain firm and which ones we



excuse from our memories. And what part our Christian faith plays in these connections we foster and keep.

Proverbs 17:17 tells us that 'a friend loves at all times' and maybe it takes the years of distance and the rekindling of connections for us to realize the wisdom of that proverb can truly be a beautiful treasure.

-Pastor Blaine

Mark your calendar for these **May** events:



- 1 - Jr. Youth volunteer at Menno Haven
- 5 - Preschool Mother's Day Tea, Fellowship center
- 5 - Ministry Council meeting, 7pm
- 6 & 7 - Shalom Dutchfest
- 8 - Children's Worship for ages 3-6
- 14 - Women's Ministry Brunch, 8:30am, Fellowship center
- 21 - Youth yard sale, bake sale and lunch stand (no Chicken BBQ this year)
- 22 - Fellowship center reserved, 1:30-5pm
- 22 - Worship center reserved 2:30-5:30pm
- 25 - Red Cross Blood drive, Marion Fire Hall, 1:30 - 7pm

Look
Who's

Bloggging

Te pedimos la paz

(We ask for peace)

Praying and working for peace with la Iglesia Menonita de Quito (the Quito Mennonite Church)

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Welcome to my first blog post! I write this from the Fort Lauderdale airport where I am passing my 9-hour layover before finally flying to Quito, Ecuador. In Ecuador I will be working at the Quito Mennonite Church for the next few years as the Coordinator of Children's Peace Education and Youth Ministry through Mennonite Mission Network. This blog is a space for me to reflect on my experiences and share with you what I am learning.

The title of this blog comes from a song I first learned at the Quito Mennonite Church and then recorded with my friends Andrea Moya Urueña and Brisa Peacock Robison on our CD this past fall. The lyrics say:

Help me to see with your eyes

I want to feel with your heart

I don't want to live indifferently anymore

There is so much need, Jesus.

I ask you for peace for my city

I ask you for forgiveness throughout my city

Now I humble myself and seek your face

To whom shall I go, Lord, but you?

One of the things I have been mulling over lately is the concept of what sorts of things I see and what sorts I do not see in the world around me. Obviously I have a better idea of what I do see than what I don't. Yet, as I take seriously the limits of my own vision and listen to other people talk about what they see, I am learning to be on the lookout for things I normally miss. For example, the more I listen to other peoples' experiences, I realize that the world is set up so that I don't see certain kinds of injustice. Because I am able-bodied, I don't often think about whether spaces are accessible to folks with physical disabilities or not. Because police officers treat me respectfully, it is easy not to see how people of color are targeted and harmed by police. Because I am a North American, employed by a mission agency, living in the context of Quito I don't see... well, that's what I don't know.

As I begin this new chapter of life, I want to pay attention to things I would normally miss. I ask for sensitivity to the experience of others and the voice of God in peoples' stories. I ask for perceptiveness to the Spirit of Love in the world and to the wisdom of folks I will be doing life with. I ask that my vision be expanded, that I learn to see the social systems, people, and our earth through the lens of divine love. In this way, I ask for peace.

~~Gloria Showalter

MARION MENNONITE CHURCH

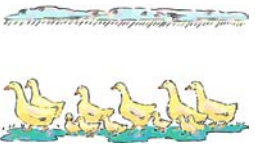


4365 Molly Pitcher Highway
Chambersburg, PA 17202-7234

717-375-4309 ~ 717-375-2213 (Fax) ~ www.marionmennonite.org



2016

March 2016							May 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 8:35 am Prayer Leaders: 3 & 10 - Linden S. 17 & 24 -	After-Worship Prayer Leaders: 3 & 10 - Gerald & Joyce L 17 & 24 - Rod & Lisa T	Nursery: 3 - Gregg & Wendy B 10 - Connie F & Deanna K 17 - Rachel L & Lily S. 24 - Gerald & Joyce L.	Host & Hostess: 3 - Mike & Grace C. 10 - Paul & Tina H. 17 - Glenn & Rachel W 24 - Mike & Cherina S.	Blood Pressure Checks: 3 - Lisa T. 24 - Sally W. Ushers: Richard & Nancy G, Mel & Beth C.	1 MCC Relief Sale, Harrisburg, Pa	2 MCC Relief Sale, Harrisburg, Pa
Prayer Time 8:35am 3 Sunday School 9am Worship, 10:15am	4 Gideon Barthlow 	5 Conference Minister's meeting, 1pm, Fellowship center	6 Worship center reserved 3:15-4:45pm	7 Vicki Cordell Ministry Council mtg 7pm	8 Leonard ♥ Nancy Corde John ♥ Connie Funk	9 Men's Journeymen Breakfast, 7:30am
Prayer Time 8:35am 10 Sunday School 9am Worship, 10:15am Children's Worship for ages 3-6 Gerald ♥ Joyce Lehman	11 Women's Ministry mtg. 6:30pm, fellowship center	12 Jae Strausbaugh	13	14 Thurman Martin Archie ♥ Gladys Lehman	15 	16 Youth work weekend & Spring work day at Cove Valley Camp
Prayer Time 8:35am 17 Sunday School 9am Worship, 10:15am	18 Rachel Holderman Fr. Conf. Delegate Mtg Worship center, 6:30pm	19 	20 Dustin Dawe	21 Naomi Byler	22 Prime Timer's to Amish Restaurant, 6pm ***Fr. Conf. Leadership Retreat, Cove Valley Camp, Friday-Sunday***	23
Prayer Time 8:35am 24 Sunday School 9am Worship, 10:15am Lillian Barthlow	25 Jason Barthlow Rosanna Burkholder Mike Chace Moriah Roth	26 Mission & Service Comm mtg	27	28	29 Cindy Weidman	30 CVRC Chicken BBQ & Yard sale
