

December 2017

Hutterthal
Mennonite Church
Freeman, SD

CONNECTION!

Making a CONNECTION with one another

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Plan to join us at 10 am on
Sunday, December 17 for the
Children's Sunday School
Christmas program and brunch.

The program, which will be in
place of the regular worship
service, will be a re-enactment
of the Christmas story with
scripture narration.

Directly following the program we will
gather down stairs for a potluck-style
brunch. Watch for
sign-up sheets as to
what you might be
willing to bring for
the brunch.



Please note: In preparation for the children's
Christmas program, we are looking for grosgrain in
green or Christmas patterns. We are also looking for
scraps of white fabric (only a little needed). If you
have scraps or rolls that you would be willing to
donate, please speak with Rebecca Hofer or Rebekka
Kramer.



FOR UNTO US
a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called
WONDERFUL,
COUNSELLOR,
THE MIGHTY GOD,
The everlasting Father,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isaiah 9:6



Thank you for getting your reports for the Annual Report Book to me in such a timely manner. It was much appreciated. ~ Edie



**2017 HMC MEMBERS CELEBRATING
50 YEARS or MORE of MARRIAGE**

submitted by Twyla Hofer

March 23	Melvin & Emma Hofer	70 years
March 25	Delmer & Shirley Hofer	61 years
June 9	Gordon & Sharon Waltner	54 years
June 16	Marlyn & Maureen Friesen	52 years
June 16	Vernon J. & Norma Hofer	63 years
June 27	Merlin & Sylvia Hofer	56 years
July 8	Vernon P. & Twyla Hofer	55 years
July 16	Derrold & Marilyn Hofer	56 years
August 10	John & Deloris Stahl	65 years
August 18	Norman & Darlene Hofer	60 years
September 14	Amos & Kathryn Kleinsasser	70 years

662 years total for an average of 60.18 years



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HMC Links

Website - <http://hmcfreeman.org>

"Like" Us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

DECEMBER PROJECTS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL MCC PROJECT

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Cash - Hurricane Relief for the families of Amy Hofer Vetch and Rina Hofer who live in Puerto Rico and St. Croix.

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
November 5	91	\$3,109.00
November 12	91	\$26,378.00
November 19	71	\$1,565.00



SPECIAL HURRICNE RELIEF OFFERING FOR THE FAMILIES OF AMY HOFER VETCH & RINA HOFER



One month ago, Hurricane Maria ripped through the islands of Puerto Rico and St. Croix, leaving devastation in its wake. Amy Hofer Vetch and Rina Hofer have family in Puerto Rico and St. Croix, respectively, who have been directly affected by this disaster. We rejoice with them that their family members are safe, but both families are experiencing hardship as a result of the hurricane. They have been without electricity since the time of the storm. Generators provide some electricity, but fuel is needed to power them and it is not always readily available and is expensive when it is available. Water is scarce and must be purchased in bottles. Food is mostly canned, with canned tuna fish the main source of protein. One of Amy's aunts, Luz Neida, requires a daily medication which needs refrigeration. Since there is no electricity, the hunt for ice is on-going. It is unclear how long it will take for power to be restored.

While relief supplies are getting to the ports, getting those same supplies inland (where Rina's and Amy's families live) is difficult to impossible, because of washed out roads. In light of this, the **Deacons and the Project Committee of Congregational Ministries** have decided to stand in support of Amy's and Rina's families by **receiving financial gifts throughout the month of December** to help them with the added costs they are experiencing. **CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO HMC MENNONITE WOMEN** and placed in the MW mailbox or given to Joyce Hofer, Treasurer. This will be the December project for Congregational Ministries.





By

Jerry Kroeker, director of SLCC, brought the message on Oct. 29. He also shared that the Retreat Center is nearing completion. The need for a shutter on the kitchen serving window found him searching on-line only to be led to Roger Hofer, **Norma Hofer's** brother who donated the shutter in appreciation

of the good memories of SLCC. Thank you, Roger!

John & Monica Clem flew to Oregon on Sat., Oct. 21 to visit daughter Sara and Matthew Fiderler. They attended church together on Sun., toured both of their places of employment and meandered their way back to Freeman a week later.

Paul Hofer, Jr. was hospitalized for a week following life threatening internal bleeding conditions that very rarely develop after carotid artery surgery.

Lillie & André Eisenbeis presented an interesting program at the North Church the evening of Nov. 13. They spent their summer in France as part of the WWOOF Program working in exchange for room and board. They worked on farms that used alternative farming methods. Lillie and André hope to be able to use what they learned this summer some time later when they hope to establish a small farming operation of their own.

On Nov. 19, **Jack & Catherina (Cathy) Scandrett** attended worship services at HMC. Jack was introduced as our Transitional Pastor. After serving the past 34 years in Mennonite congregations, they recently moved to Sioux Falls from Ephrata, PA.

SIGNING THE GUESBOOK:

October 29: Jerry Kroeker, Viborg; Kenneth Birkey, Sioux Falls

November 5: Annie & David Ward, Brandon; Ruby Petterson, Brandon

A Year in Tucson

A Foul Experience

Friends and Family, this week our house had the unfortunate experience of learning what rotten eggs smell like when they explode. We had a rogue chicken nest and we were going to figure out what eggs were good or bad by putting them in water. Let's just say we didn't need the egg test. As we were gathering the eggs, we heard a loud POP. The smell followed soon after. The sound of a rotten egg exploding can't be reproduced and neither can the smell that follows it. My housemates Destinee, Mary, and I screamed in unison as we realized the horrors that had been unleashed in the grayish-yellow mess on the ground and in Destinee's hands.

As if we hadn't learned our lesson, we optimistically brought a few back inside. Upon making contact with the sink, these too exploded with three more pops like fireworks made of gaseous death instead of colorful fun. The reek immediately spread throughout our home.

Gagging, screaming, and wailing ensued. We barely had the presence of mind to rinse the offensive substances down the sink and attempt to cleanse our house of the odor. <https://jptschetter20.wixsite.com/blog>

Please keep Jaime in your prayers as her service journey continues!

(Reading with Kindergarten Class)



Lost Sight: How the Protestant Reformation Disrupted the Art and Faith Connection

Submitted by Michelle Hofer

“Faith may, will, and must have its images!” - Martin Luther

For many of the new forming Christian sects some 500 years ago, sacred images were completely wiped from their worship spaces and practices. Now, centuries after Martin Luther struck the match that started the massive revolution we know as the Protestant Reformation, many of those same groups continue to limit or exclude the use of religious imagery and art. In doing so, what has been gained? What has been lost? How does the Protestant Christian of today understand and see the connection between art and faith?

Since Christianity's beginnings, followers of the faith have more often than not chosen to adorn their sacred and private worship spaces with imagery of various kinds. While there were a few specific eras in the Church's story where visual artistic expression was rejected, it was not until the Protestant Reformation that things dramatically changed course. And even 500 years later there is still a cautiousness among Protestants when it comes to visual expressions of faith.

I am writing a series of articles and creating some artwork that seeks to explore the rejection or apprehensions Protestants adhere to, and if possible, break through any fears/misunderstandings that are holding us back from embracing God's desire for visual art's place in our worship spaces and practices.

The series is currently at Week 4. In full 12 weeks we will be covering more of the story surrounding Martin Luther and other reformers and their thoughts on images. I will be taking you back to Christianity's early days, a time when images were prevalent and their presence a tool for teaching and an aid to worship and prayer. I'll walk you through important image concepts and how they set a foundation that even Renaissance artists acknowledged and built on in their work. We'll travel as well to the land of the Celts and explore the visual expressions of faith they developed during early centuries.

I look forward to having you join me for this special adventure!

You can read the articles on my website: www.mlhofer.com

If you would like to receive an emailed or printed copy please let me know. You may contact me at: mlhoferartist@gmail.com



FROM CPMC

November 15

Dear Pastors,

It is with sadness that we report to you that Pastor Alejandro Huesca of Iglesia El Balsamo in Muscatine, Iowa, was deported yesterday to Mexico. He was met by a friend, and he plans to go be with Max Villatoro in Northern Mexico.

Please pray for his family. Alex and Cecilia have three adult daughters: Brenda, Alejandra and Cecilia. In addition, they have two young children at home: Danelly (5) and Alex (2). All the children are American citizens.

A member of their congregation started a [GoFundMe page, and we encourage people to donate](#). Cecilia and the children especially will be in need of help for living expenses; and Alex will have some legal fees. The long-term hope is for an adult daughter to sponsor Alex to return.

Please pray for the Huesca family, and the Max Villatoro family, that God would provide for all their needs; physical and spiritual.

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Requests

WEEK OF DECEMBER 3

Asher and Lindsey Fast, serving through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, are helping to build the after-school program at the Mother Theresa Resource Centre in Botswana. They are also assisting in a local elementary school. Pray for wisdom and energy, and healing for Lindsey's back and neck.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10

Join Mennonite Mission Network in praising God for the recording of the entire New Testament in the Toba-Qom language, and for the 33 readers from eight denominations and 12 communities in the Argentine Chaco who volunteered to make this possible. Pray that God's word will find open hearts when it is aired on the radio.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17

Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture program invites teens and young adults (ages 16-22) to participate in a short-term learning and service experience during the summer of 2018. Pray for open hearts in those whom God is calling to Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Peru or Spain.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 24

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel. May they be embraced by the global family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31

Tonight (Dec. 31) is Watch Night in many African-American communities. At midnight on Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation became law. Though written 154 years ago, that law has not yet been completely fulfilled. Join Mennonite Mission Network in proclaiming and working toward salvation and justice for all people in the coming year.



HARVEST MISSION FESTIVAL - NOVEMBER 12



It all started with the organ prelude by Norma Hofer and her selections of Harvest & Thanksgiving music - "Prayer of Thanksgiving" and "Come, Ye Thankful People". Brandon Waltner, as worship leader, welcomed us and drew us into worship with scripture, personal sharing and prayer. Marj Hofer led us in singing hymns selected for this special occasion.

(more on next page)

HARVEST MISSION FESTIVAL (continued previous page)



Worship continued with Barbie Hofer providing the children's feature. Based on Matthew 5:16 and using a candle to illustrate her story, she shared about her favorite song when she was growing up - *This Little Light of Mine*. A bushel basket made the verse "Hide it under a bushel, no!" come to life.

For worship music, Joline Thomas sang In *Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him* to the tune of *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*. She was accompanied by Charlene Friesen. The worship music was arranged by Alvina Hofer.

Jeff Koller, Regional Operations Coordinator for Mennonite Disaster Service from Moundridge, KS, was our speaker. His wife Becky was with us as well. His sermon topic was "The Good Neighbor". He focused his message on the text from Luke 10:25-37 - the story of the Good Samaritan.

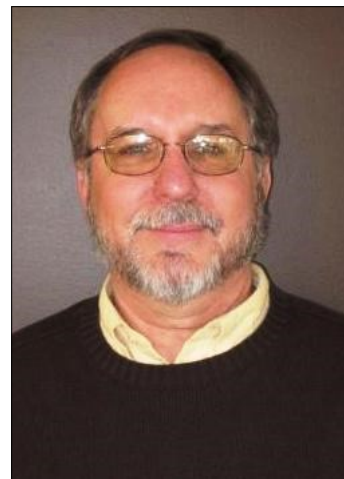


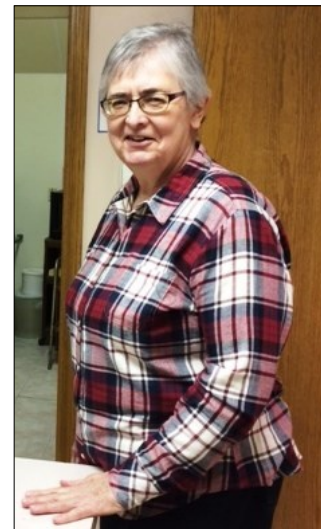
Shalom and Legacy were two key words used throughout the message. Shalom meaning much more than peace - a lifestyle of peace. The Good Samaritan story is a calling to that role—to be a good and true servant, not just for a season - but a lifestyle. He asked, "what legacy is Hutterthal passing on to the next generation?". What are we doing for others. Who among us is a good neighbor? Recipients of our love do have changed lives but we can't be in a hurry to see results. It takes time. He illustrated

this point with several personal stories. We were also reminded that the "harvest" isn't just about results but also the changes it makes in our own lives. In his final comments, he challenged us to continue to focus on service -

- If you are already a good neighbor - keep it up!
- If not - keep attentive to your surroundings and see the possibilities of service around you.

The Sunday School hour was more informal with personal stories from his MDS work and a time for questions.





After the Sunday school hour we moved to fellowship hall where we were greeted with beautiful harvest decorations provided by Monica Hofer and Rina Hofer. We were also greeted with the wonderful aromas of the potluck meal. As always, there was plenty of food. Thank you to Boni Hofer who coordinated the potluck meal.



Finance Update

The Central Plains budget experienced another down month in October, the sixth straight this fiscal year. Income for the month came in at \$22,857.09. Meanwhile, expenses came in slightly less than normal at \$31,958.54. This created a monthly deficit of \$9,101.45 and extends the overall deficit to \$52,386.92. Please consider Central Plains Mennonite Conference in your giving patterns as we enter the last two months of 2017! Thank you for all of your prayerful and monetary support in the past and we look forward to seeing this deficit decrease soon.

—Stewardship Task Group

MCC MEAT CANNING

November 13-14
John Deere building in Freeman



STEP 1: Grinding the meat



STEP 2: Packing the cans



STEP 3: Canning the meat

STEP 4: Wiping the cans



STEP 5: Labeling the cans



STEP 6: Boxing the cans



STEP 7: SNACK TIME!

Sometimes Step 7 came
between each step!



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!!**

140 cans = 1 batch
1 batch X 58 batches = 8,120 cans
1 filled can = slightly over
1.5 pounds

ALL THIS MEAT WILL BRING
SMILES TO MANY FACES

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES MEETING



On Sunday afternoon, Nov.19, Boni Hofer called the meeting to order and led in a brief devotional and prayer.



She thanked Ardella for her many years of service as Treasurer. It was also clarified that the Table Set up Committee is not only responsible for setting up for funerals but also for other church related events. The remainder of the time was spent going through the volunteer list and giving opportunity to fill the positions. A very good response has left the organization with only the following to be filled:

- Piecing or purchasing a quilt top (to be reimbursed for expenses) for the MCC Sale (Monica Hofer will quilt it)
- Library Representative
- Funeral Committee (1 more needed)
- Harvest Mission Festival Food
- 2018 Christmas Food
- 2018 Christmas Decorations
- Church picnic
- Service Committee (1 more needed)

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK



When: Friday, December 15 (snow date: Dec. 18), 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: Senior Citizen Center

This is a fund-raising project to assist the local Food Pantry in it's ministry in providing for the needs in our community. Your willingness to help, by bringing Christmas cookies and/or candies, will make this event a success and express our love & care to the Freeman community!

Please bring your goodies to the Senior Citizen Center on Dec. 15 by 9 a.m.



Have questions? Please contact:
Sherryl Friesen , Barbie Hofer, Edie Tschetter

Thank you for helping!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1) Marcia Schrock
- 2) Avery Waltner
- 3) Debra Kleinsasser
- 7) Brandy Lima
- 8) Joann Stahl
- 8) Darlene Hofer
- 8) Claire Hofer
- 9) Barbie Hofer
- 9) Gordon Waltner
- 9) Maureen Friesen
- 10) Todd Hofer
- 10) Otto Lee Mettler
- 13) Michelle Friesen
- 14) Roberta Julien
- 18) Jason Hofer
- 20) Eric Neuharth
- 21) Joyce Hofer
- 25) Sherryl Friesen
- 27) Moses Glanzer
- 28) Lyndon Hofer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 27) Steve & Charlene Friesen

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- | | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 3 | 9:45am | Worship |
| | 11:10am | Sunday School |
| 4 | 7:00pm | Annual Congregational Mtg. |
| 6 | 12:00pm | Freeman Network for
Justice & Peace (Home of
Gary & Glory Graber) |
| 7 | 7:00pm | Church Board Meeting |
| 10 | 9:45am | Worship |
| | 11:10am | Sunday School |
| 15 | 10:00am | Christmas Cookie Walk
(Sr. Citizen Center) |
| 17 | 10:00am | S.S. Christmas Program
followed by brunch |
| 24 | 9:45am | Worship |
| | 11:10am | Sunday School |
| 31 | 9:45am | Worship |
| | 11:10am | Sunday School |

Twyla's December Tips:

- I like to use my Bounty brand paper towels in many ways. They don't shred and can be wrung out like a cloth. They are good for cleanup of the coffee pot instead of staining nice tea towels. Also good for cleaning up a roaster that might leave stains. Wipe out no stick pans. Good for all grease messes.
- A box without handles cut into it (and reinforced is even better) is as worthless as a screen door in a submarine!