

April 2020

Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another



Calendar of Events

Cancelled:

- April 5-8 Community Lenten Services
April 9 HMC Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 14 Prayer Shawl Ministries
April 14 HMC work night

PENDING Events:

- April 15 7:00pm Church Board Meeting (virtual meeting on internet)
April 26 2:00pm Clara Koerner's Bridal Shower
May 3 noon MCC Relief Sale noon meal fundraiser



April

- 1) Dennis Schrock
- 2) Steven Hofer
- 2) Michelle Hofer
- 5) Ann Marie Reiling
- 6) Clara Koerner
- 8) Edie Tschetter
- 8) Chris Waltner
- 12) Deb Dockter
- 13) Kaliyah Hofer
- 14) Ashton Dockendorf
- 18) Carrol Langeland
- 18) Isaac Mettler
- 18) Larry Timmerman
- 19) Cameron Hofer
- 22) Jenni Garner
- 22) Richard Friesen
- 23) Jonathan Mendel
- 24) Doug McCune
- 26) Bridget Neuharth
- 27) Twyla Hofer
- 29) Mavis Craig
- 30) Joyce Schnabel
- 30) Jessica Mills



April

- 22) Daryl & Deb Dockter
- 8) Lance & Lacey Friesen

April Projects

Congregational Ministries:

SD MCC Sale, Pancake Breakfast

April 14 work night, **(Cancelled)**

Children's S.S.

School Kits



Attendance and Offering for March

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
March. 1	57	\$1,218.00
March. 8	58	\$3,139.00
March 15- 29		no Church held

PROGRAM AT SALEM MENNONITE HOME

Residents of the Salem Mennonite Home welcomed a group from Hutterthal on Thursday, February 20, as they presented a chapel program for them. Marj Hofer and Joyce Hofer sang In The Garden, God Will Take Care of You, and Count Your Blessings, accompanied by Shirley Hofer. Pastor Jack based his devotional on John 15 and encouraged the residents to abide in Christ.



Pastor Jack speaking



Joyce Hofer and Marj Hofer singing with Shirley Hofer as accompanist.



Attending were the Salem Home residents with additional listeners ; AnaBella Lima (daughter of Brandy & Sergio Lima) and Delmer Hofer.



WHAT: Bridal Shower

WHO: Clara Koerner

WHEN: Sunday, April 26, 2:00 PM

WHERE: Hutterthal

Clara and William (Billy) are registered at Bed, Bath, and Beyond and Amazon. If you are interested in contributing to a group gift, please give your contribution to Sharon Waltner.



March 8th Children's time submitted by Rebecca Hofer



thank you

I am grateful for the support I have felt from our CPMC churches. Thank you for your prayers, expressions of support, cards and encouragements given to me with my recent heart surgery. The surgeon was able to put in a new biological mitral valve and do one bypass procedure. I returned home February 25. Home is a good place to be. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for healing and recuperation following surgery. Thank you again and may the Lord bless you and keep you all. from Tim Detweiler

“Radical “

By Davie Platt

Book Review by Joline Thomas

David Platt presents a very thought provoking look at faith in relation to the American dream. So much so, the subtitle of this book is “Taking Back Your Faith From The American Dream”. He asks the question if we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural and societal preferences in order to have a semblance or appearance of faith while maintaining or chasing the American dream and all its trappings. Are we willing to leave behind security, convenience, money and even our families for Him and the gospel the way the disciples did to become “fishers of men”?

Platt’s focus in disciple making is based in his belief that “God has uniquely created every one of his people to impact the world.” He has traveled around the United States and the world teaching, mentoring and sharing the gospel.

This book presents some hard hitting examples and questions of where we see ourselves in relation to our faith and what God has called us to do. Platt presents an experiment challenging readers to test the claims contained in the gospel. The purpose is to see if radical obedience to the commands of God is more fulfilling, meaningful and gratifying than pursuit of the American dream. It is a book that questions, challenges and convicts.

DAKOTA RYAN HOFER

This young man, Dakota Ryan Hofer, has a busy summer ahead of him. He is planning to take a trip to Washington, D.C., Canada, the Black Hills for camping and Lewis and Clark Scout Camp. Before all that happens, he will be finishing the tenth grade at Freeman Public School. His favorite subject is Math and his least favorite class is Music. He has thought about his plans post high school, but isn't certain what area he would like to pursue or what kind of job he would like, but he is interested in computers and possibly writing.



During his spare time, he likes to read and play video games, and hang out with friends from school, mostly his classmates, and Boy Scouts. Dakota shared that his parents, Sam and Christy, have been married for 16 years. He has two sisters; Mercedes is 4 and Arielle is almost 2. He says, "They are very noisy, but respect my space (most of the time)." He also has a dog named Pepper.

Submitted by Brigitta Hofer

Thanks for stitching!

Despite heavy snowstorms in some areas, thousands of people showed up to MCC's Great Winter Warm-up events in January and made more than 9,400 comforters, exceeding the goal of 6,500 comforters. The finished products will become part of more than 50,000 comforters that MCC sends each year to people living in crisis around the world.

"On behalf of people everywhere who will be comforted by this labor of love – thank you!" – Ann Graber Hershberger, MCC U.S. associate executive director.

A word about cancellations

by Dennis Schrock

By now, you are likely weary of the term, COVID-19, and all the news stories surrounding it. I have heard some wonder if cancelling church services is an unnecessary overreaction to sensational news stories.

I am 70 years old and I do not remember a time like this with schools closed, sporting events cancelled, and dire warnings issued regarding “social distancing”.

Health officials and the medical community are trying to tell us that this epidemic is unlike anything we have seen in 100 years. There is no known cure for a COVID-19 infection. The only known treatment is to ventilate the victim and hope that their immune system wins its battle with the disease. We have no vaccine to prevent its spread. The only way to contain it is to prevent it from being passed from person to person. Ideally, we would simply quarantine the sick. Since we cannot know who has the disease until after they are contagious, the only prevention is “social distancing.” That is why gatherings of any significant size are being prohibited throughout the country. COVID-19 is not the flu. It is important that we cooperate with our medical professionals.

Therefore, church leaders in Freeman, after consulting with local doctors have decided to suspend church gatherings indefinitely. Fortunately, thus far, these measures have been successful and our community has escaped the invasion of the disease. However, the battle is not over and we must patiently take precautions to prevent its spread.

In the meantime, it is important that we stay connected, encouraging one another in our faith. Stay in contact with fellow believers through the phone and social media. Pastor Jack has submitted a video message. We have been encouraged to share words of encouragement, scripture texts, prayers, personal thoughts and even a spot of humor through the church bulletin. Such messages should be emailed to Kathy Pullman at the church email; Hutterthal.goldenwest.net for inclusion.

Most of all, PRAY. God has given us access to his throne. God is still the Great Healer. Pour out your heart, your loneliness, your frustration, your fears to Him. Pray for the safety of our community, our nation and our world. Pray for each other, perhaps using the yearbook to pray for each person. If you desire prayer support for your concerns, contact the deacons.

We may be troubled by the swirl of events and the confusion of the news, but we can be anchored by one beautiful fact. Our all-wise, all-knowing, loving God still reigns over heaven and earth.



We were happy to see Daryl and Deb Dockter as recent visitors at Hutterthal. At one point in time they were members of our church and we miss them! I can hardly grasp that it has been 14 years since they moved to Watertown. Deb commented, “ when we come to visit Hutterthal it sure doesn’t seem that long and feels so good to come back to friendly and familiar people.” I wondered at their journey, as well as their children’s, and was aware they are now living in Sioux Falls. I wondered what had originally brought them to Freeman, and had numerous questions. Deb was gracious enough to send me a short write-up detailing some of their journey and I wish to share it with you. Submitted by Brigitta Hofer

Keeping in touch with Deb and Daryl Dockter

While living in Yankton we met a family at our church from Freeman who had children attending Freeman Academy. We were interested in a Christian education for our children so decided to move to Freeman in 1996. Daryl was working for Gehl Company as a cost accountant and Deb worked in the Yankton school system as an occupational therapist. We value our years in Freeman and Hutterthal church. In 2006 Daryl took a job at Terex in Watertown and we finished our careers there. Since both Karoline and Daryn and their families were living in Sioux Falls and Debs mom was ready to move closer to Deb we decided to move to Sioux Falls in 2015. We attend Shalom Christian Reformed Church and Karoline and her family are members there also. She is an actuarial associate for Sammons Financial and Carl owns Heartland Computers. Carson, 12 and Karrie, 10 attend Sioux Falls Christian. Their 4 year old Christian, talks all day long. Deb takes care of him several days a week.

Daryn works for EROS as a biologist and he and Candace, who is originally from Marion have 3 children. Lydia is 7, Solomon is 4 and Ezra is 1. The two oldest come over to grandma's house for a few hours every Sunday afternoon. Candace is a busy stay at home mom and is doing home schooling.

(cont. on next page)

Nathan our older son lives in Pella, IA which is a quaint Dutch town. Nathan works as a design engineer for Vermeer. Sarah is a nurse and they also have 3 children. Emily is 6 and Jon 4 and they are going to Spanish immersion classes in Pella Christian school. Brielle is 2 and the darling of the family. We enjoy trips to Pella to visit them and this year plan to go during Tulip Time in May.

Daryl has been traveling quite regularly to Ashley ND near Aberdeen to care for his elderly parents who recently moved from their home. He also is a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society and visits an M2 friend at the prison.

We went to Natchez, Mississippi last year to get a flavor of the south and also to Kearney NE to see the sandhill crane migration. We would like to do both trips again.

Pictured l to r; Kathy Pullman, Alvina Hofer, Suzanne Koerner, Amy Hofer Vetch, and Pastor Jack Scandrett



HMC MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee assists the Sunday worship by scheduling a weekly accompanist, selecting hymns, and scheduling families to provide special music for 3 out of 4 Sundays. Additional duties are sending reminders to those who have special music and maintaining the organ and pianos in church. The Music Committee also celebrate our accompanists with a Recognition Sunday. Submitted by Amy Hofer Vetch





V.P.H.

Hutterthal has been blessed with two Vernon Hofer's. To avoid confusion, many of us usually refer to these two gentlemen with their middle initial as well. Some of you will recognize that the letter P in this particular set of initials stands for Paul. Vernon Paul Hofer was born to Paul Matt and LaVina (Wollmann) Hofer on a farm near Dolton, SD, and he celebrated his 85th birthday on March 4. He has one sibling, sister Genevieve, who is married to Joe Danny Hofer (brother to our Paul Hofer Jr.). He grew up on a

farm 8 miles west, 1 ½ miles north, of Freeman. As a youngster, the farms location enabled him to go fishing in the nearby Jim River when he wasn't busy helping with farm work or playing softball.

He attended grade school at Mutchelknaus, #68, and graduated from Freeman Public School in 1953. Some of his classmates were John Holzworth, Michael, Jerry, and James Mendel, Joel Hofer, and Sarah Mendel (Mrs. Leroy Hofer), grandmother of our Cameron, Cole, and Ian Hofer. He attended Freeman Junior College, earning a one- year teaching certificate. He later returned to FJC, and obtained a two-year teaching certificate. He taught school for a total of five terms, teaching the 7th grade class at Freeman Public, and also in area country schools around Freeman. In 1957 he was at Fort Leonard Wood, MO for six months while he did his National Guard Basic training, followed by 5 ½ years active duty, with weekly meetings in Parkston, SD. He served with the 137th Engineer Company as a Supply Sergeant.

Vernon was a busy farmer, and in addition, in 1968, he and his brother-in-law established Rural Manufacturing, home of quality livestock and farm equipment. The first location of Rural Manufacturing was on the farm, and Vernon was kept busy providing services and employment for Freeman and the surrounding areas. (cont. on next page)

The business relocated to Freeman at a later date. He is now retired, and collects precision farming toys, tractors etc., of any color! He is also restoring antiques from Twyla's dad's collection of 30 years ago. No, Twyla, I haven't forgotten what an important part of Vernon's life you are, in case you are wondering! Vernon married an East Freeman Schweitzer (his words, not mine), Twyla Preheim, on July 8, 1962. Getting back to Vernon's hobby, he enjoys restoring antique cast iron toys, especially toy farm implements. He also has cleaned countless other items that his dad-in-law collected: food and tobacco tins, advertising pens and pencils, shaving mugs, advertising gifts, postcards etc., and hand-outs of all kinds. He finds advertising items from the local area to be the most interesting, often remembering people and stories related to the business. Vernon has always attended Hutterthal and Twyla joined him after their marriage. He served as a Sunday School teacher, trustee, and still serves on the History and Archives committee. Family vacations over the years have been highlights in Vernon's life, as well as two heritage trips to Europe, one a Hutterite tour and the other a Swiss tour. I would imagine that if you marry an east Freeman Schweitzer, it's only fair that you take a Swiss tour as well.

Vernon and Twyla's oldest child, Monica, married Doug Friesen in 1984. Doug passed away in 1998, and on July 8, 2006, Monica, office manager for Central Plains Mennonite Conference and Accounts Payable Manager for Rural Mfg. Co. Inc., married John Clem, a planner with Planning and Development, District III, in Yankton. Vernon and Twyla's son, Ryan Reid, was still-born on May 5, 1969. Their son, Colin, who was born on their 9th anniversary, is president of Rural Mfg, and married Michelle Langeland on July 17, 1992. Michelle is a Visual Artist, and also Webmaster at Rural Mfg. They live on the farm west of Freeman where Vernon grew up. Vernon and Twyla had their retirement home built in Freeman and moved there in 1997. Vernon and Twyla's son Ross is a licensed architect living in Bozeman, MT. Their grandchildren are Kate, Richard, and Sara Friesen. Kate and Richard live in Sioux Falls. Kate is a Cupcake Ninja at Oh My Cupcakes and accepts speaking engagements at churches around Sioux Falls. Richard is a Network Security Engineer at First Natl. Bank in downtown Sioux Falls. Cont. on next page

Sara is married to Matt Fideler and they live in Springfield, OR. Matt is a sales associate for Sheppard Motors in their VW division, and Sara works for Marathon Coach in their advertising and branding department. Their other grandchildren are Madeline (11th grade) and Claire Hofer (7th grade), and they attend Freeman Public.

When I ask Vernon if he was doing anything special for his birthday he said, “Nope,” but I bet if we ask him now, he will have a different answer, as I’m sure his family didn’t let his 85th slip by unnoticed! Vernon, we have certainly admired your honesty, hard work ethic, and integrity that you have demonstrated to Hutterthal and the community!!

Submitted by Brigitta Hofer

Notes from Mennonite USA

Interested in partnering with others who care about restorative justice? Join an MVS unit in places like Chicago; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; and Alamosa. Age: 20+; term: 1–2 years. Learn more at www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

You can’t solve world hunger by yourself, but you can help! Join Fraser Valley Gleaners in Abbotsford, B.C., to process and dry local vegetables and make a dried soup mix for distribution to the hungry people in developing countries around the world. Age: 25+; flexible term length. Learn more at www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

Connection!: Published since April 2000

Connection! Editor & Publisher: Kathy Pullman

Advisory Board: Chair- Suzanne Koerner, Brigitta Hofer and Marcia Schrock

HMC Links

Website - <http://hmcfreeman.org> “Like” Us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

****Submissions are due by the 3rd Friday of the month.** Thank you.**