

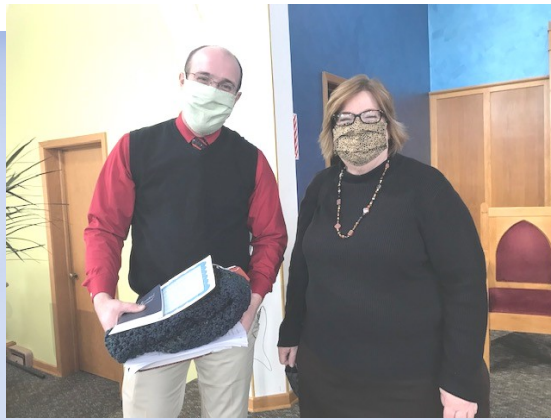
February 2021

Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another

Pastoral 
Installation



Pictured above with Pastor Randall is Susan Janzen, Central Plains Conference Minister, who came to assist in formally installing Pastor Randall as HMC full time Pastor.

The Pastoral
Installation
Celebration of
Pastor Randall Koehler
January 17, 2021



A Prayer shawl was given to Pastor Randall by HMC Church Chairman, Eide Tschetter.



Rural Insights

Reflections from Pastor Randall

Discerning the Harvest

Benson, IL is similar to Freeman, SD. Farm ground had been carved into big mile by mile squares with random fence posts marking property lines. What marked one person's land from another in my lifetime was if they planted the opposite crop to their neighbor (meaning one planted corn and the other planted soybeans) or if one of the neighboring farmers did not use auto-guidance to outline his or her field (meaning one set of rows on the property line would be perfectly straight while the neighbors' rows would weave and bob in and out of the property line because the neighbor had planted by hand so to speak).

In the past, barbed wire fences marked off land with different owners, but most of the farmers around me growing up had gotten out of cattle at pasture and put them in a lot on the home place if they still had cattle. Almost all of the local farmers around my hometown are strictly grain or crop farmers now, but they have no problem telling stories of the years back in the day when they had plenty to do tending to their cattle, hogs, or chickens and farming the family ground. Farming has changed a lot just in my lifetime, even more in my Dad's lifetime, and some might say drastically for my grandparents' generation. With this change comes the challenge of embracing what is life-giving and fruitful and allowing the rest of "progress" to wither out and die.

I hope you are not reading this, thinking that I am saying that we need to toss out the old and bring in the new and "exciting." As a younger person in the church, I look to those in our Hutterthal Community to speak their wisdom and discernment openly because my short time has looked so different and yet might be quite similar to the experiences of those who have gone before me. The decisions that we are making as young people are not new, nor are they unknown to our elders. We must trust that we are all in this together, and as we listen to each other, God will help us to discern how we take into account the present and the past and, then, walk boldly into the future joining God in her Kingdom work.

Child Dedication



January 17, 2021
Child Dedication of
Vivienne Lee Koehler
Daughter of
Pastor Randall and Morgan
Koehler



Pictured with Morgan and Vivienne are
Morgan's parents, Roger and Brenda
Nenne from Benson, IL



MY LIFE UP TO 85

Delmer Hofer

I was born on a farm located two miles north of the Hutterthal Mennonite Church. My parents were Joseph L. and Anna (Kleinsasser) Hofer. My parents informed me on that special day it was very cold and we had a lot of snow blocking the road by the church. My dad drove a team of horses and a wagon to meet the doctor at the church and brought him to our home to deliver me. Greeting my arrival were my older siblings, Deloris and Harvey. Three years later another sister, Arlyss, was born into our family.

Growing up Christmas was always an exciting family time. We would tell our parents things we wanted for Christmas and hoped that was what they would give to us. We usually opened our presents Christmas day morning. It was the Santa Claus thing! Celebrating birthdays was not that important in our family. No presents but maybe a birthday cake, if we

were lucky.

The first eight years of my formal education began at a rural school located one mile north of our farm. After that I graduated from Freeman Academy and earned a teaching degree from the University of Sioux Falls. I completed my professional preparation with a Doctorate in school administration at the University of South Dakota.

I was an educator for 40 years, teaching elementary, junior and senior high school, undergraduate and graduate classes including science, math, social studies and art. The last 20 years I was a public-school superintendent until my retirement in 1998.

I completed catechism, was baptized and became a member at Hutterthal. I recall that it was a group of around 15 individuals. This experience helped form some of my religious beliefs.

In 1955 I was of draft age and needed to make a decision about becoming part of the military or being a conscientious objector. My strong beliefs in the life and teachings of Jesus, which opposed killing were instrumental in my decision. I served in the surgery department at Lincoln General Hospital, Lincoln, NE for two years as alternative service to the military. It was during this time that my high school sweetheart, Shirley Preheim, and I were married. We have two children and five grandchildren.

(Cont. on next page)

Shirley and I have enjoyed our 22 years in retirement. Being a part of and helping to coordinate four heritage tours to Europe has been a highlight. Spending two weeks in Hong Kong and China helped us to understand other cultures better.

My involvement in the Lions organization for almost 40 years on the local, state and international level has given me many opportunities to help others. Reading, giving Hutterite colony tours, researching my genealogy and visiting with others have been important to me.

Because of our religious faith, some of the highlights Shirley and I participated in were spending a summer in voluntary service in Gulfport, MS working in a black community, helping to refurbish housing on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, providing inter-racial opportunities for young people, and serving the church and conference in numerous positions.

Following the teachings and the life of Jesus is very important to me. The Sermon on the Mount is especially meaningful. Through the years I've come to appreciate the theological insights I received from my parents, Hutterthal and the Mennonite Church Conference.

Note from Brigitta: When I initially approached Delmer about doing a spotlight featuring him for his 85th birthday, he was willing, but thought maybe the March 2020 issue of the Connection that featured him and Shirley celebrating their anniversary covered the questions I might ask, but that was not the case. I still had questions to ask and probably could have asked more! He made his spotlight very easy for me because he not only answered the questions but compiled the information and wrote it himself. I like the title he gave it – My Life Up To 85. This is an indication to me that he plans to be around for a while, and still has interests he wishes to pursue. He has been a busy fellow over the years and I appreciate his openness at sharing his faith and how it has been such an integral part of their lives. Thank you, Delmer, and I look forward to the day when you and Shirley will be able to attend services again in person.



**The Marriage of
Lori Rensink and Kyle Weiss
Submitted by Suzanne Koerner**

Lori Rensink (daughter of Les and Mary Rensink) was married to Kyle Weiss on October 24, 2020, at the Blue Haven Barn in Sioux Falls. It was a snowy day in the middle of the COVID pandemic, so fewer guests were able to attend than planned for. “Despite the snow and pandemic and having to move our ceremony inside, we truly had a wonderful day,” said Lori.

Lori’s attendants included three friends, Kyle’s sister, Mikayla Weiss, and Lori’s two sisters, Sarah Waltner and Rachel Simington. Kyle had his brother Kody stand up for him as best man. Other groomsmen included Lori’s brother, Luke Rensink, and four other friends. Sara (Friesen) Fiddler was Lori’s personal attendant.

It was a busy year for Lori. She graduated from law school, passed the bar, started a new job working at a law firm in Sioux Falls practicing estate planning, and got married! Kyle is working full time at a pharmacy in Sioux Falls as well as part time at HyVee’s pharmacy. He has also started working part time at the CVS COVID Shot Clinic. He has been traveling to local nursing homes and likes doing what he can to help. “Kyle’s grandma passed away from a COVID outbreak in her nursing home a few days before our wedding,” Lori said, “so it is work near to his heart.”

Lori said that, all things considered, they are doing well. They are grateful to have their jobs and their health. “Life has slowed down a bit and it is nice to enjoy being married.”

We wish Kyle and Lori many wonderful years together!





**Pastor Randall Koehler
a closer look**

Part 1—The Early Years

submitted by Suzanne Koerner

“I like to talk.” Those were the first words of Pastor Randall’s sermon following his recent installation and licensing on January 20, as a newly minted pastor at Hutterthal Mennonite Church. Randall’s message centered

on listening well, following the text in 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Randall was born to Randy and Louise (Lucy) Hodel Koehler, 4th in a line-up of 5 sons in a span of ten years. Twin brothers Ryan and Rick are the oldest, followed by Rob, Randall, and Reuben. His childhood days were spent on the Koehler family farm, doing the usual farm kid activities such as walking beans, mowing lawns, cleaning up yards, and helping his mom and grandma with the garden, canning, and freezing of vegetables. He also was able to play recreational league basketball and baseball. Randall and his brothers were homeschooled much of their elementary years, learning from their mother and a very conservative Christian curriculum.

Randall’s mother, Lucy, grew up in the Apostolic Christian Church. There is a large settlement near their hometown of Benson, IL. The AC Church comes from the Anabaptist tradition with a Reformed bent, and seeks to interpret the Bible literally. Randall explained that to join the AC church, one must go through several weeks of repenting, which culminates in baptism. Randall’s father, Randy, who was Baptist, joined in this manner before he was able to marry Lucy. Women in the AC church wear dresses and head coverings, and most become stay-at-home moms when children are born. Marriage is handled through elders, as men are required to seek an elder to ask for a girl’s permission to marry.

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Randall's parents both took pride in being hard workers, which has become a way of life and part of the DNA in the Koehler family. "In the first ten years of my parents' marriage, my father was never home," Randall recalled. Randy owned a trucking company, and he worked long hours. "Dad hauled corn all day and worked on trucks at night. The only way my mom or older brothers could spend time with him was if they hopped in the truck and rode along." Randy sold the trucking company in 1990, just before Randall was born. He used the money to buy equipment and other assets from his father, eventually coming to own the 80 acres that surrounds his parents' farmstead. By the time Randall and Reuben were young boys, the family was able to spend more time with Randy. He was now taking time off on Sundays, and there were many opportunities to ride along with him on the machinery. Along with farming around 2500-3000 acres, he did custom farm jobs such as spreading fertilizer and trucking. Meaningful conversations were had with both parents primarily through working together.

Six years into their marriage, Lucy had a conversion—a salvation experience. She came to know Jesus personally at this time in her life. The family left the AC church and joined the Eureka Bible church, an Evangelical Mennonite Church just south of Eureka, IL. She enjoyed a newfound faith where church felt less legalistic and she was allowed to think independently. As a family, the Koehlers would often play music in church. "Dad sang, Mom was on the keyboard, and all of us brothers sang parts," Randall fondly recalled.

When Randall was in sixth grade, the Koehlers left the EBC and started attending the Assemblies of God (AG) church (the largest denomination of the Pentecostal churches) in Bloomington-Normal upon a spiritual awakening of Lucy. The Eureka Bible Church was providing little joy or passion to her or her family, and the leadership there did little to offer a vision for the future. "Mom loved new ideas, and being involved in Bible Studies. She has always loved learning new things," Randall said of his mother, who greatly values meaningful one-on-one conversations. This was around the time that faith was taking on new meanings to Randall as well. Because they were between churches for a time, Randall asked his uncle if he would baptize him. On a random Sunday afternoon during the chilliness of autumn, he was baptized in an outdoor hot tub while his family watched from the warmth of the house. "It felt like the starting point of a faith journey that has been through a lot and prepared me for a lot," Randall said. "Something had changed developmentally for me in that period of my life. My baptism started a journey of growth and formation that I did not realize until much later. The Holy Spirit worked in and through me, leading me toward Jesus and a community in which I could flourish."

Hymn of the month

Submitted by Suzanne Koerner

Hymns help us praise God. They enable us to pray, sometimes when we are too weary or worried for words. They encourage us, permeating our souls with scripture. They preach. Hymns also connect us with past generations. During 2021, the *Connection!* will be featuring a hymn each month, chosen by a church member. We will print the words and reveal why they are special to each individual, or how they have impacted their life. We will endeavor to listen to/sing the hymn at a church service during the month.

This month's hymn was chosen by Rosella Glanzer. She chose *What a Day That Will Be*. Rosella said, "It talks about seeing Jesus, a day that I look forward to. And what a day that will be!"

(1) There is coming a day
When no heartache shall come
No more clouds in the sky
No more tears to dim the eye
All is peace forever more
On that happy golden shore
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Chorus:

What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see
And I look upon His face
The One who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the Promised
Land
What a day, glorious day that will be

(2) There'll be no sorrow there
No more burdens to bear
No more sickness, no pain
No more parting over there
And forever I will be
With the One who died for me
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Chorus:

What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see
And I look upon His face
The One who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the Promised
Land
What a day, glorious day that will be

This hymn was written by gospel singer and songwriter, Jim Hill, in 1955. He related that his mother-in-law became very sick. He was a new Christian at the time. One day when he was coming home from work, he asked God why this was happening to his mother-in-law. Words started filling his mind, but he did not have anything to write them down. When he got home, he got out of the car, looked down and saw an old piece of cardboard. He picked it up and wrote the words to "What a Day That Will Be." The first person that Jim Hill sang the song for was his sick mother-in-law. Since then the song has become an anthem of encouragement for many people.

QUICKIE QUIZZES
FROM THE BIBLE



ALPHABET QUIZ – Letter “A”

- Who was the brother of Moses? – Exodus 4:14
Who was killed by Cain? – Genesis 4:8
Who was Isaac’s father? - Genesis 21:3
What king was known as the most wicked of the kings of Israel? – 1 Kings 16:29

ALPHABET QUIZ – Letter “B”


- Who was Paul’s first missionary companion? - Acts 13:2-4
Who was the apostle whose name started with “B”? - Matthew 10:3
Who was Joseph’s youngest brother? - Genesis 35:18
Who was the mother of Solomon? - 1 Kings 1:11

Wednesday- Saturday
7-11 am; 1-3 pm

Pastor Randall’s
HMC Office

My two days off will be Monday and Tuesday. People are welcome to call, email, text me as well to set up an alternate appointment or just drop in to my office anytime during my office hours. I do ask that visitors please wear a mask if they come to visit.

Thank you Pastor Randall





Dear Hutterthal friends, Thank you all so very much for remembering our sweet Jennifer with your Christmas gift. We are very grateful for God’s protection, love and safety during these troublesome times; as well as the love and prayers from you! Hope to see many of you in summer.

Love, Bob and Deb Kleinsasser

Thanks to the HMC Congregational Ministries for the gift in Mom’s Memory!
The Emma Hofer family

HMC 2021 Yearbook additions/corrections.:



p. 10 Education Committee-2021. Kylea Waltner is Assistant Children’s S.S. Supt.

p. 23 Please add Jesse as child born to Andre and Lillie Eisenbeis

p. 28 Derrold Hofer email: hofderma@hotmail.com



LAVONNE TSCHETTER

submitted by Brigitta Hofer

An adventuresome, fun-loving lady has a special birthday this month. I am talking about none other than LaVonne Sadie Tschetter. There is no question in my mind that LaVonne has always been a hard worker – a go-getter! She grew up on a farm north of her home church, Neu Hutterthaler Mennonite Church. Her parents were Ed K. and Sadie Hofer. She was the third daughter in the family, preceded by Violet (Engbrecht) and Esther (Potter- her one remaining sibling who resides in the Diamond Care Center in Bridgewater), and then followed Nancy, and a brother Vernon, who passed away at the age of 14. He was born with a leakage in his heart and had spinal meningitis. Brother-in-law Ben Engbrecht resides at Trail Ridge Care Center in Sioux Falls. The grade school she attended was Wolf Creek District 101, and she had one classmate, Aaron Walter. To this day she regrets that her parents did not allow her to attend high school, as they said they needed her to help on the farm. Feeding the hogs and chickens were part of her chores. She also worked at Ben's Gateway Market in Bridgewater, where she had numerous duties. Playing baseball was a favorite childhood activity.

Lavonne and her future husband, Melvin Tschetter, grew up in the same church. When Melvin returned from two years of military service in Korea, he and LaVonne were married on Good Friday in 1957. Three days after they were married, they started milking cows, which they did for over 50 years. LaVonne was blessed with other farm work as well, including working the fields! In addition to farm work, LaVonne held various jobs over the years. She was employed at Pollman's Hardware Store (I remember Pollman's, LaVonne, not to be confused with Pullman's Corner), and she was a waitress at Al's Café and the Silver Star Diner. She was the baker at Freeman Public School for around 7 years. She said she would make chocolate chip, sugar, and M & M cookies, from scratch, 750 at a time! At that time the food prepared at the High School was delivered to the Grade School for meal time and LaVonne assisted with that and then washed the dishes upon their return. She sold AVON products for over 40 years.

(cont. on next page)

Melvin and LaVonne had three children, Melva Jean (Stillborn), Darnell and Darla. Of course, we all know Darnell, as he and his wife Lori also attend Hutterthal. Dustin (Kim) Tschetter and Kylea (Brandon)Waltner bestowed the title of Grandma upon LaVonne, and the title of Great Grandma is the result of Riley, Easton, Aubree, and Gunnar Tschetter, and Isabel, Addison, Ethan, and Avery Waltner. A very sad time in the life of Melvin and LaVonne was when their daughter, Darla La Jean, died on November 19,1997, a week before Thanksgiving, at the age of 35.

One of LaVonne's loves is MUSIC! She loves to sing and credits her Mom for teaching her, although in her early years she was bashful about singing in front of others. Grandpa and Grandma lived over the hill from them and her Mom would insist that she sing for them when they visited together. One of her favorite songs to sing for them was Sitting at the Feet of Jesus (where I learned to kneel and pray). Around the age of 10 she sang in a trio with neighbors Jeanette Hofer and Madelyn Glanzer, and LaVonne was the oldest in the trio! They sang in many, many churches, a PTA meeting, and also traveled to Huron, SD to sing for the German Radio Broadcast. This was a new challenge for LaVonne, as her Mom had to teach her how to sing in the German language. It's no surprise she mastered it. When a new pastor came to their church, his daughter, Ruth Ewert, joined their group and the quartet became known as the Gospel Heralds. Over the years she has sung in church with Carol Tschetter, Joyce Hofer, Marj Hofer, Mildred Hofer, and Brandon and Kylea. She has many favorite songs, two of them being All Because of God's Amazing Grace and I'm Free. Her love of music ties in very well with another love of hers – TRAVELING! She has gone to many gospel concerts, one of her favorite's being the Gospel Sing in Floyd, Iowa. There was usually a group of four ladies that attended this gospel sing, and LaVonne said they would leave early in the morning, as the concert was two days long, from 10 AM in the morning until 10 PM at night, and was held regardless of the weather. One year when she was the driver, she had to drive in pouring rain and could barely see! She has gone on many bus tours to Branson, MO, traveled most of the eastern states, but not South or North Carolina, and went on the German Heritage tour to Europe. Her traveling mate, Lorraine (Mrs. Joe K.) Hofer, had a car accident shortly before they were to leave, and so she was without a traveling mate, but did know other local persons on the tour. LaVonne was on the kitchen committee for a number of years at Hutterthal. I always appreciated how LaVonne and her whole family volunteered to serve the goodies and drinks to us at our annual Family Christmas at church on the first Sunday of December.

(Cont. on next page)

Melvin and LaVonne moved into Freeman in April of 1998 and Darnell moved to the farm where they had lived. Melvin passed away in 2008. LaVonne stated she has had a lot of sadness in her life, losing two daughters and her husband, as well as other close friends and relatives. Both she and Melvin had numerous surgeries and health issues, and “It is only through the relationship Melvin and I had with our Lord, and His grace that I was able to endure the pain and move on. He has been #1 in my life since I became a Christian at an early age,” shared LaVonne.

She moved into the Salem Mennonite Home in July of 2020. She brought her flare of decorating with her. She had a beautifully decorated tree in her room for Christmas and even helped with the decorating at the Salem Home for the Christmas season. She loves to decorate her room for the seasons, making her room inviting to all visitors and guests. Like many of us, LaVonne has not enjoyed the COVID-19 pandemic. The residents were on lock-down in their rooms for approximately three weeks, and LaVonne is a social person who likes to move about and visit. Have a joyful and blessed time as you celebrate your 85th birthday on February 13th, LaVonne.



Elvera Deckert
also has a special birthday this month.
Watch next month's edition for a feature about her.

*Happy 50th
Anniversary*

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Carrol and Glenda Langeland as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on February 21st. Blessings to you.





Congregational Ministries February Project: Infant Care Kits Cash or kit items

Help mothers give their infants a good start. These kits are given to families displaced by war or disaster and are used in a number of other settings to help support mothers who lack the supplies they need for a new baby.

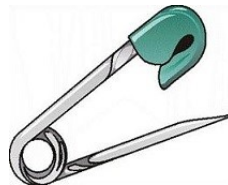
5,286 infant care kits shipped last year to Ukraine, Jordan, Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea), South Sudan, and the U.S.

(NEW items only, size 3-12 months)



- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)
- 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

PLEASE NOTE: Sharon Waltner is willing to purchase items for these kits. If you are interested, please contact her. Cost is \$25/kit.



Congregational Ministries December project: Don and Sonja Waltner raised \$3,215.00



2021 CONNECTION
BOARD

left to right, Suzanne
Koerner, Kathy Pullman,
Marcia Schrock
and Brigitta Hofer

Warm greetings to the readers of our church newsletter, the CONNECTION! We hope you have been reading and enjoying what we have been compiling for you. Kathy is our editor-in-chief, and Marcia, Suzanne, and I are her reporters.

It is a New Year, and we will be adding some new items to the newsletter. We will be featuring a Hymn of the Month, as well as a Quickie Quiz to challenge you. We would appreciate your feedback as to whether or not you like these new additions.

If we miss an important date or milestone in your life, please don't be offended. It is not intentional. Just kindly let us know and we will take care of it. We appreciate suggestions. Thank you. Brigitta Hofer

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
Jan. 3	55	\$2,598.00
Jan. 10	61	\$1,759.00
Jan. 17	71	\$2,411.00
Jan. 24	58	\$1,496.00



My name is
Bridget Priscilla Neuharth.

In the
Spotlight
Bridget Neuharth

I am 6 years old and in Kindergarten at the Freeman Public School. My parents are Eric and Michelle Neuharth and I have a brother named Landon who will be 3 soon. My Grandpa Paul and Grandma Priscilla live in Freeman and Grandpa Dale and Grandma Deb live within a 1 mile of our home. At school, I like recess when I get to play with my friends along with math and drawing/coloring.

At home, especially on the weekends, I enjoy going with my dad to the farm for chores in the morning and in the evening. I like to play with barbies at both grandparents' house. I love to color, draw and paint and would like to be a designer when I grow up.



Memorials For 2020



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” (Matthew 5:4, NIV)

We have had close friends and loved ones who have left us this past year, including members of Hutterthal. We miss them and still love them. It is good to take some time in quietness to remember these important people in our lives. We as Christians know that some day we will be reunited with them again.

Melvin L. Hofer died on March 4, 2020, at the age of 96

Dennis Schrock died on August 30, 2020 at the age of 71

Marilyn Hofer died on December 18, 2020 at the age of 80



Birthdays

- 1) Rebekah McCune
- 3) Glenda Langeland
- 5) Ian Hofer
- 7) Delmer Hofer
- 8) Mark Glanzer
- 12) Jada Koerner
- 12) Don Hofer
- 13) ElVera Deckert

- 13) LaVonne Tschetter
- 20) Sylvia Hofer
- 24) Lane McCune
- 24) Rebecca Hofer
- 25) Steven Rensink
- 25) Jessica Hofer
- 25) Nanette Hofer
- 26) Connie Hofer
- 27) Amanda Mettler

Anniversaries

- 7) Joyce and Steven Schnabel
- 21) Carrol & Glenda Langeland



WHY CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS?

A BIRTHDAY IS A TIME TO CELEBRATE BIRTH ITSELF – It is an expression of thanks to God for being born and still being alive. It is also an occasion to rethink your life. It is a great time to reflect on your past, evaluate your present, and make plans for your future. It is a time when your past intersects with your present and future.

Connection!: Published since April 2000

Connection! Editor & Publisher: Kathy Pullman

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

HMC Links

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

****Submissions are due by the last Wednesday of the month.** Thank you.**