

May 2021

Hutterthal  
Mennonite  
Church

*Connection!*

Making a CONNECTION with one another

—HAPPY—  
MOTHER'S  
*Day*



*Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise.*

PROVERBS 31:31 (NIV)



# Rural Insights

Reflections from Pastor Randall

## An Invitation to Boundaries

On the last Saturday in March, I participated in a mandatory training for seminary and for Central Plains Mennonite Conference called Healthy Boundaries 101. The full-day training was a short course on helping pastors create good boundaries to protect their time with family, friends, work, and hobbies. In addition, the course offered some guidance and insight on maintaining healthy relationships and avoiding unhealthy ones.

I choose this particular season to share some of my thoughts from this training because our lives have changed with the pandemic. Most normal activities are not up-and-running, calling us to participate and invest our available moments quite yet, so I invite you to think deeply about what you are going to commit to as you make your way out of the pandemic-framed world into a world that looks more like the pre-pandemic world.

My first piece of advice is a little two-letter word that I struggle to use on a regular basis, except with my 17-month-old daughter. That word is “no.” I invite you in this transition time as activities start coming online again to reacquaint yourself with this simple, yet valuable and needed term. Use it early and often, or at least use its not so direct and less challenging cousin, “maybe, can I get back to you after I consider this opportunity for a few days.” Our temptation is to jump right back into the hamster-wheel of busyness and doing because that is how we had always done it until the pandemic came.

Second, consider what is most important and life-giving for you. What has your time of slowing down and lack of available activities taught you in the last 14 months? What are those most valuable ideas and activities that are most affirming to your gifts, talents, and calling?

Continued on next page)

Are some of the things that took your time before the pandemic not needed anymore or at least needed to be retired because their season is over, they have bore their fruit, and now something else might need to be planted in their place? I do not have anything specific in mind as I write this, but I know that I will need to practice saying “no” too. Maybe you will be saying “no” to me when I ask, which I welcome.

Finally, I also invite you in this new, soon-to-be post-covid season to consider taking some time for yourself, whether it be a retreat, vacation, or an extra hour of sleep. Think practically about what you need to maintain the boundaries that you begin to create so that you do not find yourself running and running and running, unable to find or cross the finish line because you are not sure where it is or even where you’re running to.



## BIBLE QUIZ

From Brigitta Hofer

### QUICKIE QUIZZES FROM THE BIBLE

#### FOODS OF THE BIBLE

1. Name two kinds of the food in Egypt for which the Israelites longed when they were in the wilderness. Numbers 11:5
2. As newborn babes, young Christians are to desire the sincere \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible. 1 Peter 2:2
3. David the Psalmist prayed that he might be kept as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the eye of God. Psalm 17:8
4. Palestine is often referred to as a land flowing with milk and \_\_\_\_\_ . Exodus 3:8
5. What was one of the three fruits the spies brought back from Canaan? Numbers 13: 23
6. Andrew brought a little boy to Jesus who had five loaves. Of what were they made? John 6:9
7. What was it that Isaac desired his son Esau to prepare for him? Genesis 27:1-3

## Palm Sunday, March 28th

Brigitta Hofer led the Children's Time  
She spoke of the humbleness of Jesus as he rode into  
Jerusalem on a donkey. Blindfolded, children tried  
their luck at pinning a tail on a donkey.



## Easter Sunday, April 4th



Brandon and Kylea Waltner explained the Easter Story using 12 eggs that held symbols of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Each family of the children at the story received 12 eggs with symbols and candy treats to take home





## **Sunday, April 18** submitted by Brigitta Hofer

On Sunday, April 18, Pastor Randall offered an agricultural blessing and prayer of protection over the upcoming crop season. The bags of seed at the front of the sanctuary and the tractor, provided by LeRoy Pullman, were representative of this time of year and play a major role in our local agricultural economy.

God, you have created us in your image and further dignify us by making us coworkers with you in caring for your creation. We bring to you in prayer this day the farmers and gardeners you have entrusted to our community. We also bring before you the agronomists and equipment operators, the mechanics and sales people, the truck drivers and technology support personnel that help our present agribusiness economy move forward into this spring season. We thank you that you know each person by name and that you are calling each one of them into a deep relationship with you, a relationship that seeks to do right to your creation, our neighbors, to you, and to ourselves. We ask that you watch over them. Grant that their work may serve them today and their children tomorrow. Give them a just return for their labor, and help them to be fair and compassionate to all. Let the rhythm of your creation teach them your divine wisdom. May your love make sacred their lives and their work. O God, we ask you to send your Spirit. Guide and direct them in the ways of your holy creation. Amen



### **Graduating 2021**

**April Hofer Birkey** May 14 pinning and May 15 Graduation from Mount Marty University, Yankton, SD, with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**Jaden Thomas** May 14th from Lake Area Technical College, Watertown, SD, with a degree in Precision Agriculture.

\*\*Watch for pictures & information on future plans are in the June issue of the Connection.



## **Norma Lee Hofer**

I was born on May 7, 1936, to Edward A. and Barbara Hofer at my grandfather's farm. My mother says my Aunt Mary suggested naming me after an author, Norma Lee Browning. When I was 3 months old, they started a new farm across the road. Later I was joined by my brothers, Richard and Roger, and sister Elaine. My brothers and their wives both live in Hillsboro, Kansas, and my sister, Mrs. Jerry Glanzer, lives near Bridgewater. I attended Silver Lake School, and went to Freeman Academy for high school. My family attended Hutterthal, and my husband and I still do. As a child I didn't have a lot of toys and games, but found amusement in simple things. For example, I played in the mud of the lake behind the house! And I learned to milk cows both by hand and machine. I always had to wash the milk separator before going to school!

After high school, Vernon and I were married and I joined him in Denver, where he worked at Mercy Hospital, and I worked in a bank. When we came back, we lived with his parents, Jake L. and Annie, and I learned to cook German food! After a year, we bought our farm near them, and lived there for the next 49 years! Many building projects took place, including a new house. Our son Shawn and his family live there now. We moved to Freeman 15 years ago, when we bought Arnold and Evelyn Hofer's home.

I became interested in taking classes at FJC, where one of my classes was on Short Stories, and after that I was hooked. I got an AA degree at FJC and then went to Augustana, where I got a degree in Education and History. I also did graduate work at USD in Library Science. After graduating, I started teaching 6th grade in Parker, SD. Later I switched to Marion, teaching high school and being Librarian. I worked four years in Parker and 27 in Marion. I never was much of a farmer's wife, but I did enjoy being in school!

My interests and hobbies have changed throughout the years. I learned to sew when I was young; my first dress was made from flour sacks! I also used to knit. I do a lot of reading these days, a book about every week or two. I picked that up being a librarian, and now I can read what I want, not just children's books. I prefer non-fiction, mostly biographies, and belong to the local library's book club. I am not a very social person; I prefer books to TV. I also took piano and organ lessons in school and enjoy music very much. My flower and vegetable gardens give me much pleasure. I belong to Dorcas Society, serve on the Museum committee, and distribute books for Choice Books. (And I need to retire!)

Vernon has been an active partner. Besides farming, he is kept busy with bowling, pitching horseshoes, and, of course, square dancing. After taking an adult ed course at the local school, we were avid square dancers for nearly 40 years, both locally and statewide. And he still goes out to the farm nearly every day!

Travel has been one of the highlights of our marriage. First, we traveled in the US. At that time, I wasn't particularly interested in my background, but did develop an interest in it later on. We have joined "Hutter" travel tours, including Europe, the Ukraine, and Russia. Panama and Brazil were interesting and fun too.

My husband and I are the parents of 5 children, Greg, Crystal, Roslyn, Leighton, (stillborn), and Shawn. Greg and his wife, Mary Barnett, live in Loveland, Colorado. He is a graduate of South Dakota School of Mines and is an electrical engineer.

Roslyn is married to Brian Scott and they live in Duluth, Minnesota. Roslyn graduated from St Cloud State University and works at St Luke's Hospital. They have two children, Bill and Lauren. Bill is married to Angela Neibolte and they have made Vernon and me great-grandparents! Theodore John (Theo) was born last May 10th. Lauren lives in Minneapolis, where she works in the hotel industry. She is engaged to Jake Cotner and they will be married July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Shawn is married to Heather LaRosh, whom he met at SDSU, where he obtained an AG degree. They have three sons. Noah Shawn is 17 and attends Freeman Academy, Zachary Jacob is 15 and Isaac Thomas is 13. Zachary and Isaac attend Parker school.

Sadly, our daughter Crystal Kay is no longer with us. She graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in Accounting and lived in California for 35 years. She suffered a stroke in 2013, and then lived with us until 2016. She moved back to her condo in April and died of an apparent heart attack shortly after her birthday in June of 2016. I still miss her every day.

The past 85 years seem rather short, but a lot has happened, and many changes have occurred. But through it all, I have been deeply blessed. I have a wonderful husband, great kids and grandkids, good health, and we attend a church that focuses on worshipping and serving God. What more could I ask for?

-----Great Grandma Norma Lee, how fitting to be named after an author, considering her love of books and reading! She had a wise Aunt Mary. I chuckled at her comment about never being much of a farmer's wife, but loved being in school. I'm sure she is not the only farmer's wife to have felt that way and she was brave to admit it. We didn't hear any complaints from hubby Vernon. I find it so interesting to realize how at one point in their lives our retired folks have been so very, very busy. She is right that a lot has changed in 85 years, and there have been joyous occasions and sad occasions. Our hearts go out to you at the loss of Leighton and Crystal.

Thank you for distributing Choice Books. I must confess that I had forgotten about Choice Books until I read your article. And a heartfelt thank you for still being one of our musicians at church on Sunday mornings – Norma Lee has been an accompanist/pianist/organist for over 65 years!! Best wishes to you as you celebrate your 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 7. Brigitta





## The 2021 VBS that's just the ticket!

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

### Experiencing God's Word

At Rocky Railway, one memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, each day—making it easy to apply long after VBS is over.

**VBS times are Monday, May 31 through Friday, June 4.  
Times are 9:00-12:00**

Masks are required for singing.

**Please contact Rebecca Hofer or Kylea Waltner with questions or to register your child.**

\*\*\*\*\*



helping children and adults choose the Jesus-way of PEACE!

Once again HMC is excited to offer the Central Plains Conference Shalom Readers program.

Log sheets and books can be found in the church library. See below for details.

### Shalom Readers (for children),

1. Read 7 books from the [book list](#).
2. [Keep a list](#) of each book you have read.
3. Do a [creative response](#) for two of the books.
4. [Report your reading and request your free book](#).
5. Receive your free book at church.

## GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER

How well did you do on last month's matching challenge? Did anyone get all of them correct, or at least most of them? Let me know how you did. In this month's challenge I asked individuals to tell me three things about themselves – 2 truths and one un-truth. See if you can identify the false answer. Brigitta

KENNY BIRKEY – I can play guitar and write songs, although I haven't done so in a long time; I have three cats; I will be attending college in the fall for ministry.


MONICA CLEM - I have been skiing in the Alps; I took classes for interior decorating/interior design in college; John was my teacher before he became my husband.

ARDELLA GROSS - I have had only one brand new car in my lifetime; I hosted two traveler's that traveled from coast to coast on horseback; it took some practice but I got really handy at running my Stihl chainsaw.

MORGAN KOEHLER - I am an early riser and love enjoying my morning coffee while watching the sun come up; I have traveled to six different countries, mostly on choir tours; I am still friends with my best three friends from high school.

LARRY TSCHETTER – I once played the offertory in church on the organ; I bought only one new combine in my farming years; I once played softball on a local softball team.

PAIGE ZACHARIASEN - I have a Masters Degree in Education; One college job was being the Mall Easter bunny; I have always wanted to be a boxer.



I would like to thank the following persons who helped me complete (sew and string), the kit bags this year: Barbie, Marj, Joann, Norma and Vernon (team). You quickly picked up the packages of supplies to finish. All 180 bags have been completed and are at church ready to fill. Fill as many as you wish! In case the drawers in the kitchen are empty please ask the project Committee, Barbie, Sherryl and Edie where they store them. Again, thank you to all who so enthusiastically and cheerfully helped to complete this project!

*Twyla Hofer*

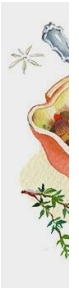


**My name is  
Ethan Waltner**

## In the Spotlight

I am seven years old and I am in first grade. My parents are Brandon and Kylea Waltner. I have three sisters, Isabel, Addison, and Avery. They all take care of me very well! I have one dog that lives outside named Grace and two cats. I like to play baseball and football, dig in the dirt, jump on the trampoline, and farm. I also like to shoot my bb gun, find stuff in the barns to play with, build things, and play with my sisters. My favorite colors are orange, green, and blue. My favorite chores are vacuuming and doing calf chores. I like helping my dad drive the skid loader and cleaning out the calf barns. I look forward to playing with my friends and playing with toys.

Mom and Dad describe Ethan as energetic and he has a sweet heart. He does not love school but would rather be outside. Rarely will you find Ethan not pushing some type of vehicle or building something. He also likes to create science projects of his own. Keeping his room clean is not one of his priorities. Ethan's favorite foods are steak with mashed potatoes, pizza, and chislic.



## TODAY

will never come again.  
Be a blessing. Be a friend.  
Encourage someone. Take  
time to care. Let your  
words heal and not wound.

ANSWERS TO GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER

**KENNY**: I have two cats, rather than three.

**MONICA**: 1 True - on choir tour in Europe while in college, I had the opportunity to go skiing in the Alps. I haven't been skiing since!

2) False - but I wish I had! ;) (I was a business education major in college.)

3) True - John taught a class in Freeman called Leadership Plenty - and called me after the class finished to ask me out on a date.

**ARDELLA**: I had a chainsaw but was afraid to try running it. My son, Kevin, did a lot of that work for me.

**MORGAN**: I do not enjoy being an early riser and watching the sun come up while having coffee.

**LARRY**: I never bought a new combine.

**PAIGE**: I do not have a Masters Degree in Education. I have a Bachelor of Education/Major in Physical Education; minors in English and Spanish.



**Mission Project**

**Congregational Ministries  
April Project:**

Cash - Swan Lake Christian Camp (SLCC)  
Swan Lake is an important part of the lives of our church family



**Swan Lake**  
Christian Camp & Retreat Center



OAKLYNN MAE – WELCOME TO HUTTERTHAL – MOM Torrie Zachari-  
 asen - DAD Skylar Hopkins – May God  
 bless you and grant you happiness in  
 your new role as parents.

Family members at Hutterthal include  
 Grandma Paige, Great Grandpa Merlin,  
 Great Grandma Sylvia, Aunt Aprille,  
 Uncle Kenny, Cousin Jessica and sever-  
 al other more distant relatives.

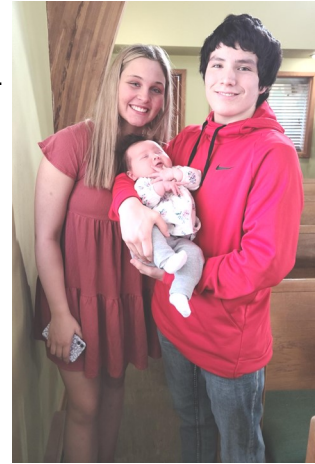


Photo Submitted by  
 Les Rensink

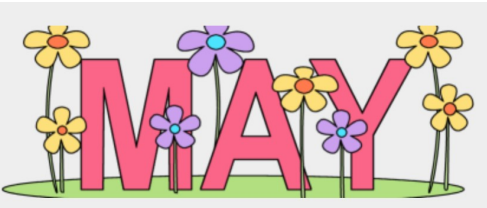
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
March 28	49	\$3,323.00
April 4	102 --	\$3,428.00
April 11	No Service	
April 18	52	\$3,666.00
April 25	35	\$1,753.00

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

Pastor Randall's  
 HMC Office

My two days off will be Monday and Tues-  
 day. People are welcome to call, email, or  
 text me, 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



- 20) Jaime Tschetter
- 20) Larry Tschetter
- 23) Dennis Hofer
- 24) LeRoy Pullman
- 26) Michelle Neuharth
- 27) Charlotte Hofer Takasaki
- 28) Melissa Hofer
- 30) Laura Hofer

**Birthdays**

- 1) Riley Tschetter
- 2) Marlyn Friesen
- 2) Kathryn Friesen
- 7) Randall Koehler
- 7) Norma Hofer
- 7) Alecki Gomez-Hofer
- 10) Samuel Friesen
- 10) Cindy Kleinsasser
- 18) Janeen Ogden

**Anniversaries**

- 3) Shawn & Heather Hofer
- 25) LeRoy & Kathy Pullman
- 25) Luke & Emily Rensink
- 27) Nicole & Larry Timmerman
- 27) Lyndon & Barbie Hofer
- 30) Todd & Suzanne Koerner

**WHY CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**



IT'S A CHANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR EXISTENCE –  
 When you celebrate your birthday, you acknowledge your existence on this earth. No matter what kind of family you were born into or what your past looks like, you are here to live your life to the fullest. Celebrating your birthday is a way to thank God for allowing you to be born and live to see another birthday.

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**HMC Links**

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

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