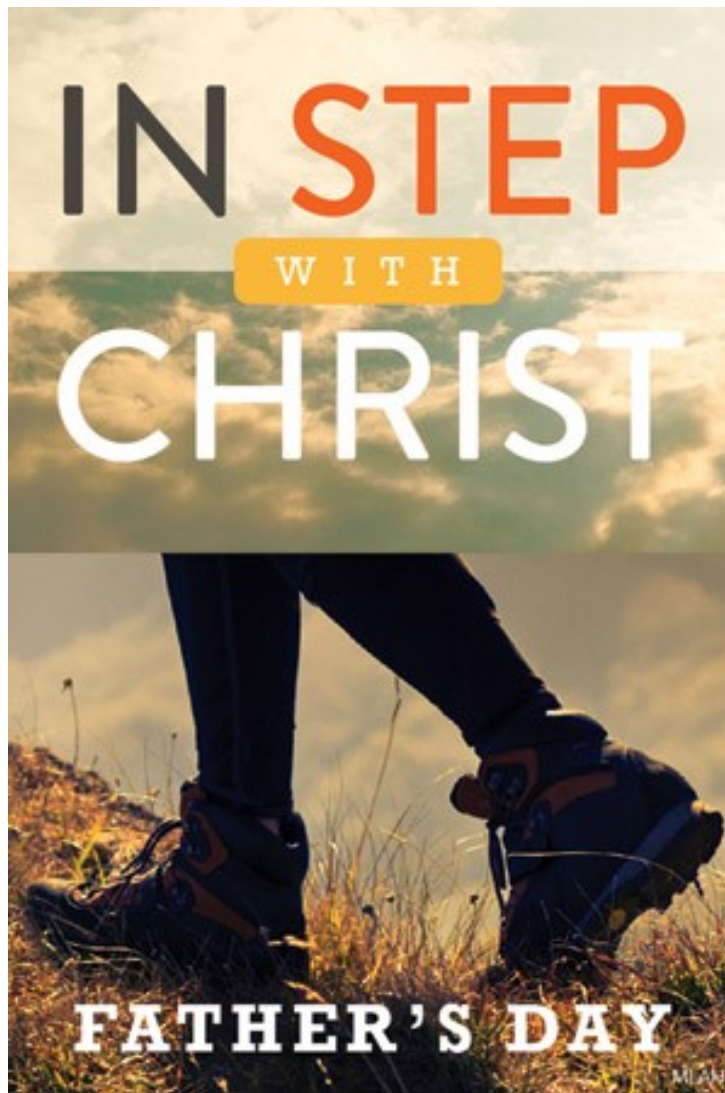


June 2021

Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another





Rural Insights

Reflections from Pastor Randall

Opening Up

For the first time since March of 2020, we will be singing in church in June. The words of our VBS theme have been proven in us this season: Jesus' power has pulled us through. Little did Rebecca Hofer realize over a year ago how true and profound this VBS material would be. We have been sustained through this time of pandemic through the presence and power of Jesus, who comes to us in the words and phone calls and notes and emails and zoom meetings and YouTube videos of our church neighbors and friends. The excitement and thrill are palpable as we come near to normalcy.

Sometimes, the difficulty is in the waiting and anticipating as I spoke of in my sermon about the disciples waiting for the promise of the Spirit on Pentecost (May 16, 2021 sermon), but these feelings of longing give us a small glimpse into the "here, but not yet" of God's kingdom as it breaks into our broken and distorted world. Knowing full well that Jesus has been exalted to the highest place of any ruler or god, called the right hand of God in the scriptures, the disciples after Pentecost live in this anticipation of the world being set right. Even today, we witness the brokenness and disruption all around us, but we know too that new life and hope have come.

We witness the power of the Spirit to mend broken lives and transform hearts as we did in Jada Koerner's baptism. As our journey through the wilderness of COVID comes to a close, we can feel the weight of the moment, as in the person rising to new life from the waters of baptism or the renewed sound of voices rising from the congregation on a Sunday morning, that our victory over sin and brokenness is assured by Jesus. We continue every day to be his hands and feet, working in our world to set things right, to be examples of peace and joy, to attempt to mend the hurts and pains of our neighbors and enemies, even as we wait and anticipate God's final consummation of the kingdom in Jesus's return.

Jada Koerner's baptism

submitted by Pastor Randall

On Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 1:30 pm, Jada Koerner, youngest daughter of Todd and Suzanne Koerner of rural Freeman, was baptized in a stock tank at the Freeman Arboretum by Pastor Corey Miller (Salem-Zion Mennonite – “the North Church) and Pastor Randall Koehler (Hutterthal Mennonite Church).



In so doing, she became the newest member of Hutterthal Mennonite Church. She had completed a faith exploration class led by Pastor Corey Miller over the last 9 months with Salem-Zion, after which she desired to be baptized. She was given a bible with her name embossed on the front cover as well as a towel with her name and HMC on it to commemorate this special day.



The place where she was baptized in the arboretum also held special significance. Todd placed the stock tank about 20 feet straight south of Grandpa's bench, which faces south along the gravel path that wanders through the nature area. The bench was put there in honor of Suzanne's dad, Gordon Brockmueller.

Sunday afternoon was a little breezy but wonderfully warm and partly cloudy in the mid-80s. We could not have asked for better weather to celebrate Jada's commitment. In the wind and the sunshine on this Pentecost Sunday, the Spirit was truly with us as Jada was filled with God's presence and power in her baptism. Please be praying for Jada as she continues on her faith journey.





BIBLE QUIZ

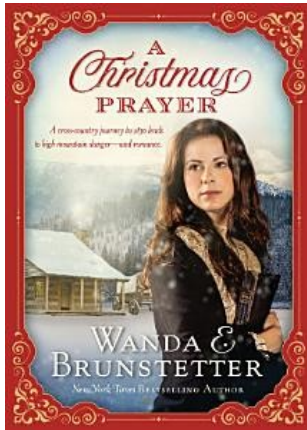
From Brigitta Hofer

QUICKIE QUIZZES FROM THE BIBLE

MEN OF ISRAEL

1. Joshua, the man who followed Moses, was the son of a man with a strange name. What was it? Joshua 1:1
2. One man disobeyed Joshua's command about not taking any gold from the city of Jericho. He took some and hid it in his tent? What was his name? Joshua 7:20
3. Joshua and another man were the only spies who believed that the Israelites could conquer the land of Canaan. Later Joshua gave this man the land of Hebron as an inheritance. What was his name? Joshua 14:13
4. What was the name of the first judge, or deliverer, whom God sent to help the children of Israel? Judges 3:9
5. The king of Moab, one of the enemies of the Israelites, was described as "a very fat man." What was his name? Judges 3:17
6. What great judge did God send to help the Israelites overcome the Midianites? Judges 6:34
7. One of Israel's judges made a foolish promise to the Lord, promising to sacrifice the first thing that came to meet him after battle. What was this judge's name? Judges 11:30
8. One of the most famous of Israel's judges killed many of the enemy with the jawbone of an animal. What was his name? Judges 15:16

WORD BANK: NUN, ACHAN, CALEB, OTHNIEL, ELGON, GIDEON, JEPHTHAH, SAMSON



A Christmas Prayer
By Wanda E. Brunstetter

Review by Joline Thomas

BOOK
REVIEWS

A Christmas book in June? It was a title on the library shelf that called out to me. I was also intrigued because this is not the usual fare of Wanda Brunstetter; who typically pens Amish stories. This book, short by some standards, helps solidify Brunstetter's ability to branch out with her writing.

The Christmas Prayer is a story of three wagons and their owners who leave Independence, Missouri in April 1850 making their way West. Delays have put them several days behind a larger wagon train they hope to catch up to. As hard as they try, they find themselves making this difficult trek on their own. December finds them in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the midst of a blizzard seeking shelter. Cynthia Cooper is traveling with her mother and the man she is engaged to. Throughout the trip she questions the soundness of the engagement she consented to out of a need for financial security for herself and her mother. Her story intertwines with the stories of the others who are a part of the stranded wagon train. She and the other passengers finds themselves relying on and sharing their faith in order to make it through the harsh winter. This little wagon train does finally reach California, but not the same way it started out. An easy, enjoyable read and worth the time to find out all the twists and turns Cynthia Cooper's journey takes on its way West.

“When my arms can’t
reach people close to
my heart, I always hug
them with my thoughts
and prayers.”





MOTHERS DAY BLESSINGS

During the Children's Story Brigitta Hofer donned various caps/items to represent the many occupations that Mothers carry out on a regular basis. Those jobs and the skills required included a POLICEMAN/WOMAN, CHEF, TEACHER, CLOWN, DOCTOR/NURSE, and TAXI CAB DRIVER. Several children were given the opportunity to also display these caps/items. She stressed the most important job of all is for Mothers to teach their children to follow and love Jesus. She also brought a gift bag and said the contents represented the most valuable gift she had received from God – a picture of her Mother. She related how Sunday School attendance was a top priority in her home when she grew up and showed the children a picture of her home church, Unity Lutheran, which is now on the grounds where the Menno Power Show is held each year, and the pins she received for perfect attendance. After closing with prayer, the children were given a Spring Chick grass grow kit to give their Mothers and to tell them “thank you for bringing me to church today.”



Blessing us with scripture and readings throughout the service were Barbie Hofer, Egan and Isaac Mettler, McKoen Dockendorf, Charlene Friesen, Kylea Waltner, Rebecca Hofer and Alyssa, and Kathy Pullman. And, of course, Pastor Randall!



Jessica Rose (POLICEWOMAN), Addison (CHEF) Isabel (TEACHER) Avery (CLOWN) Ethan (DOCTOR) Waltner, Egan Mettler (TAXI CAB DRIVER).



HYMN OF THE MONTH

submitted by Brigitta Hofer

This month's hymn, BLESSED ASSURANCE, is a favorite of Priscilla Hofer. Priscilla stated, "the words have a beautiful message and that says it all."

How true that is! The text of the hymn is about the love and assurance we have in Jesus our Savior every day. Many people have sung this hymn over the years, gaining encouragement from its words. The words are attributed to Fanny Crosby and the tune to Phoebe Knapp. Fanny was visiting her friend Phoebe as the Knapp family was having a large pipe organ installed. The organ was incomplete, so Mrs. Knapp, using the piano, played a new melody she had just composed. When Knapp asked Crosby, "What do you think the tune says?", Crosby replied, "Blessed Assurance; Jesus is Mine." She then continued with other words of the hymn, while Phoebe wrote the words down and fit them into the tune as we know it today.

Fanny lost her eyesight at a young age after contracting an eye inflammation. She was treated by a stranger who claimed to be medical personnel because the family's physician was not around. He applied his cure poultices on her eyes for the infection. The infection cleared out but the poultice left white scars on her eyes, causing her to lose her eyesight. She was able to sense light and darkness.

BLESSED ASSURANCE

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

[Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and blessed,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

[Refrain]



**AN ELECTRONIC INTERVIEW
WITH KATHY PULLMAN,
OUR CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE AS-
SISTANT
by Brigitta Hofer**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU SERVED AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT? I started this term January 2020.

YOU HAVE HELD THIS POSITION PREVIOUSLY, CORRECT? WHAT PASTORS HAVE YOU SERVED WITH? I have served with Pastors Ivan and Rachel Friesen, Todd Jones and some with Jack Scandrett and Eugene Miller and now with Pastor Randall.

TELL US THE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU HAVE SERVING AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. DOES YOUR POSITION ALSO INVOLVE HANDLING CORRESPONDENCE? I have many duties, including checking the post office twice a week for HMC mail. I also compile the bulletin each week, and the Connection monthly (which I could not do without the help of the Connection Committee, Brigitta Hofer, Suzanne Koerner and Marcia Schrock. My duties include delivering printed items (bulletin, Connection, announcements, reports etc.) to the HMC members in town who do not have internet service (including care facilities), and mailing them to rural members who haven't been to HMC because of Covid or do not have email. I also take care of the church's emails, forwarding them to whoever they need to go to, update the HMC mailboxes when needed, and take care of the foyer bulletin board, posting new items and removing out dated information. At the end of the year, I work with the annual reports (getting all the reports, printing and making the report book). Also, I work with the year book (compiling all information, getting it proof read, printing and constructing the book). I also stock needed supplies for the church office and clean it.

DO YOU HAVE A ROUTINE THAT YOU FOLLOW DURING THE WEEK? My work week starts out on Monday. I begin the next week's bulletin (getting information in it that I know of, such as accompanist, special music, etc.). This information then gets sent off to the Pastor, Deacons and Amy Hofer Vetch (for music listings). They in turn send information back to me, hopefully by Thursday 6 p.m. Then I collect all the information and put it into the bulletin. On Friday morning Pastor Randall takes a final look at it before printing. After printing (I print 60), I deliver and do mailings (email and at the post office) and go to HMC to deliver the bulletins for Sunday morning, as well as post any informative mailings that were received, and placing any mail that needs to be handed out in the HMC mailboxes.

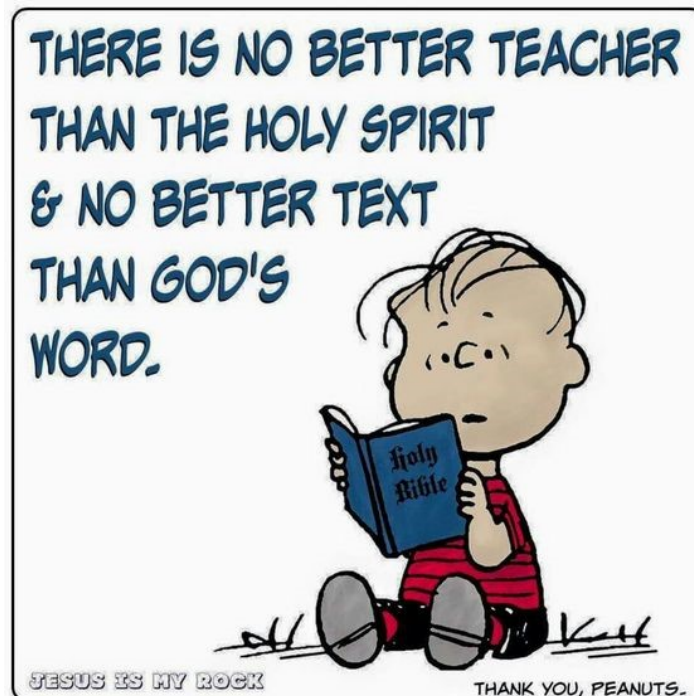
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ARE YOU ABLE TO DO YOUR WORK FROM HOME, OR DO YOU NEED TO GO TO THE CHURCH OFFICE? I do most of my work at home on the church's laptop. I'm at the office usually on Friday morning to do printing, as well as once a month, on a Thursday, to print the Connection.

WHAT PART OF YOUR JOB DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST, AND WHAT PART DO YOU LEAST LIKE TO DO? Working the with the church family is the best thing. The most frustrating, and least liked part of my job is when I do not receive information in a timely matter.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE THERE SHOULD BE SOME CHANGES MADE TO THIS POSITION IN REGARD TO RESPONSIBILITIES OR MAKING THINGS EASIER? Having the lap top has helped a lot, for I do not have to use my home computer. I believe having a younger person working at this position would bring fresh input and probably more speed to the job than I do.

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE YOU INVOLVED IN AT CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY? I recently joined the Constitution/By-Laws Revising Committee. I am the Kitchen Stocker, checking and purchasing supplies for HMC kitchen, and serve on the Music Committee. I enjoy meeting with the Prayer Shawl group.





from Waltner Children

Our dad, Brandon Waltner is a dairy farmer. Our dad works hard. We enjoy working with him like cleaning the barns and feeding calves. We like spending time with him, especially when we go on vacation!



Isabel says, "My dad teaches me a lot of life lessons and about math." Addison says, "My dad teaches me how to do my math and that life is not fair." Avery says, "My dad likes to work a lot." Our dad's favorite food is a nice, juicy, rare steak. He likes to take naps, watch how-to videos, and sit in the sun. Our dad is always making us laugh and most of all we know that he loves us.



Memories of her Dad from Marcella Glanzer

My dad William P. Gross was a farmer. He grew corn and oats, raised cattle and pigs. The corn was picked by hand and stored in a bin until spring. The oats were cut down with a binder and then were shocked and threshed.

Dad was usually working but for fun he enjoyed going fishing; occasionally we went to the big cities of Mitchell or Sioux Falls. He prided himself in keeping the farm neat. He enjoyed visiting his friends and neighbors. Going to Church on Sunday morning and evening was a must to dad.

When dad took hogs to market in Mitchell with his little pickup, which only held about 6 hogs, he always wanted one of his daughters to go along with him. One time when I went along, he had backed the pickup to unload the hogs and after he had gotten out of the pickup, he told me to drive forward just a bit. I must have gone forward to far and one of the hogs got out. I felt so bad but the workers came out from the yards right away and got the hog back in. I was worried what dad would say when he got back in the pickup but he did not say a word, so that made me feel better.

Dad taught me to be kind and respectful to people. Dad was always hospitable and if people were at our farm at mealtime, he would always invite them to join us. He always kept his daughters busy picking rocks, walking beans, and painting buildings. This helped us all develop a strong work ethic. Dad was kind and understanding. Grew up in a Christian home where the Bible was read and Christ was the center of our home.

My Relationship with my Father, from Ardella Gross

My father was Paul M. Waldner. When I was about 5 yr. old my father decided to rent out his land and concentrate on raising turkeys. This was before farmsteads had electricity so there weren't the handy things of augers and things. Grain was moved by hand, shovel by shovel. The most turkeys we raised in one year were 5000. Because there were only girls in our family, it was my job to work with my father. The turkeys were raised in brooder houses until the weather was nice and warm. Then they were taken out on the range where they had a large shelter with a roof that they could roost under at night or when it rained or to get away from the hot sun. This shelter needed to be moved to a clean spot of grass each week because we did not have the modern medicines that we have today. Every day after the turkeys were fed and watered we walked among them to see if any were not eating and looked sick. We then segregated them from the flock. This was our method of disease control.



At 5 a.m. Dad and I had to start feeding the turkeys so we would get through by 10 a.m. After that it got so very hot that it was difficult to work. My job was to hold open 100 lb. cloth sacks as Dad shoveled the feed into them. He then carried them out and put them into the feeders as I opened them, leveled the feed, and closed them. For water Dad had a truck with a tank full of water that was my job to let drain into several wooden 50 gal barrels. Each barrel would fill a receptacle with a float that would let more water in as the turkeys drank it.

My Dad did quite a bit of building so I helped him as he would siding or shingle a building. By watching him do all these things I was able to do many of these things when I was grown and on my own.

My Dad was a kind person, however, when we got too loud or did something we shouldn't have, I knew when he raised his voice that I'd better stop it.

In those days we usually went to Freeman only on Saturday nights to do our shopping. However, if the need arose and we got to ride along, we always got a double dip ice cream cone.

During winter evenings the men would get together and play a domino game called Trump. In grade school some of the boys taught us how to play the game and from then on we could play the game with Dad and my Uncle George. We really got good at it and we won our share of the games.

Right before it was time to go to bed, Dad would take milk, put in several spoonfuls of malted powder, and with a gadget for that purpose he would make foaming malted milk. Then he would call, "Who wants some Malted Milk?" We all came running and got a large glass. I liked to eat soda crackers with mine. These are the memories of my father.



Hannah Jones, Daughter of Todd and Kim Jones
recently graduated from Sturgis High School.

Her plans are to take classes on line for zoology/zoo keeper. She
will also be working during this time cleaning houses around
the northern hills for Honey Bee cleaning service.

She wrote and read this poem at the graduation ceremony.

Ready to Ride

by Hannah Jones

Look back, but only for a moment, remember what was
Teachers and homework and high school hallways
Then look ahead to what can be,
Your future, big and scary and banging
against the chute holding it to this moment
But you're ready to ride, clinched in tight and jaw set
You've said you're ready, but for what you can't be quite sure
so heart racing and unsure, strong and scared and ready for the uncertainty
You celebrate what led to this moment, all that prepared you for this ride
And you swing wide the chute
And in this brief moment you prepare for everything to change

Goodbye to what was
Familiar rooms and faces and routines
A new adventure begins, hang on tight
It'll buck and spin and kick and run, but don't let go
Throw you hand in the air and enjoy every second
Even through the pain, ride on, until the dust settles and the way is clear
And that tomorrow you dreamed about becomes today
And the seconds give way to that sunset we all ride into
Then dust yourself off and look back again, but only for an moment
Celebrate what was, work and worry and wonder
All that made you who you are, and give thanks
Tell the story, And look out again to what can be



**My name is
Avery Waltner**



I am three years old and I am in preschool two half days a week. This year has been really different...we have had a lot of breaks from preschool due to COVID. My parents are Brandon and Kylea Waltner. I have two sisters, Isabel and Addison, and one brother, Ethan. Everyone takes good care of me. I have one dog that lives outside named Grace and two cats. I like to play softball, play babies and Barbies, play school (I am always a student- I love to write and learn!), and play with my sisters and brother. I also like jumping on the trampoline, going for bike rides, and going for walks. My favorite colors are pink and purple. My favorite chores are feeding calves, vacuuming, and emptying the trash cans.

Mom and Dad describe Avery as child who likes snuggles and likes to talk a lot. She loves learning and likes to play with her siblings. Avery's favorite foods are pizza and baked beans. Avery is content in all situations, but she sure loves hanging out with her sisters and her brother (and doing what they are doing).



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

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



Ken and Aprille Birkey with Sylvia Hofer and daughter Jessica



Aprille Birkey

On May 15, I graduated from Mount Marty University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am continuing to study for the National Licensure Council Examination (NCLEX) which I will

likely take sometime in June. I also have accepted a full-time position as a registered nurse at Freeman Medical Center, contingent on the passing of NCLEX. I will begin there sometime in July. Thank you to everyone who came to my open house, sent me cards and messages, and prayed for me these last four years. Your support has meant so much to me and I am so blessed to have all of you in my church family."



Jaden pictured here with Mentor John Clem

The month of March brought Jaden home in order to complete his final Spring internship with Mettler Fertilizer in Freeman. Before he officially completed the internship he was offered full time employment with Mettler's which he accepted. He graduated on May 14th with Precision Ag as his area of study. His job title with Mettler's is Applicator which includes, but is not limited to spraying, spreading fertilizers, driving truck and equipment maintenance. He continues to help his dad on the farm; especially with the sheep. Last fall he purchased his own starter flock of Hampshires so the tradition continues with the next generation.



Congregational Ministries April Project:

Cash – MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates)
Project

MEDA - Mennonite Economic Development Associates - is an international economic development organization whose mission is to create business solutions to poverty. MEDA helps alleviate poverty by creating sustainable livelihoods for women and men..



April- SD MCC Relief Sale \$800.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
May 2	53	\$2,396.00
May 9	55 --	\$2,453.00
May 16	70	\$2,351.00
May 23	52	\$1,743.00

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

My two days off will be Monday and Tuesday. 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



JUNE

Birthdays

- 2) Marcella Glanzer
- 2) Rosella Glanzer
- 6) David Rensink
- 11) John Clem
- 15) Mary Rensink
- 19) Darnell Tschetter
- 21) Misty Bishota
- 22) Wayne Hofer
- 24) Anabella Lima
- 26) David Friesen
- 27) Lillie Eisenbeis

Anniversaries

- 6) Billy and Clara Beseman
- 9) Sarah & Ryan Waltner
- 9) Gordon & Sharon Waltner
- 11) Ashton & Lee Dockendorf
- 12) Chad & Rebecca Hofer
- 16) Marlyn & Maureen Friesen
- 17) Vernon J. & Norma Hofer
- 22) Les & Mary Rensink
- 22) Darnell & Lori Tschetter
- 24) Brandon & Kylea Waltner
- 27) Merlin & Sylvia Hofer
- 27) Kim and Jennifer Hofer
- 29) Larry & Edie Tschetter
- 29) Mike Miller & Michelle Friesen
- 30) Jessica & Chad Mills

WHY CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS



IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOND WITH PEOPLE -

Birthday celebrations are great ways for your family and friends to bond with you if you let them. Usually, people make a special effort to be nice to you on your birthday. Birthday presents are good, but a wish that comes from the heart is worth all the presents in this world from those who love you. It truly is the thought that counts.

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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.**