

May 2022

Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another

*Happy
Mother's
Day*





REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR RANDALL

Mystery: REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR RANDALL

In my pastoral care course at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary this past semester, I encountered a profound, yet simple truth about humanity. Humans are all alike in certain ways, some are alike and different from others in some ways, and even so, each person is completely unique in still other ways. You might be thinking, “Wow, thank you Mr. obvious,” but I found this particular truth and the inherent tension in it quite helpful. Another way of thinking about it is that in any particular conversation or interaction, I or you might be able to identify or empathize with exactly what someone is saying or explaining, some of what they are sharing, and none of what they are trying to communicate all at the same time. This realization of my own limitation is both a call to humility and a foundational energy for curiosity.

Another idea or concept that we learned in class is alterity, or the mystery of another person. I can never fully know or understand another person’s experience or sense of self, any more than another person can ever know me fully. Another way that we talk about this, especially in marriage, is that the longer that we know someone, the more we realize how much we are still getting to know them and the more that we continue to grow in our love for them.

After arriving at Easter and finishing this past Lenten series, all of the above ideas are coming together. The alterity or mystery of God is the example, from which each of us was created because each human is God’s image-bearer. Though we seek to follow God’s ways more faithfully as we have during Lent, we will never fully know the God that we see and experience most clearly in Jesus. Thus, when we encounter another person, our greatest challenge will always be to honor the depths of who that person is, no matter our assumptions about them, as a reflection of the great mystery of who God is. Put another way, we seek to love God, love our neighbors, and love even our enemies faithfully.



HMC LIBRARY REVIEW

Submitted by: Joline Thomas

The Librarian's Journey

by Various Authors

The first Pack Horse Library was the brainchild of May F. Stafford in 1913. Its financial support came from a coal baron until 1914 when he passed away and the program ended due to a lack of funding. Elizabeth Fullerton reused Stafford's idea as a part of the women's and professional projects at the Works Progress Administration. A Presbyterian minister offered his library to the WPA if they would fund people to carry the books to people who couldn't easily access library materials.

The Pack Horse Library Project ran from 1935 to 1943. These couriers were mostly women who supplied their own horse or mule. They rode over remote and dangerous routes in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky earning \$28 a month; which for most, was the only income in their household during the Depression Era. These "Book Women" were given a 100 to 120 mile route that was ridden or walked twice a month. They carried packs which would hold 100 donated books and/or magazines which were delivered to patrons or schools on their routes. Many of these women were met with suspicion and a gun as they traveled home to home. Once trust was established, families would eagerly anticipate their arrival.

The "Book Women" would also bring messages, supplies and socialization to the remotest areas on their routes. They would read to patrons that didn't know how and teach those that wanted to learn. Their efforts were viewed as a way to educate the young which helped provide a way out of the poverty that had affected them for generations. The most requested books were the Bible, children's books and homemade scrapbooks that held recipes, quilt and sewing patterns. The stories in the Librarian's Journey are fiction, but the authors give tribute to these brave "Book Women" who out of their own financial necessity established a calling that helped provide literacy to approximately 100,000 people.



The library committee is featuring books in the church library. This month it is a frontier/prairie theme.



HYMN OF THE MONTH

Chosen by: Joanne Stahl
Submitted by Suzanne Koerner

HE LEADETH ME

Our hymn this month can be found in our blue Hymnal, a Worship Book on page 599. It was chosen by Joanne Stahl. “It is so hard to choose a favorite,” was the common response to the question asked, “What is your favorite hymn?” Joanne said that the second verse is the most meaningful to her. “Those words really stand out to me.”

Joseph Gilmore wrote the words to this well-known hymn at the age of 28. He was preaching soon after his ordination in 1862. Here are some recollections on how the hymn was formed: “I set out to give the people an exposition of the 23rd Psalm, which I had given before on three or four occasions, but this time I did not get further than the words ‘He Leadeth Me.’ Psalm 23:2, ‘he leadeth me beside the still waters,’ became the theme of the song.” Indeed, when the five quotations of this idea in the four stanzas are added to the three references in the refrain, the singer will have sung “He/God leadeth me” a total of seventeen times by the time the hymn is concluded!

Gilmore wrote the song in the darkest hour of the Civil War, which seems to be reflected in the second stanza. Three years later while preaching in another church, he opened their hymn book and found his words set to music. Unknown to him, his wife had sent the words to a Christian periodical where William Bradbury set them to music.

Continued on Next Page



HYMN OF THE MONTH CONT.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest
gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers

bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Thank you so much for preparing and serving the lunch for Mom's funeral.
-Family of Sarah Stahl



SPIRIT OF SIX AWARD

Congratulations to
Autumn Rouse and the
Freeman Academy
Cheerleaders for winning
the Spirit of Six award.



PALM SUNDAY

Photos Submitted by: Joline Thomas



Sunday School Children began the service by singing and waving palms.





MAUNDY THURSDAY

Photos Submitted by: Joline Thomas



We gathered together at the table and shared communion just as Jesus enjoyed his final meal with his Disciples.



EASTER SUNDAY HE IS RISEN!

Photos Submitted by: Joline Thomas



Photo to Left: Jaden Thomas, Cole Hofer, and Pastor Randall lead Children's Story with Penny and Lucia, our puppet friends.

Bottom Left: Steve Mendel reading scripture.

Bottom Right: Laura Ilunga, Pastor Randall and Jada Koerner performed *In Christ Alone*.





WORK NIGHT

Photos Submitted by: Barbie Hofer & Edie Tschetter



On Wednesday, April 20th, we gathered for the Annual Work Night. Twyla fired up her sewing machine promptly at 4 pm to begin work on quilts. Pastor Randall received a crash course on putting strings in bags and tying quilts. Brynlee and Donovan also enjoyed helping bagging ties for Twyla. Three of the men were assigned to peppernut duty with Edie as our star baker. While, the rest

of the gentlemen helped tie quilts. We had many quilts to complete. We enjoyed a brief break together with soup, buns, and bars.

Here are the projects we tackled for the MCC Relief Sale.

Projects included:

- Putting Russian Tea into packages
- Mixing and packaging bean soup and Chia Tea
- Making Hand Warmers
- Baking Peppernuts

For HMC members that are unable to attend services, we created gifts.

With only 12 in attendance, we hope more will be able to attend next year for many hands makes light work!

May's Project is Cash for Swan Lake Christian Camp. Swan Lake is an important part of the lives of our church family.

More pictures on the next page.

WORK NIGHT CONT.





CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

- 7) Norma Hofer
- 7) Alecksi Gomez-Hofer
- 7) Randall Koehler
- 20) Larry Tschetter
- 24) LeRoy Pullman
- 26) Michelle Neuharth

Anniversaries:

- 25) LeRoy & Kathy Pullman
- 27) Nicole & Larry Timmerman
- 27) Lyndon & Barbie Hofer
- 30) Todd & Suzanne Koerner



At *TREASURED* VBS, Kids will discover that their value doesn't come from their own accomplishments or the number of "likes" they get; it comes from God.

As they unlock action-packed, faith-filled adventures they'll explore what it means to be priceless to God.

Dates for VBS are May 30th-June 3rd: 9 - 12 pm

Contact Rebecca Hofer or Kylea Waltner
to register your child or sign up at vbspro.events/p/hmc2022

***Connection!* Editor & Publisher: Morgan Koehler**

Advisory Board:
Chair- Marcia Schrock
Suzanne Koerner and Joline Thomas

HMC Links

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

June Connection!* submissions are due on **Sunday, May 22nd.*
July Connection!* submissions are due on **Sunday, June 26th.*

DATE	ATTENDANCE	INCOME
April 3	69	\$3,555.00
April 10	71	\$2,019.00
April 17	76	\$1,568.00
April 24	70	\$1,100.00

Other Giving: \$100.00

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