

What School Looks Like for Me Pt. 2
Submitted by Pastor Randall

In the October 2021 Connection, I wrote about what school looked like for me. What I did not mention then was what schedules and daily work are like. My Fall and Spring semester courses are usually 14 weeks with at least one week off at some point during the semester. Fall courses begin after Labor Day and end the second week of December, while Spring courses begin in the second week of January and end near my birthday.

Summer courses are usually 10 weeks, stretching from the end of the Spring semester to the end of July. Sometimes, the Summer course that I need to take is a two-week intensive course on-campus, which is what I did this past summer, but all of the online summer courses require some amount of time on-campus in Elkhart, IN where AMBS is located. While my degree is considered online, I still have to complete so many hours of school work on-campus to meet degree requirements.

During each semester, I have 3-5 academic textbooks to read along with articles assigned from the professor. Most classes have a weekly required writing prompt (300-500 words or 1-2 pages) that covers the readings with at least one cumulative paper or project due at the end of the semester. Some classes have a weekly 3-hour zoom meeting as part of their schedule, while others only require checking in through the seminary’s website. As I near the beginning of the Spring semester of my fourth year, much of this school work has become routine, which makes it much easier to manage with my other responsibilities.

Date	Attendance	Income
Nov 27	52	\$1,281.00
Dec. 4	58	\$7,790.00
Dec. 11	51	\$1,845.00
Dec. 18	89	\$1,662.00
Dec. 25	67	\$726.00
Online Giving		\$100.00
Other Giving		\$4,681.76

January Congregational Ministries Project:
Blankets, Sheets, & Towels (MCC)

Upcoming Events at HMC
Wednesday, Jan. 11 @ 7:00 PM
HMC Annual Winter Bible Study on ZOOM. We will be meeting from Jan. 11 to March 8. The title of our series this year is “Making Home Again,” in which we will be exploring the book of Ezra. Each evening will be independent of the others, so all are welcome to participate whether or not you can be a part of every week that we are meeting. Pastor Randall will be sending out weekly emails with readings, background, and discussion questions.

Sunday, February 5
Pastor Randall’s ordination: further details will be published in the bulletin

Birthdays

- 1) Ardella Gross
- 3) Rebekka Kramer
- 5) Brandon Waltner
- 7) Amy Hofer Vetch
- 8) Egan Mettler
- 10) Ethan Waltner
- 12) Joline Thomas
- 18) Randy Glanzer
- 23) Les Rensink
- 26) Oaklynn Zachariasen
- 27) Phil Thomas
- 30) Landon Neuharth



Anniversaries

- 26) Cameron & Rina Hofer

Important Notice from the Connection Advisory Board

Following much discussion, the HMC Connection newsletter will be taking on a new look. The newsletter board, after consulting with the church board, has decided to adopt a more condensed format. It will be limited to a one-page version, front and back. It will contain many of the same features including occasional photos but in a more concise manner. We encourage the various committees and chairpersons to submit information for inclusion via the church email.

February Connection! submissions are due on January 25.

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION
with one another

Editor & Publisher

Aprille Birkey
Office Hours:
Thursday 9 AM –12 PM

Connection Advisory Board

Joline Thomas
Suzanne Koerner
Barbie Hofer

Children's Christmas Program 2022

Submitted by Suzanne Koerner

On December 18, the Sunday School Children performed “An Out of the Box Christmas,” created by Celeste Clydesdale and arranged by David T. Clydesdale, during the Sunday morning worship service. When boxes show up with the wrong costumes, the kids have no other choice than to think out of the box. Cowboys became wise men, angels became cheerleaders, and pirates turned into shepherds. Working together the children come up with some unique, comical, and heartfelt ways to share the Christmas message with their friends and family. After all, if God can use a donkey to speak to Balaam and a burning bush to speak to Moses, He can surely use cowboys, pirates, and cheerleaders to tell His love story.



Helping make this musical possible were: the Sunday school children, Sunday School superintendents Rebecca Hofer and Kylea Waltner, Amy Hofer as accompanist, Suzanne Koerner who led music, Chad Hofer with sound, Cole Hofer with video, and Jada Koerner backstage.



Adults who sang several songs with the children were Brandon Waltner, Kenny Birkey, Eric Neuharth, Aprille Birkey, Amanda Mettler, Jada Koerner, and

Michelle Neuharth.

Favorite Christmas Moments from Children

Submitted by Suzanne Koerner

Isabel Waltner has enjoyed spending time with family, particularly baking, doing puzzles, and playing outside—even in the blizzardy cold weather.

Egan Mettler enjoyed more candy than usual. Another favorite thing for all of the Mettler boys, is jumping on their mom and dad early Christmas morning. Rodney and Amanda got wise to that and locked their door, but reportedly this year the lock was picked with a toothpick and the jumping ensued.

Otto Mettler appreciated going to Grandma Shirley's and receiving presents.

Isaac Mettler also enjoys presents, especially Legos.

Avery Waltner loved the painting set she received for Christmas, and also enjoys playing outside with her siblings.

Book Review

Submitted by Charlene Friesen

Barefoot Heart, Stories of a Migrant Child, by Elva Trevino Hart, is a memoir that is an American Book Award winner. Who can tell it like it really is except the person who actually lived it? The early hours, long days and extremely hard work of a migrant family; the sparse living, never in your own home, of a one room shed with only a simple table, 2 chairs and floor mats; trying to stay clean and healthy with only a hydrant blocks from your home; cooking with limited ingredients (the cheapest), limited time, and limited knowledge; and the shame of looking away when your classmates watch you ride in the back of the truck out to the fields can only be known by living them. These are the stories of Hart's childhood as her family traveled from south Texas to Minnesota and Wisconsin as migrant farm workers. This is the story of her father's wish for his children to have a better life than he did. This is the story of Hart's coming to understand her childhood as she discovered just who she is.

This book can be found on the Adult Shalom bookshelf.

HMC Links

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

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