

Seeking to be Present and Hopeful

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

Over these past few months since finding out about mom’s stage 4 cancer, I have thought a lot about how to best support her, my dad, and the rest of my family on this journey. I realize too that part of my struggle is coming to terms with the fact that I am also walking this journey as a child and brother, so I cannot separate myself from what is really my very own experience as much as I might want to or feel like I should as a pastor.

Now since being in Central IL for almost 3 weeks, I have found that the most important place for me is using the pastoral caregiving skills that you all have helped me practice over the last almost 3 years. Remembering and continuing to feel this church community’s call on my life to serve and lead fills me with even more gratitude for all of the things that I have learned from you all and all of the ways that you continue to support me even as we are apart.

Cancer is a horrible evil in our world, an evil that mocks the incarnation of Christ by taking on flesh itself and destroying human life every day. As true as the previous statement may be though, I realize how powerless that I am to stop the cancer that ravages my mother’s body even as I sit with her at her bedside, help her to and from appointments, and ask her what she wants to eat each day. In my powerlessness, I still find great meaning though in sitting with her , praying together, sharing memories, and just talking about the days that we do have right now.

And so, rather than focusing my energies on the future’s uncertainties or dwelling in the unchangeable nature of the past, I seek to be present to mom and dad, to my brothers and sisters-in-law, to my nieces and nephews, and most importantly to Morgan, Vivienne, and Wyndolyn, even as the weight of the present moment hangs from me like a yoke. Yet as I carry the weight with you all’s help, encouragement, and support, I also feel the energy of a praying community sustaining me as the Spirit fills me with what I need for today. It is those moments of being filled and sustained by God’s infinite provision that bring me hope and make me hopeful.

Upcoming Events at HMC

- October 1: World Communion Sunday
- October 15: Freeman Academy Sunday
- October 22: 70th Annual Harvest Mission Festival
- December 3: First Sunday of Advent
- December 17: Christmas Program

Date	Attendance	Income
Aug. 27	53	\$2,369.00
Sep. 3	56	\$1,995.00
Sep. 10	66	\$2,810.00
Sep. 17	69	\$1,822.00
Sep. 24		\$1,142.00
Online Giving		\$400.00

Birthdays

- 2) Xavier Ward
- 3) Brigitta Hofer
- 3) Alvina Hofer
- 4) Kathy Pullman
- 11) Kylea Waltner
- 12) Natalie Johnson
- 17) Joseph Kramer
- 24) Torrie Zachariasen



Anniversary

- 6) Phil & Joline Thomas



MCC meat canning will again take place in Freeman on Monday & Tuesday, November 6th and 7th at C & B Operations (John Deere). Volunteers will be needed from early Monday until clean up late Tuesday afternoon. Financial donations can be given to treasurer Donovan Friesen. Food assignment signup sheet for Hutterthal is in the foyer.



October Congregational Ministries Project:  
Relief Kits for MCC  
Place items in the tote in the church library.



# Connection!

Making a CONNECTION  
with one another

## Editor & Publisher

Aprille Birkey  
Office Hours:  
Thursday mornings

## Connection Advisory Board

Joline Thomas  
Suzanne Koerner  
Barbie Hofer

### Hutterthal Serves at the Yankton Area

#### Banquet

Submitted by: Suzanne Koerner

Fifteen pairs of hands and feet from Hutterthal along with a few volunteers from Yankton and the directors served 229 guests at the Yankton Area Banquet on Thursday, September 21. Our menu was 80 pounds of grilled Schmeckfest sausage, 7 10-pound cans of corn, 80 pounds of roasted potatoes, 19 loaves of bread, and pans of bars made by willing church members. Forty of the guests were children, and many were elderly.

Along with serving between 220 and 300 guests each Thursday evening throughout the year, the Banquet also facilitates projects such as (but not limited to) sock drives, water park passes for children, backpack and school supplies, coat, hat and mitten drives, and a Christmas tree with fishes that folks can pick and return with gifts for guests.

Many thanks to all of those who helped with this important mission of our church, either by making food, serving, donating for the food costs, or a combination. May you be blessed as you have blessed others in Christ.



A Get-to-Know-You shower was held September 17th for Ben Friesen and Jen Johnson and family. Kathy Pullman and Rina Hofer planned a wonderful meal and a fun time of sharing. A lunch of taverns, chips, salad, and bars were served to the 44 people attending. Amy Hofer Vetch had a devotional and Kathy and Rina provided a couple of get to know you games for all of us. Ben and Jen's children finished out the event by decking out the couple in streamer wedding outfits. The event was fun for all and a perfect way to for us to celebrate with Ben, Jen and the children.

- Submitted by Barbie Hofer



**November Connection  
submissions due by  
November 1!**

## HMC Links

- Website - [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)
- "Like" Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch](http://www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch)

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