

Both Care-giver and Care-receiver

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

“As the sun was setting, all those caring for any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him (Jesus), and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Moreover, demons also came out of many... ..at daybreak, he departed and went into a deserted place.”

Luke 4:40-42

One of the many hats that I have worn as a pastor is that of being a caregiver to congregants and families and my own family too. Present and compassionate caregiving is just one of the gifts or talents that I received from mom and carry forward into my life without her.

However, like the above scripture about Jesus giving and receiving care from the gospel of Luke, I have had to acknowledge that I need to be a care receiver too so that I can continue my caregiving, especially in this most reason season when my caregiving skills were stretched to (or even beyond) their capacity.

One of the ways that I have received care is by continuing to meet with trusted advisors or mentors on my pastoral journey. One such person is our conference minister for Ministerial Leadership, Susan Janzen; another is a fellow local Mennonite pastor, Corey Miller; and the final one is my pastoral care professor at AMBS, Leah Thomas.

Another way that I have received care is by going to my first dermatology appointment. Having grown up in the environment that led to my mom’s passing, I felt that it was most important to seek proper preventative care so that I could care for others in the ways that my mother could not anymore.

Finally, and quite possibly the hardest to write about currently, is that I receive care by going to see a professional counselor or therapist. I met with this person several times before Mom’s passing and have since met with them 5 times since Mom passed away. My spiritual, physical, and mental health are all addressed through these avenues, and receiving care in these ways helps me better care for myself and for you all as the pastor that you all (and by extension: God) have called me to be. May you feel empowered by my vulnerability in sharing so that you are able to both give and receive care as you need to throughout this holiday season and beyond.

THANK YOU!



We would like to extend a big thank you to all of those who were involved in organizing, as well as all who attended the

bridal shower that was put on for us. Your support and prayers for our marriage and family is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

- Ben & Jen Friesen

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, we would like to thank everyone who joined us for our fundraising breakfast. Your donations and company during the meal were, and always are, a blessing.

Date	Attendance	Income
Oct. 29	57	\$2,810.00
Nov. 5	69	\$2,935.00
Nov. 12	60	\$1,860.00
Nov. 19	70	\$1,352.00
Nov. 26	63	\$1,620.00
Online Giving		\$355.00

December Congregational Ministries Project:

Cash for MCC for Israel/Palestine Conflict Victims

Please give donations to Joyce Hofer, C.M. Treasurer or place in the C.M Mailbox

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION
with one another

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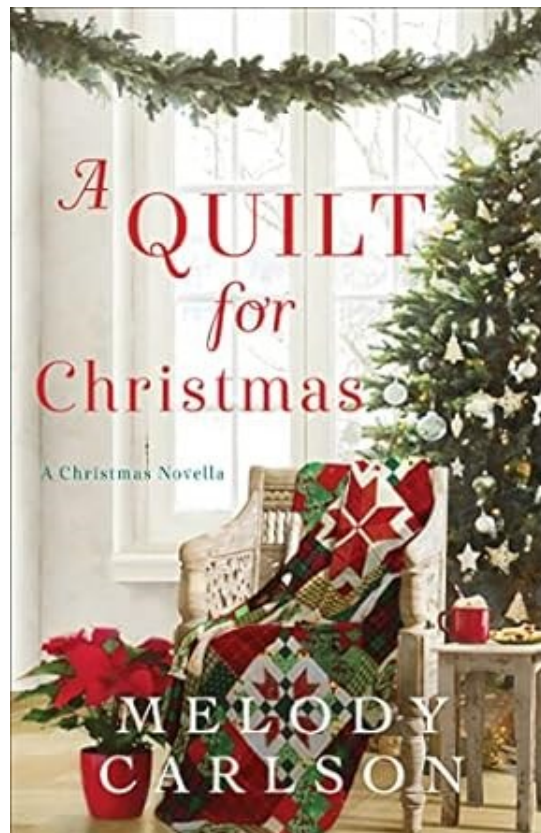
Joline Thomas
Suzanne Koerner
Barbie Hofer

“A Quilt for Christmas: A Christmas Novella” by Melody Carlson

Submitted by: Joline Thomas

This easy read is a story of how an unlikely group of mismatched people are brought together to make a little girl’s Christmas wish come true. The girl’s high expectations and hopes are fueled by a childlike faith along with a dose of wisdom only a child can give. Along the way, one woman finds assurance in decisions made along with an “adopted” family; one finds belonging; one finds love and a future; another acceptance and peace with the past while a family finds hope in less than ideal circumstances. The end result is a Christmas quilt that not only fulfills a wish but conveys second chances, new beginnings, hope and relationships that will continue even when the last stitch is sewn.

This book is only one of the many new books being added to our library. There are some new Shalom books for the young readers, a commentary on the book of Luke and several new Christian fiction suspense series. Take a moment to see what is new and find your next cold weather read!



Upcoming Events at HMC

December 17: Christmas Program and Brunch to follow

Birthdays

- 1) Marcia Schrock
- 2) Avery Waltner
- 8) Joann Stahl
- 8) Darlene Hofer
- 9) Barbie Hofer
- 9) Gordon Waltner
- 10) Otto Mettler
- 20) Eric Neuharth
- 21) Joyce Hofer
- 25) Sherryl Friesen
- 28) Lyndon Hofer



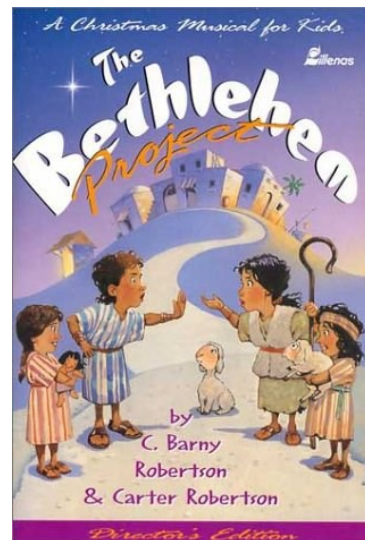
Anniversary

- 27) Steve & Charlene Friesen

**January 2024 Connection!
deadline is December 27!**

“The Bethlehem Project”

On December 17 join us for the Children’s Christmas Program as they put on “The Bethlehem Project,” a traditional Christmas story with a twist - the Bethlehem kids and the shepherd kids don’t get along until they find the same Savior.



After the program, a brunch with egg bakes, breakfast rolls, and muffins will be served. All are welcome to join us!

It is that time of year again when Aprille begins to work on the Yearbook for next year. Please get all information regarding committees, schedules, etc. to the church email by December 20. Watch for a copy of the yearbook in the upper foyer for any address changes or other family corrections/additions.

HMC Links

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

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