

Seminary Sound Bites

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

From when I write this newsletter contribution to December 12, I will have written over 50 pages for several different seminary assignments. Two of those papers include my capstone drafts, which are my summaries of seminary learning over my 7 years at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. These 2 papers will account for 30 of the pages of writing ahead of me.

As I have reviewed these last 7 years, 5 of which have been alongside pastoral ministry at Hutterthal, I have noted little sound bites of wisdom from professors, fellow pastoral leaders, and congregants like you all. As you wander through this holiday season, begin another church year with the Advent season, and near the beginning of another calendar year, I pray that these short notes are as meaningful to you as they have been for me.

1. Fall Semester 2019, second seminary class of my time at AMBS – if you are struggling to relate well to or see things from a fellow church member or leader’s perspective, keep reading scripture together... closely read and honestly engage with scripture together.
2. Summer semester 2021, Leadership class – Remember to be gracious with yourself and your growth areas. The Christian life is slow, steady, faithful presence and transformation.
3. Spring semester 2022, pastoral care class – Breathe deeply; listen intently; speak thoughtfully and slowly because each person is valuable, wholly other, and created in God’s image.
4. Summer semester 2023, reflections during my mother’s cancer journey – in light of the hope of resurrection (or life after life after death), death is a path to healing for those who are suffering from terminal illness.
5. Spring semester 2024; theology, sexuality, and colonialism class – all of human experience/ storytelling must be analyzed in socio-relational, economic, and political terms, or put another way, in terms of sex, money, and power.
6. Summer semester 2025, almost all of my biblical studies coursework – what resources are you using for your biblical research? Who are the authors? What identities do they claim (gender, race, ethnicity, age, ability, socioeconomic status, etc.)? What perspectives might they tend to reinforce or overlook?

December Congregational Ministries Project:

Cash for MCC Food

Please give donations to Joyce Hofer (treasurer) or place in the CM Mailbox.

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION
with one another

Editor & Publisher

Aprille Birkey
Office Hours:
Thursday 9 AM –12 PM

Connection Advisory Board

Barbie Hofer
Kenneth Birkey

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 2: Rural Revival Meeting at 8 PM at Freeman Library
- Dec. 10: HMC Annual Meeting at 7 PM; Congregational Ministries Meeting to follow
- Dec. 11: Christmas Caroling at Oakview Terrace at 2:30 PM
- Dec. 12: Pastor-Deacon Team meeting at 7 PM
- Dec. 17: HMC Board Meeting at 7 PM
- Dec. 21: HMC Christmas Program Sunday
- Dec. 25: HMC Christmas Day Worship Service
- Dec. 28: Time of Remembrance during worship service
- Jan. 11: First Sunday of Winter Bible Study—*Finding Ourselves in God's Story*



Birthdays

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

Anniversary

- 27) Steve & Charlene Friesen

Date	Attendance	Income
Nov. 2	62	\$2,254.00
Nov. 9	58	\$2,303.00
Nov. 16	54	\$2,371.00
Nov. 23	51	\$1,595.00
Online Giving		\$192.90

Thanksgiving Service

Submitted by: Barbie Hofer

The Thanksgiving Volunteer Celebration service was held in the basement on November 16th. It was here that people were recognized for the work they do for our church. It takes many hands to keep a church and its services continuing to serve our church family. Charlene Friesen had a story for the children about being grateful for what we have. After the service, everyone shared coffeecake, donuts, quick bread, and fruit along with coffee, tea, and cocoa. We had a wonderful morning of worshipping and fellowship.

HMC Links

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

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