

FEBRUARY 2021

Ridgeview Mennonite Church

BUDGET

Budget	\$73,800.00
YTD Received	71,109.00
Education	750.00

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2021 offering envelopes are in your mailbox

COMING UP THIS WINTER: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

We all need wisdom from time to time and perhaps even more so right now. The parables of Jesus are an example of wisdom writings and are in many ways, timeless gems of truth. We began last week with Jesus' parables of the kingdom. Coming up.....

February 7th – The Good Samaritan: Youth Reader's Theater – Luke 10:25-37 In Person Services will resume. Out of respect for each other, please wear a mask while in the building.

February 14th – Do You Have Enough Oil? Jeff Raught – Matthew 25:1-13

February 21st – first Sunday of Lent: We will be celebrating Communion.

LENT 2021: DEEP CALLS TO DEEP

In many ways we may be feeling overwhelmed right now drowning in busyness or boredom, in emotions too complex to figure out or anxiety for the present and the future. Even in the deepness of our present troubles, God calls us to live deeply – in relationship, commitment, wisdom, healing, and growth. In the deep blessing of our spirit, God reminds us that we are loved with an everlasting love.



ZOOM CHURCH

January 31st was our first attempt at a Zoom church service. Around 45 people connected via zoom including the group who gathered at church to prepare the care packages for delivery. After a time of sharing what we were thankful for, Merv Stoltzfus read Mark 4:26-29 and Pastor Audrey shared a short devotional on the parable of the sower who worked at sowing and at harvesting, but also rested and trusted God to grow the seed that was sown. We broke into small groups to discuss the question, "How do you feel about the mystery – the not knowing in this parable?" We regathered to share our reflections with the larger group and closed in prayer. There was some time for fellowship afterward as well.

Several people expressed appreciation for the service and the chance to see each other. Let us know if you have any additional thoughts or reflections on this service.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Etta Esch
- 5 Linda Bergman
- 6 Christle Gehman Hain
- 12 Barry Shirk
- 17 Bonnie Winters
- 18 Walt Bushong
- 23 Ethan Kanagy
- 24 Nathan Pauls

ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Barry & Joyce Shirk
- 17 Jim & Barb Glick

COMMUNITY DEVOTIONAL PROJECT

Audrey is meeting regularly via Zoom with pastors from the Pequea/Parkesburg area. Together this group is planning to write and produce a devotional series for the 40 days after Easter to Pentecost. The goal is to promote the hope of the gospel through Christian unity and support discipleship in local churches through a cross church collaborative devotional that highlights the unifying hope of the gospel of Christ and Jesus' call to love our neighbors. The overall theme is the promises of God. Pray for this effort to work together as a diverse but unified community of faith.



LENTEN GUIDED PRAYER 2021: Deep Calls to Deep

An opportunity to integrate prayer and scripture into daily life. The theme invites you to go deeper to that place within where you experience God's calling from even greater depths of mystery and grace. Engage scripture readings on your own, then share from your experience in a weekly virtual small group. A Lenten Prayer Guide will be provided. Indicate your interest to Joanne Dietzel by February 17 (joanned@atlanticcoastconference.net).

SEIZING THE MOMENT TO THINK FORWARD

As with many organizations and congregations, we have spent several months adjusting to new technology, formats, and ways of connecting. In that acute stage we managed to find some rhythms of worship, connections and administration that have worked. However, a crisis can be more than just an exercise in endurance. It can be an opportunity for real, deep change. Adaptive change is more than technical fixes and can help congregations move past a crisis to learning and growing because of it.

The Ministry Team is putting together a small team of 5-7 people who would be tasked with starting the conversation. With so much uncertainty it is hard to say exactly how it will develop, but we would like to begin by discerning what questions we need to be asking of ourselves and the congregation as we think about what a post-pandemic Ridgeview (and broader church/society) might look like.



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GO! Sunday on January 31st focused on connecting with those who may feel isolated or lonely in this season. Thirty-six care packages were sent out to both local and far away friends, family, and neighbors.

"My pen pal at Wheat Ridge personal care says a big thank you. She isn't fond of supper menu this evening, so she is going to heat up the turkey rice soup. She was very surprised." – Edna Lapp

Mary Jane Good thanks everyone for the care package. She loves anything chocolate.

"A special thank you to Ridgeview from Bill and Barb King. We are neighbors to Bob and Jill Heine and we just received our gift bag. It is very much appreciated, and we will be enjoying it while watching it snow."

"Thank you to Ridgeview Mennonite Church for the bag of goodies and fun items we received yesterday. We are greatly enjoying them!"
Blessings, Sara and Omar Lapp



INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INVENTORY

Members of the Administration Commission, Ministry Team and TCRC have been busy during the month of January interacting with the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). All activities were held online. On Wednesday January 13th, our Quantitative Administrator, Hyacinth Stevens hosted a pre session to review the mechanics of the IDI and explain what it measures. The IDI is an online tool that measures intercultural competence. The goal of the tool is to learn how to expand our personal and collective capacity for difference. Members took the assessment within the next two weeks and Hyacinth facilitated a group debrief on Saturday, January 30th. During the group debrief we reviewed the findings of our cumulative score and participated in several exercises and case studies. The two hours went by quickly.

Below are a few reflections from some of those who attended:

"The two hours went by very quickly! I enjoyed interacting with the material more than I anticipated. The exercises were very helpful."

"It was so good to be together as a group to learn and process our findings"

"The exercises helped me evaluate my responses to all kinds of differences and gave practical growth steps both socially and spiritually."

"I didn't realize how I minimize differences when working with others. I have had very little experience interacting with people where differences are celebrated and affirmed. Now that I am aware, I want to consciously seek to understand differences and work to communicate value in my actions."

"I really want to focus on learning about others' experiences and culture norms rather than jump to judgement of them."

A Task Group will begin meeting to reflect on the process and determine specific next steps. Members of the Task Group are Jill Heine, Evie Hershey, Robert Kanagy and Merv Landis.

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 9am Food Pac	4	5	6
7 10:15 Worship In person & Live stream	8	9	10 9am Food Pac	11	12	13
14 10:15 Worship In person & Live stream	15	16	17 9am Food Pac	18	19	20
21 10:15 Worship Communion In person & Live stream	22	23	24 9am Food Pac 6:30pm Ministry Team	25	26	27
28 10:15 Worship In person & Live stream						