

North Main Street Mennonite Church

COMPASS

August 12, 2018



BIRTHDAYS
ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS
Aug. 12-Donna Graff
Aug. 13- Margaret Yoder

Monday, September 17, the Round Barn Theatre will be hosting a special event, "The White Buggy". The book and lyrics are by Frank Ramirez, music by Steve Engle and conceived by Richard Pletcher. For one night only, this musical will be performed. Contact the Round Barn Box Office for more information: 800-800-4942.

OFFICE HOURS

Danny

Tuesday-9:00-12:00
Wednesday 9:00-12:00
Thursday 9:00-12:00

Becca

Tuesday 8:30-1:30
Thursday 8:30-1:30

Bulletin & *Compass* Information
Deadline:

Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

NORTH MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Back to School Sunday is today!

Next Sunday begins the My Coins Count calendar found in mailboxes today.

From the office: I will be out of the office on August 16th. Liza Martin will be the substitute receptionist.
-Becca Yoder

The church bulletin board has been re-done. Please take a look and see if any of the events interest you! Fall Sunday School materials are on the table as well.

On September 8, "Come to the Table", will be hosted at Kountry Wood Event Center in Nappanee. For more details, contact FCDC at 773-2149.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE MENNONITE CHURCH

NEWTON, Kansas (Mennonite Mission Network)

It was early September 2017, and Kendra Selzer was bound for Puerto Rico for a year with Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS). Then Hurricanes Irma and Maria made landfall.

Selzer had planned to live and work as a teacher's aide on the campus of *Academia Menonita Betania*, a school that serves children from pre-kindergarten through 10th grade and is a member of [Mennonite Education Agency](#). Hurricane Irma had little effect on the school and the surrounding city of Aibonito when it skirted Puerto Rico on

NURSERY & TODDLER CARE:
CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL:
Carolyn Hochstetler

LAST SUNDAY

Treasurer's Report:

Total Offering
 Change for \$
 Rec'd for Budget.....
 Rec'd for 31wks.....
 Budget for 31wks.....

Attendance:

Worship
 Sunday School.....

Worship Committee

August 2, 2018 at 1:00

Present: Danny Jones, Jeanette Patches and Terry Hochstetler

Jeanette opened with prayer.

All pastors and worship leaders are in place for September. For Labor Day, the committee decided not to have a theme. Back to School Sunday is August 12; discussed visuals. The upcoming Relief Sale was talked about; especially "My Coins Count" along with corresponding visuals. The future of praise team was discussed.

Next Meeting: September 6, 2018 @ 1:00

Submitted by: Terry Hochstetler

Sept. 6. But two weeks later, Hurricane Maria caused serious damage to the school. High winds tore the aluminum roofs off multiple buildings on campus, including the volunteer house where Selzer was set to stay during her MVS term. While the school reopened to students on Oct. 23, Selzer would need to wait until repairs to the volunteer house were completed in January before she could arrive in Puerto Rico and begin her term.

"It was pretty uncertain," said Selzer. "I knew the island was hit pretty hard."

While most MVS units have at least three participants who share a living space together, Selzer was the only MVS worker in the three-bedroom volunteer house on *Academia Menonita Betania's* campus. Yet, she wasn't alone. Throughout Selzer's service term, she shared the house with SOOP (Service

Opportunities with Our Partners) volunteers. They came to *Academia Menonita Betania* to paint, help with hurricane clean-up, and work in the campus library for service terms ranging from two weeks to a few months.

Though the age range for the SOOP volunteers skewed toward older adults and retirees, Selzer said she and her housemates grew close through shared activities, including grocery shopping, venturing out on the island, and baking apple pies together.

"You do different things when you're with a different age group," said Selzer. "We had a lot of fun together ... it was hard to say goodbye to everyone."

When Selzer returned home to central Kansas at the end of May, two of the SOOP couples she had lived with in Puerto Rico surprised her by attending her home church of Spring Valley Mennonite on the day

that Selzer presented a program centered on her service term with MVS.

Though Selzer now works full-time on her family's farm, she isn't finished with service. In fact, she plans to go back to Puerto Rico in the coming months—with SOOP.

Selzer wants to reconnect with *Academia Menonita Betania* and help once again as a teacher's aide, as well as visit friends in the community and connect with other SOOPers at the guest house. "As far as I know, that's the best way to go back," she said. "I'm the type of personality that gets along with any age group."

MVS and SOOP are two of the many programs available through Mennonite Mission Network. Information on hundreds of service opportunities in Puerto Rico, the U.S. mainland, and beyond can be found at MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

-Travis Duerksen

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