Come, Sing Praises to Our Mothers

A Mother’s Day hymn sung to the tune of

Love Divine All Loves Excelling:

Come, sing praises to our Mothers who have tuned our hearts to You.
You share praises with no others - but these ones whose love is true.
They must hear our truest feelings if they would know how we’re blessed
by unwearied, careful teachings given without thought of rest.

We raise up our grateful voices for the patient love of Moms,
Who have listened to the noises of their screaming, childish throngs.
Hear us now cry thanks to God for giving us the homes we need.
We will never leave your shelter ‘til we all find Home indeed.

There we hope to find you, Mother, at the right hand of our Lord.
How could there be any other nurturing the Living Word?
Then forever we will worship as you taught us when so young;
for the Lord alone is worthy of these praises we have sung.
During church closure due to COVID-19

Giving for April 27-May 3:
- Building Fund/HV/AC Project: $9,263.00
- Christian Education Fund: 1,790.00
- General Fund: 6,396.00
- Missions Fund: 690.00
- Youth Fund: 40.00

EasyTithe Giving in April:
- Benevolent Fund: 311.00
- Building Fund: 1,790.00
- Christian Education Fund: 919.00
- General Fund: 16,426.80
- Missions Fund: 6,217.00
- Youth Fund: 465.00

Financial health of the church: You may mail donations to the church at 8905 Columbus Grove Road, Bluffton, OH 45817. The mail is daily retrieved and processed at the church in a secure manner. You may also use our online giving tool, EasyTithe by clicking the link under Online Giving on the church webpage to get started: http://ebenezer mennonite.org/giving. If you have any questions or would like assistance, please contact Kathy Brauen at 419-234-7808. Thank you for your continued love and support of your church during this difficult time.

We are working on putting together our 2020 high school graduates Bibles, and we are hoping to include notes inside the Bible from you! Please write an encouraging note or a favorite Bible verse with which we can encourage our graduates. Feel free to email them to david.glick@ebenezer mennonite.org or drop in his mailbox at the Glick house! (165 North Jackson, Bluffton) Let us encourage our graduates with God’s Word!

~ GIVING ~

~ CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Family of Carol Stockman who died May 6, mother of Tim.
Elders located in area nursing homes, isolated in their rooms without visitors. Special prayer for Mennonite Memorial Home.
Persons diagnosed with and fighting the coronavirus.
Missionaries, local and around the world.

As you have heard, there has been an outbreak of COVID-19 at Mennonite Memorial Home. The staff there are grieving, tired, and understandably exhausted as they continue to care for the residents. Chris Moser, Director of Resource Development & Church Relations has appreciated the show of support by people donating meals for the workers. It only takes six pizzas to provide lunch. A couple of meals could lift their spirits and we can show our gratitude and support. If you’d like to contribute even $5 or $10 or more, you can email fritsch.kim@gmail.com or drop a check in the mail to Kim Fritsch at 95 Richland Drive, Bluffton. Thanks for your consideration and especially your prayers! Also, if you really want to roll up your sleeves, they are working on a list of yard work they could use help with. Email Kim directly so she can put your name on that list, if you are interested in helping spruce up MMH.

We need each other now more than ever!

With that we encourage you, if you are healthy and do not have any underlying health conditions, to join others in a small group. This can be another family, a couple, or some friends. Please read the guidelines below. Discussion questions that correlate with the Sunday message are available upon request from Pastor Jim and also will be posted on Facebook and sent by church email. We also have a guide for what to do with children in a small group setting. Just ask for it and we will email to you. Any questions, contact Pastor Jim. Together we live out Acts 2:42!!

The Church Meets in Small Groups – Life Groups

Ohio meeting to “Make Ohio Safe,” we will be able as a church to meet in small groups in homes. What follows is a plan for this to happen. We have attempted to keep this as simple as possible so small groups can gather and function. The small groups are based on Acts 2:42. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” The word “devoted” means to give constant attention to. There are four main components which we are to be devoted to as we meet in small groups: teaching – scripture, fellowship, hospitality, prayer.

Guidelines for Small Groups

1. Ten people or less.
2. You must be comfortable being in a small group. If you have underlying health conditions or do not feel comfortable in meeting with a small group, please stay at home. No judgment.
3. You must be healthy. If you feel sick in any manner, please do not attend.
4. The host will provide a room which is clean and big enough to allow some separation between people.
5. Meet weekly. The small group can meet anytime from Sunday through Saturday.

What Happens at Small Groups

1. Watch the message provided by the church. Either watch the message together or before your group meets.
2. A discussion guide along with message notes will be provided for the group by church email. The facilitator will guide the discussion.
3. Kerry Wright will provide resources for children.
4. Have conversational prayer time.
5. Discuss any needs the group or the community at large may have.

Our goal as a church is to have at least twenty (20) functioning small groups. If you would like to host a small group, contact Pastor Jim jim.king@ebenezer mennonite.org or call 419-296-0885. There is also the expectation each small group leader will report to Pastor Jim after your small group meets, indicating the group met and who was in attendance. This way we can chart our progress. Any questions may also be directed to Pastor Jim.

Start-up date is now! But begin when you can!! At this point we do not know how long this will be necessary. We are in uncharted waters. We want to keep ourselves healthy and be informed by governmental guidelines.

Ebenezer Mennonite Church, a stone of help for such a time as this.