

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

# CROWN HILL NEWS

## EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 20 AT 6:30PM, LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
- SEPTEMBER 23-25, THOMAS OUT OF TOWN FOR MCUSA BOARD MEETINGS
- SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, FOOD PANTRY
- SEPTEMBER 25 AT 10:00AM, KAITLYN GASSER BABY SHOWER
- SEPTEMBER 26, DAN HOOLEY PREACHING FOLLOWED BY A CARRY-IN MEAL WITH A Q & A TIME WITH DAN.
- OCTOBER 3 AT 11:00AM, COMBINED SERVICE AT CROWN HILL MENNONITE CHURCH WITH MEAL TO FOLLOW
- OCTOBER 10, CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON DAN HOOLEY'S CALL TO CROWN HILL
- OCTOBER 17 AT 4:30PM, COOKOUT & SINGING AT THE ZIMMERLY SCHOOL HOUSE

**WE ARE EXCITED TO OFFICIALLY WELCOME WANDA INTO THE CROWN HILL FAMILY!**



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I CERTIFY THAT SISTER WANDA ZIMMERLY BECAME A PART OF OUR CHURCH ON AUGUST 19, 1972 WHEN WE RECEIVED HER LETTER OF MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER. OUR CONGREGATION ENJOYED WANDA'S WORK AND SERVICE IN DIFFERENT AREAS UNTIL SHE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES WITH HER HUSBAND. WANDA WAS A FAITHFUL SERVANT TO THE LORD WITH A TESTIMONY OF INTEGRITY IN THE COMMUNITY, HER WORK AND OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH. AT WANDA'S REQUEST WE ARE SENDING THIS LETTER TO TRANSFER HER MEMBERSHIP FROM OUR CHURCH TO WHERE SHE IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING.

GOD BLESS,

JOSE E. JIMENEZ, PASTOR  
IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA MENONITA  
AIBONITO, PUERTO RICO

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR MARTHA ZIMMERLY. SHE FELL ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE APOSTOLIC HOME AND BROKE HER HIP AND WAS TAKEN TO THE WOOSTER ER. PRAY FOR MARTHA AS SHE IS IN CONSIDERABLE PAIN AND PRAY FOR THE DOCTORS AND FAMILY AS THEY DECIDE ON TREATMENT.
- PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT AS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING TO KNOW DAN & JULIE HOOLEY.
- PRAY FOR KAITLYN & SPENCER AS THEY ARE EXPECTING A CHILD IN NOVEMBER
- PRAY FOR LEADERS EVERYWHERE (EMPLOYERS, POLITICIANS, THE CDC, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & BOARDS, NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS, PASTORS, ELDERS ETC) THAT ARE CONTINUALLY FACED WITH DECISIONS ABOUT HOW TO RESPOND TO THE ONGOING PANDEMIC.
- PRAY FOR OUR PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES: PATT (& EARL), SUZAN, MARTHA, CAROLYN & ANN
- PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS: PETE STAUFFER, PAULTROYER, ELMER RICHARD, MARY NUSSBAUM, ILA ZIMMERLY FRED'S MOTHER DORIS HOFFMAN.
- PRAYER FOR BOB LEPLLEY & SANDY HANZIE AS THEY RECOVER FROM KNEE SURGERY AND FOR JOAN GASSER AS SHE IS BEING SCHEDULED FOR KNEE REPLACEMENT.
- PRAY FOR PASTOR JOSH EVANS FROM THE RITTMAN NOW CHURCH AS HE IS IN THE ICU WITH COVID AND FOR ANDREA'S COUSIN WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK FROM COVID COMPLICATIONS.

WHO'S THAT?



THIS PHOTO COMES FROM THE 1975 CROWN HILL MENNONITE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY. IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS, THE BEST WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO ASK THEM IF YOU'RE RIGHT!

## NEW WINESKINS DICK BARRETT, CONFERENCE MINISTER

**“NO ONE PUTS A PIECE OF UNSHRUNK CLOTH ON AN OLD GARMENT, FOR THE PATCH TEARS AWAY FROM THE GARMENT, AND A WORSE TEAR IS MADE. NEITHER IS NEW WINE PUT INTO OLD WINESKINS. IF IT IS, THE SKINS BURST AND THE WINE IS SPILLED AND THE SKINS ARE DESTROYED. BUT NEW WINE IS PUT INTO FRESH WINESKINS, AND SO BOTH ARE PRESERVED.”**  
**MATTHEW 9:16-17 (ESV)**

WE ARE NOW MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF INTO THE COVID PANDEMIC WITH A LOT OF UNCERTAINTY. HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO LAST? WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS GOING TO BE? IS THERE GOING TO BE A STRONGER AND MORE DEADLY VARIANT AFTER THE DELTA VARIANT? THOSE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE UNCERTAINTIES. ONE THING THAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT AFTER THIS TIME ALL OF OUR CHURCHES LOOK DIFFERENT THAN THEY DID BEFORE. JUST ABOUT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS LESS — LESS IN TOTAL NUMBERS, LESS IN THOSE ATTENDING IN PERSON, LESS IN ENERGY AND VITALITY, LESS IN ACTIVE MINISTRIES. ONE OF THE BIG QUESTIONS I HAVE BEEN ASKING MYSELF IS, “IS THAT NECESSARILY A BAD THING?” I HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY DRAWN AS OF LATE TO JOHN THE BAPTIST’S WORDS FOUND IN JOHN 3:30, “JESUS MUST BECOME GREATER, I MUST BECOME LESS.” DO THOSE WORDS JUST APPLY TO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS, OR MIGHT THEY ALSO APPLY TO INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES?

PERHAPS GOD HAS BEEN AT WORK IN HIS CHURCHES DURING THIS TIME, AND IT IS EACH CHURCH’S RESPONSIBILITY TO DISCERN HOW GOD HAS BEEN AT WORK. THE BIBLE, BOTH IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, SPEAKS OF GOD’S WINNOWING AND PRUNING. THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY DEFINES PRUNING AS “TO CUT OFF OR CUT BACK PARTS OF FOR BETTER SHAPE OR MORE FRUITFUL GROWTH.”

JUST MAYBE GOD HAS BEEN USING THIS TIME TO PRUNE HIS CHURCHES FOR MORE FRUITFUL GROWTH TO COME. ARE WE PREPARING FOR IT? OVER AND OVER AGAIN THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT NEW: NEW CREATION, NEW MERCIES EVERY MORNING, NEW BIRTH, GOOD NEWS, AS WELL AS NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS. THE WINE — THE GOSPEL OF GOD’S LOVE, GRACE AND MERCY THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, IS NEW EVERY DAY. BUT WE CAN’T JUST KEEP PUTTING THE NEW WINE INTO THE OLD WINESKINS OF THE WAY THE CHURCH WAS (WHETHER IT BE 50 YEARS AGO, 20 YEARS AGO, 10 YEARS AGO, OR EVEN ONE AND A HALF YEARS AGO) AND EXPECT IT TO BE FRUITFUL.

ULTIMATELY, WE ARE NOT THE ONES WHO PROVIDE THE FRUITFUL GROWTH. THE FRUITFUL GROWTH COMES ONLY AFTER WE FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO FOCUS ON: JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD, LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS, AND MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS. RECENTLY I READ A VERY GOOD AND CHALLENGING BOOK TITLED ENDANGERED GOSPEL: HOW FIXING THE WORLD IS KILLING THE CHURCH BY JOHN NUGENT. THE AUTHOR’S PRIMARY CLAIM IS THAT THE CHURCH, ESPECIALLY IN AMERICA, HAS TAKEN ON A RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN, THAT OF SAVING THE WORLD. JUST AS ULTIMATELY IT IS GOD WHO PRODUCES FRUITFUL GROWTH, ULTIMATELY IT IS GOD WHO IS GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD AT THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.