

MARCH 19, 2023

CROWN HILL NEWS

Preaching: Thomas

Sermon: Light in the Valley

Scripture: Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14

The Crown Hill Leadership Team spent a large portion of our meeting discussing the process and results of the ACA vote in which the majority of Ohio Conference delegates voted to disaffiliate from MCUSA, but not the 66% needed to pass the vote. This is a time of uncertainty for all of Ohio Conference as Conference leadership and individual congregations seek to understand what this majority, but not passing, vote means.

Here is how Conference Minister Dick Barrett wrote his thoughts:

"We live in a country which prides itself on the democratic process, and as Anabaptists and Mennonites the process of communal decision making is very important, but church is not a democracy. Church is a theocracy with the triune God of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as the head. Voting can be a tool that helps us discern God's will and to make decisions together, but in making large and important decisions that affect the future of the church, God's will should be clearer than just a majority. And as much as many among us would like to be done with the question of affiliation and be moving on, we need to remember

that we live in God's timing which is often different than our own. How might God be speaking to us in this time we are in? Is there a better way, or as Anabaptists and Mennonites like to say, "Is there a third way?" Is God calling us to something different that we have not yet fully explored? These are questions that we are going to need to try to answer as we continue to discern together in the second year of our review process facilitated by our consultant, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi. I am confident that if we remain faithful to the process, and we continue to love one another in the same way we have throughout this first year, God will reveal his will for us as a conference for the years ahead. "Because of our partnership in the gospel he who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion."

The Leadership team discussed at length what our next steps should be as a church. We understand that the clear majority of our people desired to disaffiliate with MCUSA. We know that there are some in Crown Hill who believe that we as a church should now leave Ohio Conference and we know there are some that are content to stay with Ohio Conference so long as Ohio Conference continues to adhere to article 19 in the Confession of Faith regarding Human Sexuality.

The Leadership Team is planning a way to hear input from the congregation in the near future. Stay tuned for next steps in that process. In the meantime let's all keep praying together that we can be faithful to God as we discern together.

SUNDAY MUSIC

HWB20 Come and See

Open the Eyes of My Heart

SJ13 My Soul is Filled with Joy

HWB87 Great is the Lord

HWB338 I Know Not Why
God's Wondrous

HWB352 Gentle Shepherd,
Come and Lead Us

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Sunday after Easter, (April 16th) we will take nominations for the next Elder. Delmar will be cycling off the Elder Team while Doris and Dave Schrock will continue on as Elders. Please be in prayer about who you would like to nominate as an Elder. You can nominate two people.
- Caregiver Assist Needed. Fred Fix needs someone to stay with his mother, Doris, while he goes to some appointments over the coming months. The next one is April 17. If you know of anyone who might be able to help, please call Fred (330-683-3223).
- Song Leader Groups. We are currently working on a schedule for 1st and 3rd Sunday song leader groups. Persons who have helped in the past have been contacted. But if you haven't helped before and would like to, please talk with Dan (330-413-7319).
- Ladies Bible Study is continuing at 8:30 am on Saturdays in the Church Fellowship Hall. We will be doing a Study on James "Growing in Wisdom and Faith". All women are welcome.
- Wednesday Evening Prayer All are welcome to gather for a time of devotions, prayer and singing from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at Twila and Velma's house. Please call Myrna (330-466-2751) or Dan (330-413-7319) for information.
- Meal Support If you'd like to assist with meals for Elmer Richard, please contact Kris at 330-317-5707.
- 2023 MISSIONAL WORKSHOP Ohio Mennonite Conference is offering this workshop on April 15 to assist congregations. If you'd be interested in attending with a group from Crown Hill, please talk with Dan.
- OHIO MENNONITE EVANGEL. The March/April newsletter of the Ohio Mennonite Conference is available online at the Ohio Conference website. This issue includes an in-depth report of the Annual Conference Assembly and other news of Conference activities. If you would like to have a printed copy, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Kelsey Hilty Troyer at 330-466-7845.

PRAYERS

- Remember the unspoken requests for families in our congregation
- Remember those recovering from surgery and hospital stays.
- Pray for those experiencing the devastation brought by the earthquake in Turkey & Syria
- Pray for peace between Ukraine & Russia.
- Remember Larry Morrison & Ken Kurtz as they go through treatments for cancer. Larry will be receiving radiation treatment for a mass found on his brain. Ken will be undergoing monthly immunotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Win as she will be having cataract surgery in the coming weeks.
- Pray for our shut-ins & nursing home residents: Suzan, Carolyn, Pete, Elmer, Mary, Ila, and Fred's mother Doris. Pray for the caregivers in the congregation and others who are providing much needed support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 19, 3:00pm Sonnenberg Station Concert at Crown Hill**
- **March 23-26, Thomas & Katrina traveling to visit family**
- **April 2, Combined Palm Sunday Service at Wooster Mennonite**
- **April 7 Joint Good Friday Service hosted by Crown Hill**
- **April 9 Joint Easter Sunrise Service**
- **August 18-19, Bus trip to Sight & Sound**

OFFERING 3/5

\$3145 General \$2700 Missions