



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 2 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church January 18, 2026

## SENIOR SAINTS January, 2026 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in January, 2026!

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Dave Ross (73), Monday January 5  
Donna Johnston (70), Friday January 9  
Don Gable (87), Friday January 16



Camp Luz has been serving the Lord through camp ministry for over 70 years. Generations of supporters, volunteers, board members, and staff have each contributed to the mission of supporting the church by providing a camp setting that exalts Jesus Christ.

Several years ago, it became clear that we needed a plan for replacing or renovating several key buildings to ensure Camp Luz would be able to meet the needs of the next generation of campers and guests. This initiative, informed by the work of several rounds of strategic planning, seeks to position the camp well for the coming decades of ministry.

The Next Generation Initiative includes five projects as well as an increase to the Camp Luz Endowment to help offset operating costs. The projects include a Ministry Center, Chapel Renovation and Expansion, Camp Sign and Lane Improvements, Ravine Lodge Repair and Renovation, Garage and Workshop.



Ministry Center  
Rendering

If you are interested in supporting this project or need more information Director Andrew Michaels left some brochures in the foyer when he was here Sunday, January 11. They are on the cabinet under Anna's quilt. You can also visit <https://www.campluz.com/nextgen> or contact the camp office at 330 683 1246 to speak with someone from the Leadership Team heading up this project. Our own Priscilla Spiker is on the team and Ken and Connie Neuenschwander are the chairpersons.

## Keepers of the Concord: A Game of Peace, Wonder & Wild Imagination

As part of his elective project for the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) Journey Program, Keith Lyndaker Schlabach—along with his brother, Brent Lyndaker, co-founders of PeaceGrooves ([www.PeaceGrooves.com](http://www.PeaceGrooves.com))—has developed a creative ministry initiative that blends storytelling, peace theology, collaborative imagination, and restorative play.

Together, they have created Keepers of the Concord, a tabletop role-playing game designed to



cultivate creative peacemaking through cooperative storytelling.

Keepers of the Concord is a sweeping tabletop role-playing game set in Seldara, a myth-soaked world where ancient races once waged brutal Elemental Wars—until a fragile peace, the First Concord, was forged. Long after those war-fires dimmed, players rise as Keepers: wanderers, diplomats, scholars, mystics, truth-seekers, and workers of restoration tasked with holding the realm together as old powers reawaken.

This is a game of healing, bridge-building, and courageous imagination. Every Keeper carries a fragment of the Concord itself—a unique gift meant not for domination, but for repair.

#### How to Participate

The game will be offered virtually online via Zoom, 6:00–8:15pm, on the third Monday of each month, beginning January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, through July 20.

The project will culminate with a final in-person gaming session at the Ohio Conference Annual Conference Assembly, held at Bluffton College, Summer 2026, including an in-person gathering for players and observers.

To participate as a player or observer, please email: [info@peacegrooves.com](mailto:info@peacegrooves.com)  
Include a brief expression of your interest.  
Prospective players will receive links to the Game Guide, Zoom sessions, and additional information.

## NEWS & NOTES



### OrrVilla Retirement

**Community:** Is continuing its Speaker Series each month.

OrrVilla's Speaker Series events are a 1-hour presentation (2:00 – 3:00 PM) on a variety of topics. These talks are free to the public, with an RSVP (330-462-1038), and are intended to be informative and educational.

**Tuesday, February 3 they'll offer PLAYLAB – A Shared Vision for Uniting Communities.** Lori Colon, Founder and CEO of Wayne County's Children's S.T.E.A.M. Playlab, will share the latest updates on programs and creative ways to enjoy this exciting new

intergenerational facility in our area. Join us for helpful tips and fresh ideas on how to make the most of this incredible public resource in Wayne County.



**CAMO Collection:** CAMO collects more than just medical equipment. Each month they'll focus on new or gently used items. For January & February they'll accept items for their carpentry, maintenance & trade school. Items can be mailed or dropped off at....

322 Westwood Ave,  
Orrville, OH 44667

Tools (all types)  
tool boxes, bags,  
and/or belts

saws  
leaf blower  
electric lawn  
mower & string  
trimmer  
snow blower  
shop vac, moving blankets/tarps, ratchet straps, flash  
lights, box cutters & utility knives.



### Ohio MCC Comforter Bash

March 12-14, 2026

*Times to be determined*

*Snacks and coffee/tea will be provided. Please pack your own food for meals.*

**MCC Material Resources Center**  
4080 Kidron Road, Kidron, OH 44636



*This year we are gathering at the new MCC Material Resources Center! With the new location, the format will be a bit different with the event spread over three days. We still need volunteers for knotting and trimming comforters, along with sewists to bind and finish them. **Specific times and more information will be coming soon.***

*Comforter tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") are accepted throughout the year at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron.*

### Join the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on March

**12-14!** This year we are gathering at the new MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road). With the new location, the format will be a bit different with the event spread over three days.

We still need volunteers for knotting and trimming comforters, along with sewists to bind and finish them. *See specific times below.* A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. **For more information, visit [mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash](http://mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash) or contact 234-415-1036 or [GLOhio@mcc.org](mailto:GLOhio@mcc.org).**

**Dates:** March 12-14, 2026 (*Snacks and coffee/tea will be provided. Please pack your own food for meals.*)

### **Thursday, March 12**

- 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Knotting
- 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Trimming & Binding

### **Friday, March 13**

- 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Trimming & Binding
- Noon - 8 p.m.: Knotting

### **Saturday, March 14**

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Knotting, Trimming & Binding

**Location:** MCC Material Resources Center - 4080 Kidron Road, Kidron OH 44636

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* On January 18, 1883 Samuel Evans Allgyer was united in marriage with Priscilla A. Umble, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Kurtz) Umble, of Gap, Lancaster County, PA. They were the parents of eight children: Eva (1883), Barbara (1885), Maud (1887), Roy (1890), Anna Mary (1892), Ruth (1898), Samuel M. (1903), and John M. (1905). Samuel, the son of Joseph and Barbara (Zook) Allgyer, was born near McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, March 8, 1859, and died November 15, 1953. His parents moved to Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1878 settled near West Liberty, Ohio. They were members of the Amish Mennonite Church, with which he was also united.

He attended public schools in Pennsylvania and Ohio from 1865 to 1877 and the Smithville (Ohio) Normal School in 1875. From his marriage in 1883 to 1912 he was a farmer, at first renting and later purchasing his father's farm.

As a young man he served as secretary of the Amish Mennonite (German) Sunday school in Champaign County, Ohio, and later served as superintendent until his ordination to the ministry in 1905. He became deeply interested in the Ohio

Sunday School Conference soon after its organization and took an active part in the annual meeting of the conference. He was one of the moving spirits in the organization of the Logan-Champaign Annual Sunday School Conference and Quarterly Mission Meeting. In the early 1890s during a revival at the Mt. Tabor Methodist Episcopal Church near his home he became convinced that his formal connection with the church was not sufficient. As a result of Bible study and prayer he and his wife were converted in their home during the time that the revival meetings were in progress at the church.

After his ordination to the ministry Allgyer devoted himself more and more to the work of the church and spent weeks and even months away from home conducting Bible conferences and evangelistic services (continued meetings). He was interested especially in building up the mission stations east and west and as a result of his countrywide services became one of the most widely-known evangelists in the church. As a result of these activities and connections, he was elected the first field worker of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities in 1908, and continued in this position until 1940. In 1908 he was ordained bishop of the Oak Grove Church in Champaign County, Ohio, and served as bishop of seven western Ohio churches. He served seven different terms as moderator of the Ohio Mennonite and Eastern Amish Mennonite Conference and was moderator of the Mennonite General Conference in 1931. In 1919 the Mennonite Church sent him to Europe as a special delegate to visit the young men engaged in relief work under the Friends Service Committee.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Allgyer,\\_Samuel\\_Evans\\_\(1859-1953\)&oldid=132603](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Allgyer,_Samuel_Evans_(1859-1953)&oldid=132603)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday February 1, 2026. Submit items to the church office by Thursday January 29, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.