



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 3 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church February 1, 2026

## SENIOR SAINTS February, 2026 Birthdays/Anniversaries



*Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in February, 2026!*  
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Arlin Zuercher (94) Tuesday, February 3  
Jane Miller (75) Wednesday, February 4  
Robert/Glenda Masters (34) Sunday, Feb 15  
Juanita Ross (73) Monday, February 16  
Ed Taylor (71) Thursday, February 19



Rhoda Keener who presented Anna on behalf of the congregation in the ordination.

If you wish to watch the service here is the link.. [Anna's ordination](#)



## Ordination

On Sunday January 11, 2026 Anna Ressler was ordained at Hebron Mennonite Church in Hagerstown, MD.

Anna is wearing a stole her church made and gifted to her for the occasion. This marked

the first time in 40 years that this congregation had hosted an ordination service.

The message was brought by Dawn Ranck-Hower, pastor at New Holland, PA Mennonite Church. She has served as Anna's pastor mentor from a sister congregation of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Joann Dietzl, the executive conference minister from ACC administered the ordination blessing after Anna's 2 year licensing. Pictured above is the chair of Anna's leadership cohort and Executive Director of Mennonite Women USA

## Bible Quizzing



The "Tempestuous Winds" are having a very successful quiz season so far. There is some good competition in our league, so this forces us to study and know the material well! May God keep making

connections between our heads and hearts with these Spirit-filled stories of the early church!

There are a couple ways the congregation can support our team this year besides coming regularly to cheer them on. There will be a fan challenge Sunday February 22 where the team with the highest number of fans will win a prize.

Also approximately 60 host homes are needed from Friday – Sunday, March 20-22 for youth & staff who will be coming to Wayne County for a Bible Quiz tournament to be held at Smithville High School. All you need to provide is a place for youth or staff to sleep (they can bring sleeping bags and sleep on the floor), breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning, and possibly a snack in the evenings. They will be at the tournament all day Saturday and will leave after breakfast on Sunday. Copy & paste this link in your web browser to register to host a team:

<https://forms.gle/iwGmTT4fREeq5Weg6>

or contact Rebecca Martin (330-621-1040) 777rebeccamartin@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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.**

## 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

**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 are provided. Please pack your own 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



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***This Week in Anabaptist History ...*** Mennonite Church USA was born February 1, 2002, merging the U.S. congregations of the General Conference Mennonite Church (GCMC) and Mennonite Church (MC) into one body. While it was heralded as an act of Christian unity, dissension over issues of sexuality and church membership plagued the merger process and dominated the new denomination's agenda.

The creation of Mennonite Church USA has its roots in World War II alternative service. Prior to the war, the General Conference Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church had limited and even conflicted relations with each other. But Civilian Public Service introduced large numbers of

members of both groups to each other, starting an era of growing cooperation. After the war, new congregations emerged in urban and university settings as GCMC and MC members (and settings as GCMC and MC members (and members of other Mennonite denominations) relocated for work or graduate school.

Many of these congregations eventually joined both the General Conference Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church. Their seminaries held joint programs and eventually came together to form Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and both denominations' publishing ministries cooperated on various projects.

At the same, the Mennonite Church increasingly moved toward congregationalism, relaxed standards on attire, accepted open communion, musical instruments, and more. Subsequently, the ecclesiological and cultural gaps between the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church diminished.

In 1983, at the initiative of GCMC general secretary Vern Preheim, the General Conference Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church met for their first joint convention, held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Both denominations' delegate assemblies approved a resolution on "Inter-Mennonite Cooperation in North America." Six years later, both groups, meeting at separate conventions, approved "deliberate exploration" of a merger. The General Conference Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church again met jointly in 1995, in Wichita, Kansas, where 92.9 percent of GCMC and 73.4 of MC delegates called on their two denominations to go beyond exploration and "move toward" a merger. Delegates also adopted a new confession of faith and a vision statement to undergird the new denomination.

Delegates were expected to give their final approval to the merger at their next joint convention, held in St. Louis in 1999. But by then, plans had gone in different directions. All attempts to form a binational structure failed, leading to the decision in 1998 to form separate U.S. and Canadian bodies.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Mennonite\\_Church\\_USA&oldid=178501](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Mennonite_Church_USA&oldid=178501)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday February 15, 2026. Submit items to the church office by Thursday February 12, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.