



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 4 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church February 15, 2026

## SENIOR SAINTS February, 2026 Birthdays/Anniversaries



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

- 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*



## A Word of Thanks

At Mennonite Central Committee we are so grateful for the many ways you support the work of MCC and our partners around the world.

Whether it's through gathering kits, volunteering at events and thrift shops, collecting My Coins Count, or offering prayers for this work and the people who are touched, we appreciate your partnership in this important ministry. Thank you to our friends and supporters at Sonnenberg for your generous donation of \$15,545 (and \$3,027.27 through My Coins Count!) during 2025. Sonnenberg also donated 22 comforters, 350 school kits (Myf), volunteer time from two larger groups, packing 1,702 hygiene kits and 1,133 school kits and volunteer time from Myf to pack 509 school kits.

Your contributions have helped families in Afghanistan purchase clothing and emergency supplies after an earthquake destroyed their homes and made their contents unusable. Because of you, students in northeast Asia are exploring peaceful solutions to difficult problems through play. Your support allowed our global partners to provide

emergency food assistance to 304,646 people. You are helping young farmers in Nepal gain knowledge, skills, and confidence in their work. Because of your prayers and faithful gifts of support, MCC is able to work with 345 partners on 459 projects in 46 countries around the world. Thank you for sharing love and compassion in the name of Christ to your global neighbors through MCC. – Danae King & Sarah Doerksen, MCC Great Lakes

## MYF HAPPENINGS

From Saturday January 17 through Monday breakfast the MYF experienced their own retreat just north of church in the



Gerber-Dunn family farmhouse which has been renovated into an Airbnb house that can handle large groups. We played games, ate good food, enjoyed relaxing in each others' company and stormed the Bible Quizzing match to support our



fellow Myfers. The main theme of our two

speakers for the weekend was Hearing and Answering a Call. Kathy Tschiegg and Tim Shue spent time with us on Sunday sharing about their experiences and how God had led them on the paths they have now both followed for most of their lives. It was a good weekend and we plan to keep this as a new tradition.

Another recent MYF event was Curling at the Pattersons on Monday, February 9th before the temps melted the ice sheet. Not many people know that the Sonnenberg youth group boasts the Curling king of Wayne County, Jude Patterson. While half the world watched curlers in Milan, Italy in the Olympics we had a lot of fun in Kidron learning the rules and terminology.



## 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.

**March 3rd | 2:00–3:00 pm. Join us for some helpful tips and new ideas for ways to provide support for our loved ones and learn the questions that will need to be answered at the time of a loved one's passing .**

Glenn Black is an Ohio-based educator and consultant who leads compassionate, values-focused conversations on end-of-life planning. Drawing on Anabaptist and Mennonite traditions of stewardship and simplicity, he also guides churches, nonprofits, and individuals in aligning their financial decisions with their core beliefs. Glenn's workshops and presentations offer clarity, confidence, and purpose for the future.



**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 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

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* On February 15, 1880, John A. Sprunger married Katharine, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Sprunger) Sprunger. John was a Mennonite (General Conference Mennonite) evangelist and publisher, was born August 12, 1852 in Münsterberg, Switzerland. He was the son of Abraham B. and Elizabeth (Zürcher) Sprunger. In 1854 the family came to America and settled in Adams County, Indiana, in what is now Berne. His formal education consisted of several winter terms in the district school and a short term in the Mennonite school at Wadsworth, Ohio. He was eager to learn and had a good working knowledge of both English and German. As a young man he took active part in church activities, but his interests were rather centered on business affairs. In fact, he became the outstanding early promoter of Berne. He originated or took a prominent part in more business enterprises and built more homes in Berne than any other man, and became wealthy. In 1888, after the death of their only daughter, Sprunger resolved to devote his life to Christian

work, and devoted his considerable wealth to the cause of Christ. He conducted a few home mission tours in this country. Then he and his wife spent about a year (1889) in Switzerland in successful evangelism, which led to a permanent revival, especially among the Jura Mennonite churches starting at Kehr near Langan. While there he was ordained to the ministry.

Sprunger founded the Light and Hope Missionary Society in 1893, which established the Light and Hope Orphanage in Berne on April 1, 1893.

Sprunger also established a deaconess training school in connection with the missionary society, and made the orphanage the headquarters of all these activities. About 1898 he established the Light and Hope Publishing Company at Berne, which published the monthly journal Licht und Hoffnung, started in 1893, and its English counterpart Light and Hope. Among the workers in the print shop and orphanage in Berne were William Egle, H. C. Bartel, and John Horsch.

Sprunger was strongly influenced by the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Although he worked very closely with the founders of the Missionary Church Association for a time, he never fully joined the group. He was the founding pastor of what is now First Missionary Church of Berne.

In 1902 Sprunger moved the orphanage, print shop, and publishing company to Cleveland, Ohio, and soon to Birmingham near Cleveland. Here H. J. Dyck joined the group of workers. Here also Sprunger died September 28, 1911. He was buried at Berne, where his cousin S. F. Sprunger preached the funeral sermon. He was the author of several books, including a 2-volume work, The Gospel in Types, and Outline of Prophecy, and in German, Ein Blick in die prophetische Zukunft (Berne, circa 1900), Leben und volle Genüge (Berne, no date indicated), and Volles Heil (Berne, no date indicated). With H. J. Dyck he edited two hymnals: Himmels-Harfe für Sonntag-Schulen, Jugend vereine und Evangelisations-Versammlungen (Birmingham, Ohio, circa 1907), and Lieder-Auswahl aus Himmels-Harfe (Birmingham, circa 1907).

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Sprunger,\\_John\\_A.\\_\(1852-1911\)&oldid=162233](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Sprunger,_John_A._(1852-1911)&oldid=162233)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday March 1, 2026. Submit items to the church office by Thursday February 26, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.