



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 9 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church May 3, 2026

SENIOR SAINTS

May, 2026

Birthdays/Anniversaries



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

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*Agnes Steiner McComas (75), Friday, May 15  
Rozella Lehman (83), Sunday, May 24  
Dave/Juanita Ross (53), Tuesday, May 26  
Corrine Helmuth (85), Wednesday, May 27  
Mable Gable (87), Wednesday, May 27  
Ora/Marilyn Shetler (60), Friday, May 29*

## COLLEGE GRADUATES

There are three young adults from our congregation who are graduating this spring. We celebrate their accomplishments and wish them the best in their future endeavors!



**Chloe Troyer**, daughter of Marlin & Kathy Troyer, graduates this Saturday, May 2 from Asbury University with a degree in Exercise Science - Kinesiology. Next Chloe plans to take a gap year working in pediatric rehab before applying to Physical Therapy school.

**Ethan Ross**, son of Mike & Dawn Ross and grandson of Dave & Jaunita Ross will graduate Saturday, May 9 from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME). His future plans are to work as a Product Development Engineer at Ohio Gratings Inc. in Canton, OH.



**Greta Patterson**, daughter of Jeremy & Michele Patterson and granddaughter of Jim & Donna Johnston will graduate Thursday, May 7 from Aultman College with an Associate of Applied Science in Radiography. Greta plans to work as an x-ray technologist at Akron Children's Orthopedics/Urgent Care campus in Fairlawn.



## OYANGUREN UPDATE

On Sunday, April 19, the town of Castelli in Argentina where Jose and Alfonsina Oyanguren and their family live experienced 240 mm (about 9.4 inches) of rain in a short amount of time, causing extensive flooding. Many people had to be evacuated, including their son Felipe, who had to leave his house because the water was up to his knees.



The picture is from Sayaten, the educational and community center, where 20 cm (7.9 inches) of water entered all the classrooms, the radio station and the recording studio. In Jose and Alfonsina's own home, the toilets overflowed and only a little water entered the rest of the house.

Schools and churches in Castelli have been converted to shelters for those who had to evacuate.

In a recent update Alfonsina shared that the water is receding in Castelli and people are cleaning. It is most difficult and challenging for the indigenous people whose houses are very precarious and are now full of mud. The Oyangurens ask that we continue to pray for their community, that weather would allow for significant drying and that people would be able to return to their homes and have strength to move forward despite significant material loss.

*"The floods have risen up, O Lord.  
The floods have roared like thunder;  
The floods have lifted their pounding waves.  
But mightier than the violent raging of the seas,  
mightier than the breakers on the shore—  
The Lord above is mightier than these!" (Psa 93:3-4)*

## MAPLE SYRUP FOR MISSIONS



On Saturday, April 25th we successfully pulled off the 28th annual Maple Syrup for Missions Festival breakfast. We served 681 meals and have brought in \$23,970 to date.

Frozen sausage links and patties are available in the kitchen freezer, as well as cooked patties at suggested \$8.00/1 lb. package; Earmark payment through the offering for MSF.

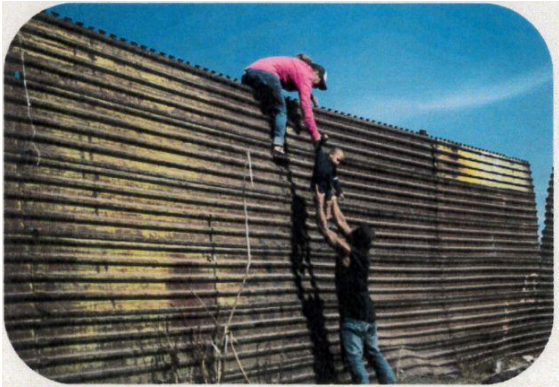


## NEWS & NOTES



### Open Arms and MMN present: Just Peace Pilgrimage

This fall, Open Arms is inviting a small group to join the Just Peace Pilgrimage to northern Mexico in partnership with Mennonite Mission Network. "We will stand in places often discussed but rarely seen. We will listen to local leaders and faith communities who serve in the borderlands every day. We will hear stories not as statistics, but as lived experiences marked by courage, fear, faith and hope."



Trip dates: October 11-18, 2026

Registration deadline: August 1, 2026

Cost per participant: \$850 plus travel to Tucson, AZ

Contact: Open Arms 330-765-9955

## Thank You, Friends!

Lighthouse Annual Banquet 2026

What a joyful evening we shared at our Annual Banquet last Thursday! Nearly 400 guests filled the room to celebrate **30 years of ministry in Southeast Canton**, hear from our student

entrepreneurs during a special panel, enjoy performances from our students, and dream together about the future of Lighthouse! Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the evening so meaningful.

We are also deeply thankful for our generous sponsors who covered event expenses, allowing every dollar raised to go directly toward the programs and opportunities that help young people discover their God-given gifts and potential.

**We are thrilled to share that, together, we met our goals for the evening allowing us to meet our budget for the year and raise the additional funds towards the Field of Dreams Project!**

**With Gratitude,**

**Lighthouse Ministries Staff & Board**

## A NOTE FROM CCS



### JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING CONCERTS:

- Middle School Choral and Instrumental Concert: Thursday, May 7, 7 pm
- High School Choral and Instrumental Concert: Friday, May 15, 7 pm



### ENROLLING NOW!

Central Christian School is enrolling students in grades 5–12 for the 2026–2027 school year. If you are interested in a Christ-centered education, we invite you to explore what Central has to offer. Visit [www.ccscomets.org](http://www.ccscomets.org) or call 330-857-7311 for more information.



### CCS SUMMER ATHLETIC CAMPS

Registration will be available soon for CCS Summer Youth Athletic Camps. Camps will include baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, and volleyball for students entering grades 3–8. More information will be available at [ccscomets.org](http://ccscomets.org) soon.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL



3970 Kidron Road, Kidron, OH 44636

## Class of 2026

## 65th Annual Commencement, May 24, 2:30pm



MCC Connections will celebrate its 25th Anniversary May 11-16 with special sales, food trucks, drawings and giveaways!

- Monday:** Cloud 9 Food Truck\*, 25¢ bracelets
- Tuesday:** Happy Birthday, MCC Connections! Blend of Grace\*, 25% off thrift purchases, one free commemorative shopping tote with every purchase
- Wednesday:** 25¢ necklaces
- Thursday:** Free coffee and donuts, 25¢ scarves
- Friday:** Free coffee and donuts, 25¢ mugs
- Saturday:** Patio 114 Food Truck\*, Ruby's Chipotle Bowls Food Truck\*, free ice cream cup, free shopping tote with purchase, 25¢ flip flops

\*All food truck purchases are 25% off and covered by MCC Connections. Limited menus will be provided by the food trucks.



**Save the date** for the 6th annual Kidron Days 5K - June 13, 2026

Event includes 3 races:

- 10K Run at 8:00 am
- 5K Run at 8:10 am
- 1 mile Family Walk/Run at 8:15 am

See poster in the foyer for more details



**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.

**May 5 | 2:00–3:00 pm. Julie Hartzler, Founding Executive Director of IncludeAbility, will present “Introducing IncludeAbility”.** Julie Hartzler is the Founding Executive Director of IncludeAbility, a nonprofit dedicated to disability inclusion. Her work is shaped by both healthcare experience and personal advocacy for her own family’s disability issues. What began as an idea to help families in Wayne County, now serves individuals and communities worldwide. This Matters for Churches - whether your congregation includes individuals with disabilities or not—or families supporting loved ones—this one-hour presentation offers helpful insight and resources.

### Dwelling in the Word

A note from the editor:

I would like to start including a space in Sojourns for us to share about what God is teaching us as we spend time in his Word. Whether you are following the Bible Recap reading plan with daily recaps by Tara Leigh Cobble or following another chronological or Bible-in-a-Year plan, I invite you to send your insights to the church secretary email address: [sonnenbergchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sonnenbergchurch@gmail.com). Let me know if I can include your name with your comment or if you wish to remain anonymous.

Tara Leigh Cobble encourages us to think about our God Shots while we read - what the daily passage teaches us about God’s heart, his character or his attributes. We are also encouraged to keep looking for Jesus along the way.

“At this point we are 1/3 of the way through the Bible! We're approaching the rises and falls of some of Israel's most well-known kings. These kings' stories are engaging, shocking, and often disheartening. But thank God our faith isn't based on how well human kings rule or obey God—it's founded on the King who *never* fails!” -TLC & TBR Team

Please share so we can learn from each other!  
~Erin

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday May 17, 2026. Submit items to the church office by Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.