



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 10 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church May 17, 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*

Kate participated in the Theater Arts programs, Chorale, Jubilance, Strings/Orchestra, Concert Choir as well as Varsity Singers for three years, a letter winner in volleyball her senior year, and a two-year letter winner in cross country. Kate has participated in Student Council (STUCO), "Operation Connection" (OPCO) and is a member of the CCS chapter of the National Honor Society all while remaining on the honor roll every semester. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, cooking, reading, being outside, hiking, learning and being with her family. This fall Kate plans to attend The Ohio State University at Mansfield and major in biology.

Parental Blessing:

Kathryn (Kate),

It is with deep joy and enduring appreciation that we look back on the years between your birth and this milestone of graduation. In the early days, we often wondered if we could provide the solid foundation you deserved, but God showed us that His faithfulness would be the anchor for our family and the source of your strength. You possess a rare, steadfast spirit and an ironclad integrity. You are the one who stays, the



CLASS of 2026



We have two Central Christian students graduating this month - Kate Holton & Mattea Nofziger. Congratulations on your accomplishments, ladies! Blessings to you as you journey into the next season of your life.

Kate Holton



Kathryn is the daughter of Rhoda and Nathan Holton. Kate is graduating from Central Christian School on Sunday May 24, 2026. As a student

one who shows up, and the one whose word is a bond that never breaks.

We named you Kathryn because we pray you will embody the purity of heart and the steadfast devotion your name signifies; like the faithful witnesses throughout history, may you remain rooted and dependable, a pillar of constancy in a changing world.

May your fidelity to what is right be your compass through every storm. May your integrity be a shelter for those who need a place of truth, and may your devotion to those you love be your greatest legacy. May you find that in being the steady one, you are also held by the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. May you never lose the courage to be exactly who God crafted you to be, un-swayed and resolute in your purpose. And through all your years, may your life be marked by deep-rooted security, lasting influence, honor, and abiding peace. ~Mom & Dad

Mattea Nofziger



Mattea is the daughter of Erin and Glenn Nofziger. She is graduating on May 24 from Central Christian School where she has been

a student since 7th grade. As a student Mattea has participated in Drama productions, Band, Chorale, Jubilation, and Concert Choir. She has played multiple sports including volleyball, tennis, softball, and even a couple races with the cross country team her senior year. Mattea has participated in Campus Ministries and Operation Connection, and is a member of the CCS Chapter of the National Honor Society. Mattea recently started a part-time job at Orr Valley Creamery in Wooster. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, watching movies, crocheting, making bracelets, and hanging out with her friends and family. This fall Mattea plans to attend Malone University and major in Exercise Science.

Parental

Blessing:

Mattea Eden,

It has been such a joy to watch you grow over these last [almost] 18 years. You were the first one to make us parents, the first one to show us how deeply we could love a child...and parenting has been this tender balance of pouring into and gradually letting

go ever since. As a child, you consistently pushed the limits with your strong will and eagerness to try new things. We moved 6 different times in your life, and you were always the one showing us how to make new friends and settle into a new home and community. You naturally assumed a leadership role with your siblings, making up games to play, building forts and going on adventures. You have also been a positive, supportive and encouraging example for them in the ways you care deeply for others, stand for what is right and true, and follow hard after Jesus. We are so blessed to have the beauty of your heart and presence in our life. We will miss your winning smile, your hugs, your laughter and your stories on a daily basis, but we know it's time for you to take your light into another part of the world. No matter where your studies lead you or what profession you give your time and talents to, your purpose as a child of God is to push back the darkness and usher in the Light. We will be here cheering for you every step of the way. Keep seeking the Lord and inviting him to be an active part of your life, because he knows and loves you best. He will satisfy the deepest longings of your heart like no one else can because he truly is where the joy is! We love you, Mattea! ~Mom & Dad



"You are gonna fly someday, but you will always have a home. You're learning how to make your own way, and I'm learning to let you go. You were never mine to keep, you were always just on loan. So have a little patience with me, cause I'm learning to let you go." ~JJ Heller

NEWS & NOTES

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group:

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with any type of brain injury, from a simple concussion to post concussion syndrome, you are welcome to attend this monthly meeting. It is a group designed for people two years beyond their fall/injury who need encouragement or support. A place to listen and share and feel more normal.



Location: Buehler's Conference Room
(Milltown-Wooster)

When: 2nd Thursday of the month, 9:00-10:30am,
come and go as you wish

If you have questions or would like more information,
please contact Kathy Gerber.



CCS News:

Summer Athletic Camps begin June 4, are directed by CCS varsity coaches and are open to CCS and non-CCS students. **This summer they are offering camps for the following sports: baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis and volleyball.** Visit www.ccscomets.org for more information and to register.

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

Kidron Days 5K

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



Vacation Bible School 2026

Sonnenberg's VBS will be combined with our neighbors from Salem this summer!

Dates: July 26-30

Time: 6:00 - 8:30pm each evening

Location: Sonnenberg

Parents, you can register your child(ren) online at <https://myvbs.org/summer-vbs-2026-3302> or use the paper registrations in the foyer. Early registration is encouraged.

VBS is open for children in preK - 5th grade.

Volunteers are also needed to help in various ways! Please see the signup sheets at the Welcome Center for ways you can help at VBS or donate materials needed for snacks and activities.



CAMO Collection: CAMO collects more than just medical equipment. For the months of May/June they'll accept items for the Day Care & Literacy Program. Items can be mailed or dropped off at...

322 Westwood Ave,
Orrville, OH 44667

School kits:

backpacks, pencil boxes, erasers, scissors, glue, crayons, markers, staplers, rulers, and notebooks;

Dental kits:

toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, bar of soap and washcloth

Arts & crafts supplies, Lysol wipes





Speaker & Topic:

Bruce Breckbill, Managing Director
of Everence, Northeast Ohio, will present

“Creative Stewardship”

Come to learn new tools to be charitable and pass
on assets in the most efficient ways.

Event details:

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 2nd, 2:00-3:00pm

Location: OrrVilla's Maple Terrace

Public welcome with RSVP: Donna Neff
330-462-1038 or dneff@orrvilla.org



**MDS Service and Learning
Opportunities:**

LEARN

Introduction to MDS
Leadership Volunteering
June 22, 2026

7:30-9:30 pm EST

This two-hour Zoom meeting provides an opportunity
for prospective volunteers to learn about leadership
and long-term volunteering with MDS! Topics
discussed include MDS's history and mission, project
life, Leadership, Long-Term, and RV Volunteer roles,
and next steps in the application process.

Registration ends on June 17, 2026. Register at
<https://forms.office.com/r/MBAHV889Vd>

SERVE

Leadership Volunteer openings for Summer 2026:
Crew Leaders in Toksook Bay, Alaska, June 12-July
12, and Chevak, Alaska, June 19-July 18. Due to
complex travel arrangements, volunteers must commit
to the entire timeframe. We will also need multiple
crew leaders in a location TBD July 4-August 2 with a
2-4 week commitment; Kansas, Spencer, Iowa, or
Perry, Florida. Volunteers contact Karla Friesen at
402.957.4030 or karla.friesen@mds.org.

Dwelling in the Word

How is God speaking to you through your time in
his Word?

Gleanings from 1 Chronicles, 2 Samuel, Psalms:

- One of the ways David modeled good leadership was through his humble spirit, which paused to inquire of the Lord and seek his direction and guidance. In contrast, Saul was fearful and impetuous, often plowing ahead and taking matters into his own hands instead of seeking help from God.
- “Don’t follow your heart, follow your God!”~TLC
- God is not afraid of our sin; he actually expects it. He wants us to run to him when we sin, instead of hiding away in shame. God can redeem anything we place back in his hands.
- “God’s no is always for a greater yes”~TLC
- Gratitude plays a pivotal role in our relationship with God - it connects us to him in our history and our present, but also compels us to obey him in the future.
- God ultimately wants us to love and trust him.
- There is significance in the details, though sometimes they are not the most important thing. It’s reassuring to know God is not haphazard in his care for us.
- God is a God of grace and mercy. Even David, a man after God’s own heart, slid off course and committed adultery and murder. And yet God removed his sin. There is hope for me.

Please continue to share your insights as we journey through Scripture together. If you are using the Bible Recap plan, it could be a God Shot that was meaningful to you. Or maybe a testimony about a connection God made between your reading and something that happened during your day at work or school. The goal is simply to learn from each other as we interact with God’s Word. Maybe over time we will even be able to see some themes emerging as the Spirit guides us.

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday June 7, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Wednesday, June 3, 2026 @ 12:00pm.