



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXIV, Issue 16 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church August 17, 2025

SENIOR SAINTS August, 2025 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in August, 2025!
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Ken/Connie Neuenschwander (56), Sat, Aug. 2  
Linda Speer (78), Saturday, Aug. 2  
Roy/Ruth Steiner (58), Tuesday, August 19  
Larry Geiser (67), Thursday, August 21  
Lloyd/Jane Miller (55), Wednesday, August 27  
Marilyn Shetler (79), Thursday, August 28  
Cliff Lehman (93), Saturday, August 30  
Jan Eshleman (68), Sunday, August 31

**BACK  
TO  
SCHOOL**

### ETHAN ROSS

University of Akron  
15091 Goudy Rd.  
Dalton, OH 44618

Cell Phone: (330) 465-5772

Email: [rossethan02@gmail.com](mailto:rossethan02@gmail.com)

5th year: Mechanical Engineering



### BRAYDEN NEUENSCHWANDER

University of Akron/

Wayne college

5938 Kidron Rd

Apple Creek, OH 44606

Cell Phone: (330) 390 5294

Email: [bneuen777@gmail.com](mailto:bneuen777@gmail.com)

2nd year: undecided

**CHLOE TROYER**  
Asbury University  
Wilmore, KY 40390



**ASBURY  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Academic Excellence & Spiritual Vitality*

Cell Phone: 330/705-7785

E-mail: [choetroyer5@gmail.com](mailto:choetroyer5@gmail.com)

4th year: Exercise Science and on the soccer team



**MALONE  
UNIVERSITY**  
CHRIST'S KINGDOM FIRST

**SILAS COLEMAN**  
Malone University  
Canton, OH 44709

Cell Phone: 330/464-6763

E-mail: [scolemanhome6@gmail.com](mailto:scolemanhome6@gmail.com)

1st year: Pre Physical Therapy and on the soccer team

### MORIAH MILLER (STEFFEN)

Grove City College  
111 E Poplar St.  
Grove City, PA 16127



**GROVE CITY  
COLLEGE**

Cell: 330-988-2182

Email: [stemor44@gmail.com](mailto:stemor44@gmail.com)

Grad Student: Masters in Accounting

Graduates this December



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

65

### ALEXANDRA RABER

Ohio State University  
Medical Center  
Smith Pl Apt 1  
Columbus, OH 43201

Cell Phone:

330/464-8723

E-mail: [rabale17@gmail.com](mailto:rabale17@gmail.com)

1st year of Residency

**GRETA PATTERSON**

Aultman College  
2962 S Kohler Rd, Orrville OH  
44667  
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Email: gretamarie270@gmail.com  
2nd year: Radiography



**PRISCILLA SPIKER**  
Hesston College  
Missional

Leadership Program  
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Email: [psoptelean@aol.com](mailto:psoptelean@aol.com)  
Final year

**NOAH RAINES**

Grace Christian University  
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Sterling, OH 44276  
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Email:  
[noahraines1997@gmail.com](mailto:noahraines1997@gmail.com)



Noah will earn his Associates in Ministry this  
October and is enrolled this fall at AMBS for the  
Journey program

*( Please use this information to keep these students  
in your prayers and stay in touch as they head back  
to school this fall. )*

**The History of the Sonnenberg  
WMSC/Homemaker's/ SMW Fundraising Food  
Trailer**

Thanks to information written in the late 50's  
by Irene Steiner, mother of Agnes Steiner  
McComas, we learn about the origins of the  
women's fundraising at machinery sales: "Three  
women from Sonnenberg had an idea about how to  
raise money for Sewing. We took card tables, a  
small gas stove to cook our hamburgers and  
hotdogs on, water for hot chocolate and lots of  
coffee for the "Amish" at the machinery sales. A few  
of the WMSC ladies made pies, and we bought

donuts,  
candy  
bars  
and  
small  
bags of  
chips for  
variety.  
We



eventually had a small tent and used a heater to  
help the ladies keep warm, because the winters  
were very cold." The committee of women who  
began this fundraiser for women's sewing included  
Irene Steiner, Sarean Lehman (mother of John and  
Marjean Lehman), and Mary Geiser (mother of  
Dave Geiser and Ella Amstutz).

This fundraising endeavor must have been  
successful, because they eventually bought the first  
trailer which they fixed up with running water and  
electricity. When that trailer no longer suited their  
needs, a second trailer was proposed. Ron Geiser  
writes about how this happened:

"Late summer of 2007, Agnes Steiner,  
president of the Sonnenberg Homemakers  
approached me to ask if I would design and take  
the lead to build a new food trailer since the old one  
was showing some excessive wear and tear. I took  
some time to think how I would fit that into my  
already busy work schedule. Then it came to me.  
We could make it a project for the Wednesday night  
4F Meetings starting in January of 2008. I  
presented my plan to the church and the interest  
came right away. All I needed to do was get the  
project started and have it ready for  
the 4 F Meetings

In October of 2007 I ordered the steel that I  
thought I would need to build the frame  
and mount the new axles under the frame for  
transporting the trailer.

In November the fabrication started in my  
garage 4 miles northwest of Kidron. Right away I  
had volunteers, Dan Gault and Mike Lehman, show  
up to start cutting and fitting each piece of metal  
needed to make this piece of art support the  
building and be able to tow it down the road. By  
December the cutting, fitting and welding was done.

The painting of the frame was done by a good friend of mine.

In early December the project was ready to move into the next stage, taking it to Alpine Barns in Winesburg, to have the barn built and set on the frame. The completed trailer was brought back to Jim and Mark Johnston's shop just in time for the next phase of finishing the interior of the building. With the help of a group of men from the church and the homemakers committee, we ended up with a design everyone thought would meet our needs.

Now it was time to get the last approval. I met with the Wayne County Health Department to show them our plan. They liked it. They agreed that it was much better than what we had. The last steps were to insulate walls and ceiling and finish out the interior to make it easy to keep clean. We had our work cut out to have it done for the first machinery sale in March. The project went fast. We always had a great group of guys helping each night. There are a number of men that I would like to thank for sticking with the project to the end. Hope not to miss anyone's name:

Dan Gault and Mike Lehman helping with the construction of the Frame. And also to Cliff Lehman to periodically come over to supervise; Mark and Jim Johnston for letting us use their garage to work on the interior; Lloyd Miller for taking charge of the installation of Plumbing; Cliff Lehman for building the shelves and the counter tops; Conrad Neuenschwander for donating the refrigerator and stove top; Ken Neuenschwander and Kidron Electric for donating the plumbing supplies including the sinks faucets, and electric supplies including the fluorescent lights, water heater, exhaust fan, and electric panel; Merle and Bonita Kauffman for donating the awning. It was a fun project and I appreciate the support of the church in making this happen."

The Sonnenberg SMW Food Trailer was built entirely with donations of time and money from the congregation. A special thanks to Ron Geiser and the Homemakers Committee for making this happen!

As times change, so does the life of the Food Trailer... As the years went on more food vendors were added to serve food at the Machinery Sales. Within the last two years, the Machinery Sales ended after being held three times a year. SMW also ran the food trailer at the Sonnenberg Village Summer Festival and the Beet Festival. The Historical Society is now working at the food service themselves and the Beet Festival has also ended. So what do we do with the Food Trailer which has served a very important purpose for so many years? Many of you may not even know we have a food trailer. The trailer is presently parked in the parking lot for you to check out. Do you have suggestions for the future of the food trailer? Sonnenberg Mennonite Women (SMW) is looking at options for its future. If you have suggestions, talk to anyone on the SMW Executive Committee: Ruth Steiner, Alice Metcalf, Connie Neuenschwander, Edna Ressler or Ellen Nussbaum. *- Ellen Nussbaum*

## NEWS & NOTES



**15TH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI CATFISH FRY**  
**SATURDAY, SEPT. 13**  
**4:00 - 6:30**

**Dine-In or Drive-Thru**  
at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church  
14367 Hackett Rd., Kidron, OH 44636

**MENU:**

|                                                       |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mississippi Catfish</b><br>(gluten-free available) | <b>Pickles</b>      |
| <b>Hush Puppies</b>                                   | <b>Cole Slaw</b>    |
|                                                       | <b>Apple Sauce</b>  |
|                                                       | <b>Cookies/Bars</b> |
| <b>Dine-In</b>                                        | <b>Drive-Thru</b>   |
| <b>Butter Garlic Potatoes</b>                         | <b>Potato Chips</b> |





**Worship & Convocation:** Wednesday, August 27, 6:30pm. Please join us at CCS as we gather to dedicate the 2025-2026 school year to the Lord. A variety of food trucks will be on campus from 4:00pm- 6:30pm for you to purchase dinner, so bring your family and enjoy a meal together. Worship in Gym 1 will take place from 6:30-7:00pm.



**CAMO Collection:** CAMO collects more than just medical equipment. Each month they'll focus on new or gently used items. For August & September they'll accept the items for

**Women's Health.** Items can be mailed or dropped off at....

322 Westwood Ave,  
Orrville, OH  
44667

Bras; Sanitary Napkins (disposable only);

Preemie, Infant & Pediatric Diapers; Manual breast pumps; Post-partum supplies; Baby Bundle Kits ( cloth diapers & diaper pins, baby blanket (not knitted) Infant t-shirts, baby lotion, brush or comb ).



**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, September 9th will feature OrrVilla's Executive Director, Myron Weaver, and Director of Development, Terry Shue.** They plan to share with the wider community our plans and schedule for Vision 2027.

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday September 7, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Thursday September 4, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.



**MCC School Kit Challenge:** MYF is encouraging the

congregation to join in on the school kit challenge. Items can be purchased and placed in the large brown box inside the church foyer.

**August 24** is the deadline for bringing physical items. Put us to work !

**Contents (NEW items only)**

- ☐ 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- ☐ 8 new unsharpened pencils
- ☐ 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- ☐ 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- ☐ 1 large eraser
- ☐ 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- ☐ 1 small *all metal* pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* Lina Zook Ressler died August 17, 1948 in Scottdale, Pennsylvania and was buried in the Scottdale cemetery.

Lina was an editor, city mission worker, teacher, missionary in India, wife and mother, a remarkable Mennonite woman. She was born September 26, 1869, the oldest of the seven children of David and Magdalena (Blough) Zook and was nurtured in the Oak Grove Mennonite congregation near Smithville, Ohio.

She worked at the Gospel Mission (Home Mission, Mennonite Church) in Chicago, 1896-1900, and attended church meetings as a speaker. She taught at Elkhart Institute, 1901-1903. In 1903 she married Jacob A. Ressler, and they served as Mennonite missionaries in India for five years. Due to her poor health, they returned to the United States in 1908.

By 1911, they were in Scottdale, Pennsylvania, where Lina assisted her husband, who was editor of the *Words of Cheer*. Lina also edited *Beams of Light* from 1937 to 1946. She wrote many articles, coedited a book, and compiled four volumes of poems and stories for children. She is lovingly remembered as "Aunt Lina" to a generation of Mennonite readers.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Ressler, Lina Zook \(1869-1948\)&oldid=143438](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Ressler,_Lina_Zook_(1869-1948)&oldid=143438)

