



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXIV, Issue 17 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church September 7, 2025

## SENIOR SAINTS September, 2025 Birthdays/Anniversaries



*Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in September, 2025!*  
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Mim Lehman (71), Sunday, September 7  
Carolyn Jackson (82), Sunday, September 7  
Robert Masters (70), Monday, September 8  
Bob Kapper (83), Wednesday, September 17  
Ken Neuenschwander (79), Sunday, Sept 21  
Marvin Sommers (74), Sunday, September 21  
Bill/Edna Ressler (69), Monday, September 29



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**EASTERN**  
UNIVERSITY



**HERRON SCHOOL  
OF ART + DESIGN**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

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In case you missed it, Sonnenberg's own Emma Zuercher unveiled her newest sculpture this summer at a dedication ceremony on Saturday, July 12 in the parking lot in front of MCC Connections. Her focus was to create a piece acknowledging the partnership of MCC Connections and the Material Resource Center.

Emma is the daughter of Steve & Lisa Zuercher, niece of Carolyn Zuercher and granddaughter to Keith Sommerfeld and Arlin Zuercher. She graduated from Waynedale High School and is a 2023 graduate of Goshen College, where she studied Sign Language Interpreting and Art. When she is not interpreting or making art, she enjoys gardening, being active outdoors, and shopping at MCC thrift stores.

The following is Emma's Artist Statement about the project.

The local and global work of MCC is displayed in the visual elements of the Earth-shaped metal sculpture outside MCC Connections. The words "peace," "relief," and "development" that

wrap around the globe are central components of the mission of MCC. Buckets that hold kit supplies and bags for thrifted goods are represented as well. They lace together as one with the cross at the center.

The ribbons of metal that make up the globe have a flowing motion, much like cloth. Intentional or not, as humans, we often express our cultural identities through the textiles we wear and use. The variety of colors and textures in the metal reflects the textiles tied to the multiplicity of human experiences around the world. Similar to how the metal ribbons rest on and support each other, we also weave our lives together on this planet.

All of the metal on the sculpture is reclaimed aluminum. I enjoy the process of gathering metal for a sculpture, wondering about its past as I prepare it, and imagining the future of its story as I add it to a sculpture. Nearly all of the metal, including the words, I cut out by hand. After cutting and sanding the pieces, I welded them to the sculpture. The last step, and one of my favorites, was to move it outside, watch it glitter in the sunlight for the first time, and paint it.

- Emma Zuercher July 2025

## FAITH IN FULL COLOR

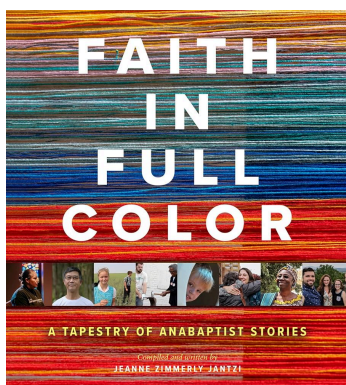
(A Tapestry of  
Anabaptist Stories)

Compiled and  
written by Jeanne  
Zimmerly Jantzi

It is a book  
filled with pictures and  
heartening stories that  
can be shared in worship services and living rooms  
and at dinner tables. Check it out from the library  
and enjoy the stories and pictures for a couple of  
weeks.

Take notice of pages 100 & 101. It tells of  
helping Amish families at New Leaf Center in  
Holmes County (Mt. Eaton). Thank you, Angela  
Zuercher, for your work there.

The book is a gift of good news in a world  
that needs to see beyond hate and selfishness to



the story of Jesus and about God's love at work in  
and through God's people.

*(This book is a gift to Sonnenberg's library  
by Corrine Helmuth and the description above was  
written by her as well.)*

## NEWS & NOTES



### Your help is needed to fund MCC meat canning in Kidron:

We are grateful for the  
volunteers who will help  
can 30,000 pounds of  
turkey in the Gerber

Building behind Central Christian School from  
October 20-23. However, we are struggling to raise  
the necessary funds to pay for the canning. While  
we were able to secure a loan from MCC that  
enables the canning to move forward without delay,  
we need to raise \$40,000 to repay the cost of the  
meat and canner operations. **Please consider  
supporting this important project helping  
people in need around the world, providing  
important nutrients through canned meat.**

**Checks payable to: Relief Canning, Inc,  
Kidron EIN #34-1325825**

**Mail to:** Ben Froese, Treasurer  
PO Box 157, Kidron, OH 44636 -or- 12828  
Church Rd., Orrville, OH 44667



### Hope's House:

To be included in  
their text feed for  
freezer meals, to be  
contacted for  
needed items or to  
volunteer you can  
call/text

(330) 439-2236 or email [hopeshouse1832@gmail.com](mailto:hopeshouse1832@gmail.com)

To donate (they are a501c3)

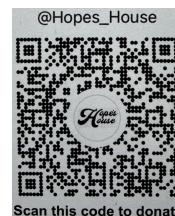
Checks can be made to: Hope's House

Pure Gift of God

PO Box 292

Berlin Oh 44610

Or you can donate through Venmo







**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 ).



**MCC Connections:** Thrift Shop in  
Kidron is hiring a Staff Assistant to  
join our team in late August. This

is a part-time, paid position (three days a week: Monday,  
Wednesday, and every other Friday/Saturday). The role  
provides vital support in both the donation area and the  
retail store. The ideal candidate will support the mission  
of MCC, be flexible and willing to learn, and have strong  
people skills. Applications will be processed as  
received. Apply online at [www.mccconnections.com](http://www.mccconnections.com) or  
request an application by calling 330-857-7802, ext 1# or  
send an email to [Michael@MCCconnections.com](mailto:Michael@MCCconnections.com).



#### **OrrVilla Retirement**

**Community:** Is continuing its  
Speaker Series in August by joining  
with the day-long Orrville Senior

Fun Fair scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th.

The Senior Fun Fair will be held in the gym at Orrville  
Christian Church and is sponsored by the Wayne County  
Senior Services Network (WSSN).

OrrVilla has had an integral role in the planning and  
implementation of this event for the past three years.  
We continue to support this local, free event. Those  
approaching retirement and their senior years will  
participate in "fair" games and learn about local services  
as they meet vendors from a wide range of services in  
one location with coffee, donuts and lunch provided!

RSVP is essential. RSVP by 7/25/25 to Mary Vicars at  
330 419 4923



Ohio Mennonite  
Relief Sale & Auction

#### **Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale:**

We are pleased to announce  
that the 2025 sale raised over  
\$500,000 for its 60th  
anniversary!

We praise the Lord first and  
foremost. And we are grateful  
to YOU! The success of the  
sale is a credit to the  
hundreds of volunteers and

countless hours invested in preparation throughout the  
year and implementation of the actual event.

We are also grateful for the generous sponsors,  
the plethora of individuals and businesses who donated  
items and services, and the hundreds of supporters who  
attended and generously supported the sale, both in  
person and remotely.

On behalf of the thousands of people impacted  
by MCC's programs around the world, we say a  
heartfelt, "Thank you!" You are an important part of  
sharing God's love and compassion for all through relief,  
development and peace in the name of Christ.

-Mike Palmer and Kami Sommers, for the Ohio  
Mennonite Relief Sale

**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:**

**Mississippi Catfish**  
(gluten-free available)  
**Hush Puppies**

**Dine-In**  
**Butter Garlic Potatoes**

**Pickles**  
**Cole Slaw**  
**Apple Sauce**  
**Cookies/Bars**  
**Drive-Thru**  
**Potato Chips**



**MCC School Kit Challenge:** MYF put together just over 500 kits Wednesday, September 3rd at the new Material Resource Center! Thanks for your overwhelming support. Between raised funds and donated items Sonnenberg and Orrville Mennonite churches contributed close to 600 total kits towards MCC's goal of 25,000.



**Join the Buzz at Luz!**

GLOW  
ROUND

September 26, check in 7:15pm





Disc Golf  
Tournament,  
Saturday September 27,  
check in 8am

for more info  
[www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com)

REGISTER  
HERE



**Camp Luz Disc Golf:** The tournament consists of 2 rounds of a modified layout of the Course. The layout will be posted to UDisc a few days ahead of the tournament. The cost for Saturday's tournament is \$30. As this is a fundraiser, payouts for both the glow round and main tournament will be in the form of merchandise provided by our event sponsors. All proceeds support the ministry of Camp Luz, including upkeep and improvements to the Disc Golf Course.

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* In a letter (found in the Amsterdam Mennonite Library) dated September 7, 1758 a Mennonite community from Page County, VA petitioned Dutch Mennonites for help to recover from an Indian raid associated with the French and Indian War.

It practically wiped out the settlement for a short time. The people fled to Pennsylvania, where they waited for an answer to their appeal. It was signed by Michael Kauffman, Jacob Boner, Samuel Bohm, and Daniel Stauffer. It stated "...One family was murdered and the rest of us and many other families were obliged to flee for our lives, leaving all and going empty-handed." Johannes Schneyder and their minister and elder, Martin Funck, would go along to Holland to assist in presenting the request for help. The Page County congregation numbered 39 families or about 100 members in 1758.

Page County, Virginia, is situated in the valley drained by the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. This river flows north between the Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge (Shenandoah Forest). It was near Luray, the county seat, that the first and largest settlement of Mennonites was made in Virginia in the second quarter of the 18th century. This area had had a checkered political history before it became Page County. It was at first in Spotsylvania County that originally included all the land in Virginia west of the Blue Ridge. In 1734-1738 it was a part of Orange County, 1738-1745 of Augusta County, 1745-1772 of Frederick County, and 1772-1831 of Shenandoah County. Then in 1831 that part of Shenandoah County lying between the Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge was taken to form Page County.

Decline in the county began when a number of Mennonites joined the Baptist Church prior to and after the American Revolution. A number of Page County Mennonites moved elsewhere. Local leadership in the church was not maintained. The dwindling membership was served by Rockingham County preachers until 1885, when there were not enough members left in Page County to justify the 30 or more miles of travel to serve them.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Page\\_County\\_\(Virginia,\\_USA\)&oldid=170500](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Page_County_(Virginia,_USA)&oldid=170500)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday September 21, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Thursday September 18, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.