



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXIV, Issue 22 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church November 16, 2025

SENIOR SAINTS November, 2025 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in November, 2025!

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Mike Lehman (69), Saturday, November 1

Trent Metcalf (73), Tuesday, November 4

Roy Steiner (81), Thursday, November 6

Iva Geiser (93), Friday, November 7

Ella Amstutz (89), Friday, November 14

Aldine Nussbaum (72), Friday, November 21

Ora Shetler (79), Tuesday, November 25



Author Hillary Daecher reads from her new MDS children's book, *Mended* as part of MDS's 75th anniversary celebration earlier this year.

Written by Hillary Daecher and illustrated by Berrie Torgan-Randall, this vibrant and engaging book captures the emotions of disaster survivors and ultimately, the joy of rebuilding. *Mended* is a delightful read for children of all ages.

**Many Hands, Being Good Neighbors in times of Disaster** - This collaborative work by Julie Kauffman and Susan Kim is a visually rich collection of stories and photographs documenting the experiences of volunteers and disaster survivors over the past two decades. It celebrates the simple yet profound acts of service that bring communities together in times of crisis.

Additional copies of these books are available for purchase on the MDS website at [mds.org/books](https://mds.org/books). We also invite you to



In Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of  
Mennonite Disaster Service

Written by Hillary Daecher  
Illustrated by Berrie Torgan-Randall



CHURCH  
LIBRARY

(MDS has shared 2 books with partner congregations to celebrate 75 years of ministry)

Mennonite Disaster Service is celebrating 75 incredible years of MDS volunteers giving their time and talent to rebuild homes and restore the lives of those impacted by disaster. As part of our celebration, MDS has published two new books to share the MDS story with your congregation and to add to your church library. Please accept these books as a gift from MDS to the congregation.

**Mended: A story of Hope** - This heartwarming story follows Tyler and his mother as they navigate the aftermath of a devastating storm that damaged their home. During the storm, Tyler loses his best friend, a stuffed bear named Leroy. As MDS volunteers work to restore their home, the question remains-will they also find and mend Leroy?



view our Worship Resources - a collection which can be used to celebrate the work of MDS volunteers, provide care for those traumatized by disaster and to bring hope to those who are feeling hopeless. The collection also includes a new hymn written for our 75th Anniversary, Respond, Rebuild, Restore for all by Dr. Benjamin Bergey. Visit our website for more information - [mds.org/worship-resources](http://mds.org/worship-resources).

Thank you for your ongoing support of MDS. For more information, please contact Jesse Huxman, MDS Communications Manager, [jhuxman@mds.org](mailto:jhuxman@mds.org).

## NEWS & NOTES



**Young Adult Retreat -** Camp Luz is hosting a Young Adult Retreat January 2-3, 2026 for anyone who is a high school graduate through age 27. Call 330 683 1246 for more info or visit [campluz.com](http://campluz.com)



**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, December 2nd they'll offer Fraud & Internet Scam Prevention – Know the Red Flags.** Rachel Matz, Business Engagement Specialist with the Better Business Bureau, brings practical, hands-on

experience to her presentation. She is dedicated to helping our wider community recognize fraud and take steps to protect those we love who may be more vulnerable. Join us to learn how to identify the red flags of fraud and scams and empower yourself with tools to stay safe.



## 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.



**Love INC of Wayne County** extends hope to the citizens of our community **In the Name of Christ.**

It begins with a call to the Connection Center. Trained volunteers encourage our callers through listening to their story. Information is exchanged and an invitation to prayer is offered. On many occasions, a prayer of hope becomes the foundation for transforming lives, families and communities.

One of our volunteers recently shared how each individual encounter has impacted her life story. She states: "I have been blessed by listening to people about their lives' journeys and being able to pray for their needs. Sometimes God stretches us when we would rather stay in our comfort zone."

**Connecting with hope is the beginning of transformation.** Transformation takes you out of your comfort zone! Love INC of Wayne County is here to walk alongside our neighbors in their individual journey of transformational hope. **We will use your donation to directly impact the lives of our neighbors in Wayne County!**

**Will you join us in making an impact?**

Scan the QR code or mail a check to:  
Love INC of Wayne County  
PO Box 71, Kidron, OH 44636



*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* Maatschappij tot Nut van 't Algemeen is a Dutch association for the public welfare, usually called "Het Nut." It was founded on November 16, 1784, on a plan made by Jan Nieuwenhuizen, the pastor of the Mennonite Church of Monnikendam, and his son Martin Nieuwenhuizen, a physician at Edam. The objective of "Het Nut" was to promote education among the poorer classes by means of the publication of good but inexpensive books, and also to improve the school system and the education of youth. To this end independent chapters of the organization were founded in various places in the Netherlands under the leadership of the central management at Amsterdam. Article I of the first constitution of the association stated, "Everyone, of any rank or religion, wherever he may live, and at any time shall be eligible for membership in the Association and its chapters." This principle of toleration has been preserved to the present by the stipulation of Article II, "The Association strives to attain its goal independently of any ecclesiastical or political party."

In the first years of its existence the Association had a great influence on the improvement in instruction, especially by means of building model schools and publishing good schoolbooks. The first school law of 1806 incorporated to a large extent the principles that the Association had presented to the "National Convention" of 1796 as "General Thoughts Concerning National Education," and which were already practiced in their schools.

In 1791 the Association began its work in the field of libraries. The first library was opened in Haarlem. By 1956 the Association had 205 public libraries, in addition to 45 libraries for young people.

The Association also gave the impetus for the establishment of the first savings banks in 1817; the number of savings banks had grown to 133 by 1956.

Taking its work seriously, the Association has sought to extend its field of activity by paying an increasing amount of attention to social work. It also supports the promotion of preparatory and "continuation" instruction, guarantee of pension for kindergarten teachers, instruction in handicrafts, establishment of specialized libraries, arranging library reading, lectures, refining popular entertainments, physical exercise, sport, leasing of garden plots, founding of savings banks and people's banks.

which connected a seminar and an office for research in problems of organization and pedagogy. Since 1919 it has been publishing the periodical *Volksontwikkeling*.

The Association had about 300 chapters in the same number of localities in the 1950s. From the very beginning the Mennonites have taken a large interest in the activities of "Het Nut." Both in the head board and in the boards of the chapters Mennonites often were leading. H. Craandijk, in 1957 was moderator of the *Algemene Doopsgezinde Sociëteit* (Dutch general Mennonite conference), and was at the same time president of the Maatschappij tot Nut van 't Algemeen. In 1927 it had 40,000 members.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Maatschappij\\_tot\\_Nut\\_van\\_%27t\\_Algemeen&oldid=144299](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Maatschappij_tot_Nut_van_%27t_Algemeen&oldid=144299)



**AGES:**  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADS- 27 YEAR OLDS

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

FRI-SAT, JAN 2-3  
CAMP LUZ- 152 KIDRON RD  
ORRVILLE OHIO 44667

Providing an opportunity for young adults to connect with God and build community

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Speakers
- Worship
- Fellowship
- Games

Cost \$75

For more information:  
CALL 330-683-1246

campluz.com

**CONNECT**



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