



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXIV, Issue 23 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church December 7, 2025

SENIOR SAINTS December, 2025 Birthdays/Anniversaries



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

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Gordon Amstutz (86), Thursday, December 4  
Connie Neuenschwander (77), Friday December 5  
Don/Mabel Gable (66), Thursday, December 11  
Laurel Horst (80), Saturday, December 13  
Nancy Miller (77), Sunday, December 14



## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Continues each Sunday  
through December 21, from  
8:50-9:30 a.m. Everyone is

encouraged to join in this time of fellowship and enjoy the Alternative Christmas displays. Using the MCC 2025 Christmas Giving Guide choose a project or projects you would like to support, fill out the form and give it to Ed at the welcome center or drop it into the offering basket. Use an ornament off the tree to give to the person in whose name you have donated.

Our celebration this year includes breakfast



together again. Families with last names beginning with A-N should bring breakfast casseroles, pastries and fruit on Sunday

*For \$50.00 you can help families keep their girls in school*

December 14; last names beginning with O-Z are assigned to bring food on Sundays, December 7 & 21. The Coffee Bar will be serving hot drinks and cold drinks will be provided. Donations for the food tables will also be accepted.

*For \$53.00 you can help supply workers with the tools for a*

The following are *successful masonry business* some answers to commonly asked questions about the MCC Christmas Giving program: you will receive charitable donation credit that will be included in your end of year donation report from the church treasurer.

Your gift will make a difference for someone in need in one of the more than 40 countries where MCC works. MCC partners work with the local community to identify who is most vulnerable. Each person's story in the giving guide is representative of MCC's work. Your donations will support similar projects.

When you choose a gift of livestock, you are providing nutrition and a source of income for someone in need. MCC sources the animals locally and provides training for the person receiving them.

Each gift is the average cost to purchase that item. In cases where donations exceed what is needed, or where local conditions prevent program implementation, MCC will redirect funds to similar activities to help people in need.



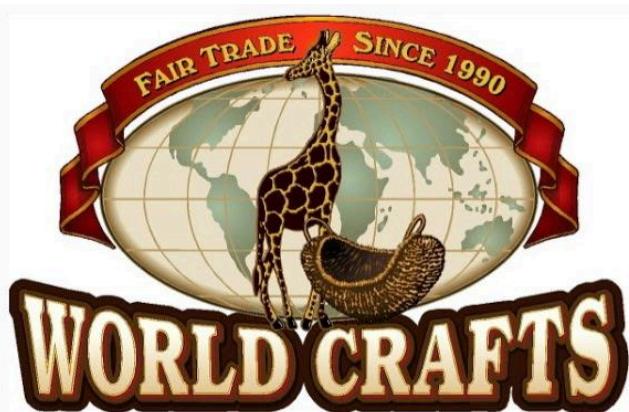
**Pick up a MCC 2025 Christmas Giving Guide  
from the table in the foyer**

## 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)

**World Crafts:** Sonnenberg is invited for special shopping evenings on Mondays, Dec 8 & 15 from 4:00-7:00 pm. As you choose your Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers, know that your purchases also help feed and educate families and children around the world. If you've never been to World Crafts, Monday is a great opportunity! In store specials, free ornament with purchase and gift certificate giveaway.



Gather your friends for

*Late Shopping!*

Mondays, Dec 8 & 15

Open till 7 pm

Regular hours Mon - Sat 10 am - 4 pm



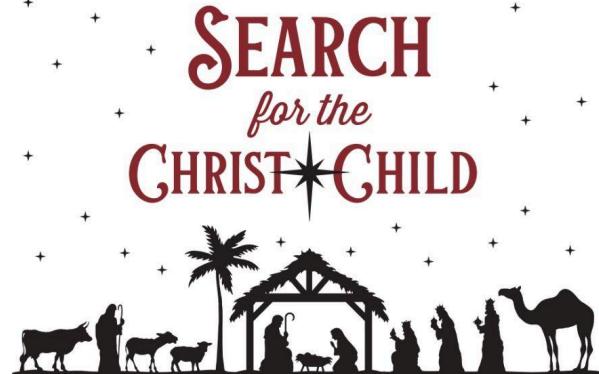
**Lighthouse Ministries:** As we close out the year, Lighthouse Ministries invites you to invest in the bright futures of youth in our community!

This giving season, your generosity can make twice the impact! From now through December 31st,

every gift will be matched up to \$21,000, helping create safe, high-quality, and holistic opportunities for youth in Southeast Canton.

Every gift provides students with an encouraging environment to discover their God-given gifts and potential to impact the world around them. You can donate easily at [www.cantonlighthouse.org/give](http://www.cantonlighthouse.org/give) or by mailing a check to Lighthouse Ministries at 1931 3rd St SE, Canton, OH 44707.

Oak Grove Mennonite Church presents the 37th annual +



Experience the Christmas story as it happened over 2000 years ago! Join fellow searchers on a 45 minute, indoor/outdoor, walk-through experience, as we re-enact the events of the very first Christmas. Please dress warmly.

**DATE:** Sunday, December 7, 2025

**TIME:** Come & go between 5pm-7pm

LEASE BRING A CANNED GOOD OR TOILETRY ITEM FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE MINISTRIES

Oak Grove Mennonite Church:

7843 Smucker Road, Smithville, OH | 330-669-2697 | [www.oakgrovemc.org](http://www.oakgrovemc.org)

This indoor/outdoor tour is accessible



**CAMO Collection:** Check out [www.camo.org](http://www.camo.org) for a link to their Amazon Wishlist, which will contain many needed items to support programs. Items can be mailed or dropped off at....

322 Westwood Ave,  
Orrville, OH 44667





## 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.



**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

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

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

campluz.com

CONNECT

For more information:  
CALL 330-683-1246

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

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* On December 7, 1875 Weaverland Mennonite church called Jonas Martin to the ministry, and six years later, on May 3, 1881, he was chosen as bishop of nine congregations. He served in the ministerial capacity for nearly 50 years until he passed away on July 3, 1925 at the age of 86.

Jonas Hershey Martin, b. January 15, 1839, was one of seven children born to Jonas S. and Nancy (Hershey) Martin. He spent most of his life as a farmer in East Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania as did his ancestors for several generations. In 1865 Jonas Martin married Sarah Witwer (1845-1889), and after her death he married Annie Wenger (1852-1927). Eleven children grew to maturity. Martin embraced the Mennonite faith of his forebears and was baptized at 20 years of age in the Weaverland church.

Jonas Martin is best remembered for his conservative position in his work as bishop. He opposed modern church practices, especially the introduction of Sunday schools. Two other issues he identified were Mennonite bishops officiating at the marriages of non-members, and the incorporation of the Kauffman Mennonite Church, allowing it to receive and administer property.

In the fall of 1893 he led his conservative followers out of the Lancaster Conference to found his own Weaverland Conference (often called the Martinites). Most of his followers were from north-east Lancaster County, although ripples of that division were felt over many counties as well as in all the major settlements of other states. His group merged with the Wisler groups of Ohio, Indiana, and Ontario. The Weaverland Conference, the Groffdale Conference, and the Reidenbach Mennonites all originate from the Martinites. The 1987 estimated total membership of these groups is 8,700. They are often known collectively as Old Order Mennonites.

Jonas Martin was a likeable and sociable man. He was remembered as an interesting speaker who held the attention of his audience. He often quoted scripture from memory, and stayed close to scripture in his preaching. Tradition holds that he knew the Dordrecht Confession of Faith by memory. The last five years of his life were frail ones, as he showed symptoms of a stroke. He is buried at the Weaverland Old Order Church cemetery.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Martin,\\_Jonas\\_H.\\_\(1839-1925\)&oldid=177075](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Martin,_Jonas_H._(1839-1925)&oldid=177075)