



# SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXIV, Issue 24 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church December 21, 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

### THE BIBLE RECAP

I want to encourage everyone who feels the tug to join in this Bible reading plan called the Bible Recap to start the

new year on January 1, 2026. It can be a way that God will breathe new life into us as a congregation. I pray God's blessing on this effort and plan for everyone for whom this will be a good fit! Don't feel bad if you have another plan in mind or feel like this is just not for you or not yet.

Tara Leigh Cobble has done this for 10 years now, she goes through the Bible in a chronological way and it's a few chapters each day and then she shares this recap. It's like a highlight reel of that day and she tries to help us understand the character of God. It isn't so much about when the temple was destroyed and rebuilt as much as what is the nature and the character of God.

There are multiple ways you can follow along with this journey. You can read the sections for a given day in your Bible and use a printed or digital version of the recap to get the same input as the rest of the congregation. You can purchase a new Bible with the Recap inside (there is an

imitation leather and a hard back for different prices).

Additional resources for those who want to dig deeper include a podcast or watching the video of Tara-Leigh giving the recap. It's so much better listening to or watching her! There is also a weekly discussion guide for Sunday school class or small group leaders as well as a kids version.

These books can be purchased on Amazon for much cheaper than on The Bible Recap website. Chip may also be able to get these books much cheaper through his work at Choice books. So feel free to purchase your own books or let me know if you would like help and we can make group orders.

Follow this link and explore the options. <https://www.thebiblerecap.com/>. This is the homepage, I recommend clicking on Start and starting watching the Prep Episode videos in order. There are 6 episodes that explain the plan and why it is important to read the entire Bible and get you prepared to start Jan 1.

The digital or print plan is available on the Bible app plan for free or purchase the Dwell Bible app for \$44.99/year or \$199.99 for life. I have a copy of a few of the books/resources if you want to see what a hard copy would look like. I plan to lead or facilitate a Wednesday night discussion for anyone that wants to gather but you can be part of a group online you can do it with a few people. It's about 20 minutes of your day. You will be amazed. Please



ask me or anyone else questions you may have about it.

If we have at least 10 folks who want any of one of the print versions of the Bible Recap resources we can receive volume discounts through Choice Books. That includes the Bible w/ Recap, just the Bible Recap, the kid's study guide, the God Shot or the adult study guide.

- Pastor Glenn II

## 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)

**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

For more information:  
CALL 330-683-1246



**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.



**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, Tuesday, January 6 they'll offer New Ways to Use Your Library in the New Year.** Representatives from the Orrville Library will share creative ideas and helpful reminders about the tools and resources available at the library. They'll also provide updates on exciting renovations coming soon! Join us for practical tips and fresh ideas on how to make the most of this incredible community resource.



**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



JANUARY 16-18, 2026 AT SONNENBERG  
All Adults Enrichment Weekend

*Being the Church in the 21st Century*  
with Dr. John Byron



**Speaker, Author, Scholar. Helping people know what they believe and why they believe it.**

Friday evening, 7:00-8:30 "Being the Church in Exile"

Come at 6:30 and enjoy a time of beverages, snacks and fellowship before the session begins.

Saturday morning, 8:30-10:00 "Being the Church in the Story of God"

Come at 8:00 for Coffee, tea, juice, pastries & fellowship

Break 10:00-10:30

Saturday 10:30-12:00 "Being the Church to my Neighbor"

Saturday 12:00-1:00 Lunch is catered. Sign up if you wish to participate. No cost, but consider donating towards the expense.

**Sunday Morning:**

Sunday School Hour 9:30-10:15 "Many Manuscripts One Book"

Sunday Worship 10:30 - "Resurrection: Christian Hope for the World"

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## 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.

**This Week in Anabaptist History ...** Wismar, seaport and manufacturing city, Mecklenburg, Germany, was the scene of some Anabaptist activity and conferences. On 11 April 1535 at a conference of evangelical theologians at which action against Anabaptists was taken, Wismar was represented. This does not prove that there were Anabaptists in this city at this early date. When Menno Simons lived at Wismar during the winter of 1553-1554 there was a considerable group of Anabaptists there. On 21 December 1553, the refugee congregation led by the Reformed preacher á Lasco arrived there from London. Menno and Martin Micron, the latter representing this refugee congregation, held a debate in Wismar on basic Christian doctrines. On 6 February 1554, another discussion, particularly on the incarnation of Christ, took place, which was continued on 15 February. Menno and Micron continued their discussion in several published writings.

Three days after the meeting, Menno was informed by "the city council that Anabaptists were not to be tolerated in the city because the discussions had become known. Menno accused Micron of reporting the Anabaptists to the city council. Particularly the Lutheran ministers of Wismar, Smedenstede and Vincentius, aroused the city council against the Anabaptists which decreed that the latter had to leave the city by 11 November 1554. It was probably at this time that Menno left Wismar to find a new shelter at Wüstenfelde.

A significant meeting of Anabaptist elders in Wismar in 1554 resulted in the Wismar Resolutions, which played a very significant role in the later development of Anabaptism in the Netherlands and northwest Germany. It is likely that Gillis van Aken was received into the fellowship here after having been excommunicated.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Wismar\\_\(Mecklenburg-Vorpommern,\\_Germany\)&oldid=140858](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Wismar_(Mecklenburg-Vorpommern,_Germany)&oldid=140858)

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday January 5, 2025. Submit items to the church office by Thursday January 1, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.