

# NEWS & NOTES

GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

## APRIL

## 2018



### April 1

Easter Sunday breakfast and worship service

### April 8-15

Family Promise rotation

### April 14

Goodbye concert for Betsy and Bruce

### April 20-21

MSMC Faith and Life Forum, LaJunta

### April 22

Pastor Betsy's last Sunday

### June 21-23

MSMH Choir Festival at FMC



FROM THE



PASTOR

Bruce and I are preparing to sell our house – it's a condo, actually. Fortunately, our realtor is not requiring a whole lot of fix-up. Our house, it seems, is in relatively good shape. We assume it is standing on a firm foundation.

This has gotten me thinking about our “house” here at GHMC. As I prepare to move on, am I leaving this house in good shape? Are you standing on a firm foundation?

In the book of Ephesians there's a lot about households and buildings. The author, who is writing to the budding church in Ephesus, frequently uses a particular Greek word in its various forms: *oikeioi* – members of the household; *oidokome* – structure, etc. This Greek word is the root of our English word, economy. This letter is all about getting the Christian “household of God,” the church or the believing community, in good working shape.

I really like the book of Ephesians; the advice is practical and the images, beautiful. Yes, there are some problematic bits – “Wives, be subject to your husbands,” for instance – but those challenge us to dig deeper, to figure out the context then and what it might mean for us now.

When I began working as your pastor, this congregation had just gone through a very difficult time. And then a constructive time with intentional interim pastors, J. Mark and Emma Frederick. By the time I came on board, you were a group committed to “speaking the truth in love.” That phrase comes from Ephesians. And it is a necessary element in the building process: “But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part



### **BIRTHDAYS:**

8 - Anita Landis-Eigsti  
 9 - Thoreau Hale  
 9 - Anna Unruh  
 10 - Lucas Geiser Godshalk  
 11 - Samuel Graber-McCrae  
 22 - Merritt Welty  
 28- Emily Yoder-Horst

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## **Adult Sunday School schedule**

April 2018

**April 1** – Easter Sunday, no Sunday School

**April 8** – “Monkeys and Mennonites,”  
 led Nathan Graber-McCrae

**April 15** – “Building relationship with differing  
 perspectives,” led by Barry Bartel,  
 Charlene Epp and Duncan Smith

**April 22** – Farewell to Pastor Betsy, no Sunday  
 School

**April 29** – Church Family Forum: “Preparing for  
 transition”

### **From the Pastor, continued**

is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love” (4:16-17).

Hold onto that. In this time of transition and adjustment, recommit yourselves to speaking the truth in love. It will keep you strong.

“Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (4:1-3).

Take these words to heart. I know that you do. I see folks gently holding each other, encouraging each other. I see a willingness to let folks be themselves even when what they do or the way they do things wouldn't be your first choice and maybe even bugs you a bit. (That's bearing with one another in love.) I see patience with imperfection along with appreciation for any and all gifts that are shared. I see a true desire to be a community whose hospitality includes a welcome for different ways of thinking or believing.

These things indicate to me that this is a strong and healthy congregation, a well-built structure, an alive and lively household of God. Young and old living together. Elders perhaps throwing up their hands occasionally but also nodding in approval. Children feeling safe, known and loved. Young parents learning from parents whose children are grown. Working folks sharing their burdens and their joys. All of this rooted and grounded in the love of God revealed through Jesus Christ and animated by the Holy Spirit.

Yes, this “house” is in good shape. It is beautiful and it will stand. I will miss living in it with you. Your next pastor is a most blessed and fortunate person.

With love,

*Betsy*

# April Showers and May Flowers

(or joy comes in the morning)

by Peggy Owen

April is a month of changes. Flowers come to life again, baby leaves appear on branches and we celebrate Easter, the ultimate story of new life. We look forward to a season of color and growth and outdoor work. Moving forward also means letting go of the past season. Winter has waned and cozy dark evenings are replaced by hours of sunshine.

This April, we are saying good-bye to Betsy Headrick McCrae who has been our pastor these past ten years. This is a time of change, of farewell, a time of letting go of the familiar. And this is hard. In many ways we grieve the comfort we have had and fear the unknown. This is a time to weep, and time to treasure the past decade, to remember how we grew during this time.

These have been good years. Among many other things, we replaced the roof, put in an elevator, made sure restrooms were accessible for everyone, and paid off the debt. We've hiked together at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp on church retreats, sang together in the choir, worked side by side at yard sales and building maintenance projects. We have grown to trust each other, to be comfortable together, to recognize and nurture gifts in one another. Pastor Betsy brought us gifts of love, wisdom, knowledge, acceptance and care. She also made us uncomfortable by pushing us out of our comfort zones to examine racism, sexuality, and immigration. We explored different ways of worshipping together --some of which went well and some that didn't. We tried new things. We were stretched. We grew. We matured.

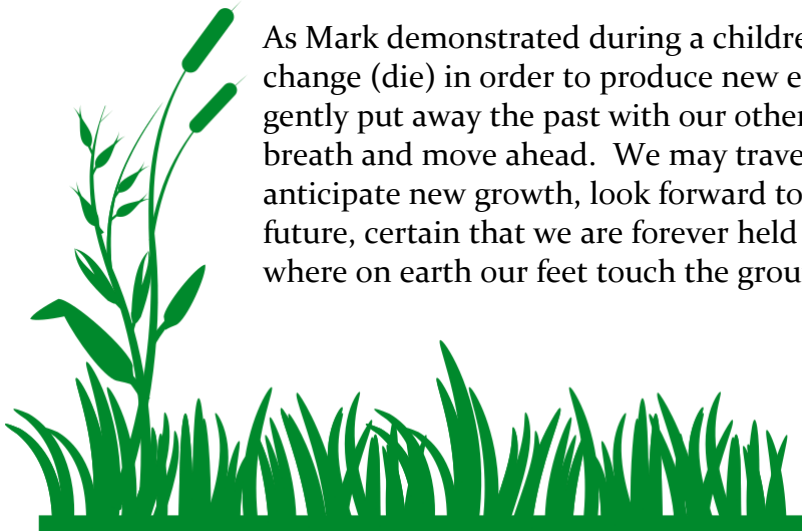
Now it is time for Betsy and Bruce to try something new by moving to Rwanda. Because we love them, we wish them well. We will pray for their safety, for friends, for a new faith community, for success in their new jobs, for health, for good Internet connections so they can visit their children and grandchildren. And us. We have faith that God will guide them and care for them. Because we love them, we will miss them.

We said good-bye to Dave and Edith last fall when they moved to Nebraska. We will say good-bye to Claire Franz this fall as she begins college in Goshen. We will say good-bye to Linda and Merritt when they move to Idaho. Good-byes are hard, both on the ones who stay behind and those who change addresses. Good-byes are a two-way street. Some people shed buckets of tears, some eyes just grow misty, some avoid good-byes altogether, and some throw a party to celebrate good memories.

But bidding good-bye doesn't last forever. Psalm 30:5 reminds us "weeping endures for a night but joy comes in the morning." Just as we waved adios, we have welcomed Kristal and Steven and their little ones. We recently claimed Drew and Mike as our own. Other new people will come through our doors and we will welcome them too.

We know Nathan will be our interim pastor. We know we will learn from him and that he will learn from us. We will walk together through the summer and find a new level of comfort. But just when we begin to settle in, our new pastor will arrive in late summer or early fall. This will

be another change as we again face uncertainties, anticipation, a time of getting to know each other, a time of building trust. Betsy has told us on more than one occasion that she is certain God has the right person in mind to be our new pastor. Do we have faith that this is so? Even though Betsy won't be caring for us on a daily basis, God always will. God has promised to be with us always, and as Betsy so often reminds us, we cannot go where God is not.



As Mark demonstrated during a children's time not long ago, a seed of corn has to change (die) in order to produce new ears. So we--and Betsy and Bruce--must gently put away the past with our other cherished memories, pause, take a deep breath and move ahead. We may travel different roads, but we--and they--anticipate new growth, look forward to bearing new fruit, sure that joy is in our future, certain that we are forever held in God's gentle loving hands no matter where on earth our feet touch the ground.

**Farewell Concert**  
**FOR Pastor Betsy**  
**(& Bruce!)**

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**Saturday, April 14**  
**7 pm- 10 pm MDT**

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**Glennon Heights Mennonite Church**  
11480 W Virginia Ave, Lakewood CO 80226

A photograph of a man and a woman, identified as Pastor Betsy and Bruce, smiling and posing outdoors. The woman is on the left, wearing glasses and a green patterned top. The man is on the right, wearing glasses and a light blue button-down shirt. They are standing in front of some trees.



*As the days grow longer....*

## **Sipping on Light**

**By Joel Pontius, Goshen College professor**

I am moved by light. Sometimes, I'll drop everything and awkwardly half-run outside to experience heavy amber beams or be immersed in turquoise/black winds. You know the moments when God's enduring, abundant love has surfaced.

*Live gratefully, for God's love endures forever. God has given us light!*

Jesus chose light as one way to communicate his identity, which makes sense because it is as nuanced metaphorically as it is literally. Light, like our Creator, is among the finest purveyors of color, creativity, contrast, transformation and regeneration. This power continually (re)creates us all in Christ.

On March 20 we celebrated the spring equinox, the time when northern hemisphere places spin into a half-year-long season of light. Let's embrace this abundant gift with a few points of reflection:

- What experiences help you feel loved by God? When will you next seek out God's love in this way?
- What is coming alive in your life/bringing you hope in this new season of light?
- What is ending/coming to a close in your life?
- What/who are you grateful for in your place and community? (Share with them...especially if they are trees or turtles.)

Let your heart sip on and savor the light.





## Anabaptists and Taxes



*By Mennonite Church USA on Mar 22, 2018 09:15 am*

Jason Boone is coordinating minister for the [Peace and Justice Support Network](#).

### **I pay my taxes, but I don't like it.**

Part of it is I resent the compulsory nature of the whole affair. It's all DEADLINES and PENALTIES and IRS. They could just ask me nicely for some money to pay for roads, education, assistance for people struggling financially. While I'm happy to give to those things, there's a difference between voluntarily supporting something and being forced to do it.

But the biggest reason I don't like it is I know where the money goes. Yes, some of it does go to good things I'm glad to contribute to.

**But a huge part of our tax dollars (25-50 percent depending on whose estimates you use) goes to support the military and finance the bloody, stupid, pointless wars we've been waging since 2001.**

I object to this ethically and morally. I object on religious grounds. And I object as a person of average intelligence who recognizes this is absurd. We've spent somewhere around five trillion dollars on war since 2001. Are we any closer to peace? Or have we destroyed a bunch of houses, hospitals and roads, killed and wounded a lot of people and engendered hatred and resentment? Five trillion dollars could buy a lot of food, build a lot of schools. It could make a lot of friends. Or it could do what we've done.

Really, I'd prefer they just take the money and burn it in a big bonfire on the National Mall. I'll pay for the matches (voluntarily!).

Maybe you feel the same frustration. Anabaptists have been wrestling with this problem of tax money paying for war for centuries (check out [this timeline of war tax resistance](#) by our friend Titus Peachey). Some of us have refused to pay all or part of our taxes. Some of us have made decisions to live at an income level that doesn't get taxed. There isn't one right way to respond to this problem.

This tax season, Peace and Justice Support Network and Mennonite Mission Network are offering another possible way to respond. Our tax money is going to help pay for war, so let's make sure we're putting some towards peace as well.

*(cont'd)*

**The [I Choose Peace Fund](#) is a way to offset the taxes we pay that support war by giving to peacemaking. The money donated will go to Mennonite Mission Network [global partners in peacemaking](#), [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#), [National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund](#) and [ReconciliAsian](#).**

We can't match the money and might that government has to wage war. But we can try our best to be faithful to Jesus in the choices we make with our dollars. And we can throw a little bit of sand in the gears of the war machine. Who knows, if enough of us throw enough sand, maybe things could change.

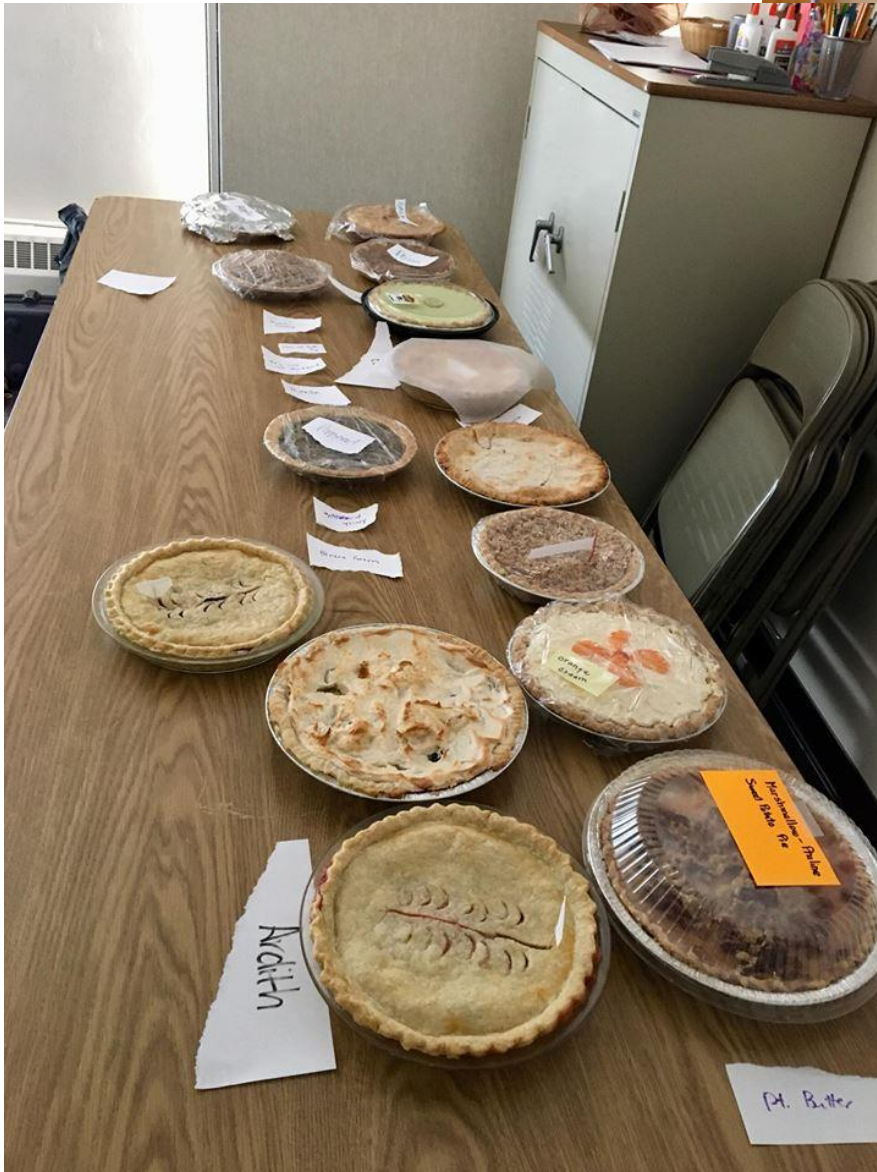
So if you feel anxious or angry as tax day gets closer, you aren't alone. And your response of not paying taxes or intentionally supporting peacemaking or whatever your conscience leads you to, is part of a persistent witness that will outlast the Pentagon, the "war on terror" and even the government that supports it all.

The post [Anabaptists and Taxes](#) appeared first on [Mennonite Church USA](#).



MYF Pie Auction March 11





## March 2018 Calendar

Sunday, April 1	Choir practice, 8:15 am
Monday, April 2	Bipolar/Depression support group, 7 pm
Tuesday, April 3	Worship Team meeting at Bontragers', 7 pm
Thursday, April 5	Bible Study at Doris', 7 pm
Thursday, April 12	Bible Study at Doris', 7 pm
Saturday, April 14	Farewell Concert for Betsy & Bruce, 7 pm
Monday, April 16	Bipolar/Depression support group, 7 pm
Tuesday, April 17	Daytime Mennonite Women, 9:30 am
Wednesday, April 18	Elders meeting, 7 pm
Thursday, April 19	Bible Study at Doris', 7 pm
Saturday, April 21	Men's breakfast, 9 am
Monday, April 23	Outreach Team meeting at Doris', 7 pm
Thursday, April 26	Bible Study at Doris', 7 pm

### GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

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Pastor Betsy Headrick McCrae

[ghmc.betsy@comcast.net](mailto:ghmc.betsy@comcast.net)

303-985-3930; Cell 303-716-2890

Hours: Tuesday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Kate Rempel

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Tuesday, 8 am – 2 pm

Friday, 8 am – 2 pm

#### Our Mission

To be a faithful community of Jesus Christ

#### Our Vision

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We envision growth;

building a community of faith which practices  
constructive responses to conflict;

and, in a world driven by fear, promoting a  
Christian voice of love and nonviolence.

### NEWS & NOTES

Compiled by Betsy Headrick McCrae and Kate Rempel

Layout by Kate Rempel