



May 18, 2025	Worship 10:00 AM	Vol. LXV No. 19
Prelude		Katherine Swinger

Welcome, Announcements  
Call to Worship Randy Franz

Praising  
*Summoned by The God who Made Us* VT 1  
*Come, We that Love the Lord* VT 31

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18

Children's story

Offering

Message Where's the Love?  
John 13: 31-35 Emily Toews

Response Song  
*The Love of God* VT 162

Sharing and Prayer

Sending Song  
*Go, My Children* VT 830

Benediction

### Announcements

**Roofing work on the Sanctuary** will begin this week.

**Our dear Menno Family:** There are not enough words to sufficiently say "Thank You" for all of the loving care and kindness you have given us during the decline and loss of our beloved husband, Dad, Grandfather, Great-grandfather, and Uncle Forrest. We wish many blessings for the Menno congregation. You have indeed been "the hands and feet of Jesus" to us. Much love, *The Hardt Family*

Worship Contributors	
This Sunday	Next Sunday
Worship Leader: Randy Franz	Worship Leader: Emily Toews
Speaker: Emily Toews	Speaker: Bryce Miller
Accompanist: Katherine Swinger	Accompanist: Melanie Gering
Greeters: Cody & Donna Hostick	Greeters: Dennis & Colleen Kagele
AV Support (Self Scheduled): Cleon Claassen, Bill Dyck, Reed Meyer, Doug Claassen	

*Menno Mennonite Church, a Christian Anabaptist Community, equips believers through relevant Worship and Study, and expresses God's love to others through Stewardship and Service*

## Sabbatical Plan Notes from Bryce and Emily

We have been working on the details around the sabbatical and want to share more about what we have in mind. Our plan is to depart in the latter part of the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>, and return the week of August 4, no later than August 7. We are planning on travelling first Eastward taking our time, stopping in Kansas for a couple of days to be in conversation with colleagues and visit with friends. We will aim to be in the Upper Midwest around June 21<sup>st</sup> to allow the kids to attend camp in the area. Then we will travel to Ohio to where Bryce's parents live. This is where we will have our base with trips from there. Later, we plan on attending MCUSA conference in Greensboro, NC in early July. We will travel home hoping to travel home by way of Canada, though that remains in the balance pending paperwork with Emily's naturalization ceremony in June.

By way of reminder, our focus project for this time will be looking for connections with rural congregations with an ear toward specific ideas and strategies for thriving rural ministry in the context of a great deal of change. Conversations with this in mind will be sought throughout our time away, seeking to have at least 3-5 substantive conversations on which we can report ideas and inspirations, hopefully more.

We are glad to report that our worship and pastoral care planning for this time has gone well. We have had a strong response from friends around the conference. Terry & Jerilee Rediger will be here the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June, remaining in residence the week in between. Duncan Smith will similarly be present July 27 and August 3<sup>rd</sup>, residing at the house in between. I know they both would appreciate the opportunity to connect with the congregation through the week. Gary Jewell has agreed to stand-by to provide pastoral care as needed. Complete details will be shared shortly.

We welcome your questions and concerns in this time. We will be publishing notes surrounding operational elements in the coming days as well. We are profoundly grateful to being afforded by you this opportunity for learning and restoration together as a family.

Recall too, that our sabbatical period will continue in the months of our return. We will also be taking on individual projects on after our return which we will share as they come into better focus. We will alternate in this time with 2 weeks each with the other individual taking full responsibility in that time.

We look forward to returning to Menno and sharing what we have learned and seen, knowing the Spirit's renewing work in all things. Thank you for this opportunity. *—Bryce and Emily*

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