

## Announcements

The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale Board thanks you for your support of this year's sale. Total proceeds of the sale were over \$492,000, including \$160,000 from the quilt auction - the highest ever - and \$113,000 from My Coins Count! Your support helps Mennonite Central Committee's global work to ease the lives of the oppressed. Thank you!

In the spring of 2020, an exploratory committee was formed to consider establishing an MCC thrift shop in Elkhart. The committee consists of a diverse group of individuals from the Goshen and Elkhart areas, representing different denominations, along with three MCC staff members. The committee has been meeting monthly to complete the research necessary to determine the potential success and viability of establishing this thrift shop. This spring the Great Lakes Mennonite Thrift Board was formed, and an Advisory Committee was named. Both groups have been planning and taking steps to open a new Thrift shop. South central Elkhart has been determined to be the desired location, in part to provide quality and affordable used items to local neighborhoods that are under-sourced. The location of the shop will be at Woodland Crossing (the former Pierre Moran Mall), and it will be named "Thrift at Woodland Crossing." This location is easily visible and accessible for anyone dropping off donations or shopping. The goal is to open the store in 2022. Once the lease has been secured, we will communicate how local congregations could participate in this MCC project. In the meantime, we covet your prayers for this ministry. Contact us through [Elkhartthrift@gmail.com](mailto:Elkhartthrift@gmail.com) for thoughts or questions.

## BNF People to Pray for this Week

October 4: Elizabeth Brewer  
October 5: Teri King  
October 6: Richard and Bill Crowe  
October 7: Larry and Ardith Garreffa  
October 8: Tina Grimm and Tyler Rose  
October 9: Ponce Family

## Last Sunday, September 26

Attendance: 20  
Offering: \$1,301  
Nazareth Village Offering: \$41.90

## Next Sunday, October 10

Sermon: Glenn Leinbach

## Church Calendar

Tuesday, October 5: Coffee Break, 10 am  
Thursday, October 7: Zoom Bible Study, 7:30 pm  
Friday, October 8: AA Meeting, 7 pm  
October 22, 23, 24: BNF Fall Retreat at Camp Friedenswald

# Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship

October 3, 2021

**Mission:** BNF is a diverse, biblically grounded family of Christ that gathers from various backgrounds on Sunday evenings, where everyone belongs.

**Vision:** BNF exists as a nontraditional safe-haven, where we 1) allow attenders to utilize their God-given talents in worship as equals, 2) meet human needs, 3) reach those with little or no church background, and 4) share the message of Jesus' love, salvation, and discipleship.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: Keith

Worship in Song: Keith

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:1-9

Sermon: "Bring me what you have" Kevin

Bible Story Song of Response: Vera

Sharing of Blessings and Prayer Requests: Kevin

Announcements

Sending Song: Keith

Worship will be followed by a time of fellowship and snacks outside the main entrance. Please join us!

### Mark 8:1-9 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup> “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup> If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

<sup>4</sup> His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

<sup>5</sup> “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied.

<sup>6</sup> He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. <sup>7</sup> They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. <sup>8</sup> The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup> About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away,

#### Microsong: “And No One Left Out”

Jesus sees the crowds with compassion. So he teaches them for days and days. The people are hungry, the disciples say, “Send them away.” Jesus says, “Feed them, bring me what you have.” He takes it and breaks it and give it back. After everyone’s eaten there’s baskets left over... and no one left out.

#### The Big Song:

This is the story of how it all began. God made matter, and chaos shattered. Eve and Adam, they tried to hide. The world got violent and God replied with a mark and a flood and a rainbow sign, God’s love written on skin and sky, *And then God called a family to be a blessing to the earth, oh ohhhh.* A mother and her favorite son wrestle for the blessing, another son becomes a slave, the land is saved from famine. God’s family grows. Egypt oppresses. They groan to God and God sends Moses. *Ten strange signs say “Please release them!” By the sea God saves them.* Oh ohhhh. The people complain and God rains bread. Daily food and ten new rules. Five sisters come and ask for land. God says “Yes, amend the law!”

*Moses says, “In your new life across the Jordan, love God with your whole heart and with all your being, and your strength, now listen: God is One, only God! God is One, only God!”*

Cross over Jordan, stories and stones. Circuits and shouts and the walls come down. God sends judges like Deborah and the land has rest. Ruth’s worth more than seven sons; Redeem the lost with steadfast love. Corruption in the temple then God sends Samuel. God gives them a prophet, they ask for a king. Does God need a temple? A wise king forgets. And when a bully rules the land, the nation tears apart and loses David’s heart... A widow’s gift and a prophet’s cry. God brings life in desperate times.

Josiah reads this misplaced scroll. He turns to God wholeheartedly like David did. In his time. God gives Jeremiah a picture of God’s ruined family... Is there any hope left, is there any hope left, is there any hope left for you, Jerusalem? Any hope? Any hope left? Is there any hope left for you? By the streams of Babylon, how can we sing when you are gone, Jerusalem... I’m in a valley of human bones. These bones are Israel, God’s breath is hope. Haman plans death for Esther’s exiles. She risks her life so they might survive. Finally God’s family rebuilds the temple in Jerusalem. God plunges them into a sea of joy and celebration of Only God. God is One, Only God. Comfort to Jerusalem, your warfare finally ceases.

Matthew lists these generations, Abraham to Jesus. The angel says, “You’ll have a son and God will give him David’s throne.” Mary says, “God looked at me, now I’m the luckiest person around. Mary, now pregnant fiancé, makes a grueling journey. She has her baby, shepherds see angels declaring God’s glory and peace among people. The Spirit sends shepherds and elders and prophets to tell those who wait their Messiah has come.

Herod gets nervous, the Magi find Jesus. They hide their discovery and hurry back home... Once again an angel comes to Joseph -- so they make good their escape, oohh.

Jesus in the temple, astonishing the crowd. Jesus with his parents. Jesus growing up.

Down by the Jordan with the prophet John, Jesus asks to be baptized. And the skies are opened. A dove descends. A voice from heaven says, “This is my son, the son I love. I’m pleased with him.”

Jesus calls disciples to be with him in the work he’s doing. Ohhh oohhh. Jesus teaches the disciples “This is life inside the blessing: You’re blessed, you who are empty. You’re blessed all you who mourn. You’re blessed, you who ache for God, whose inner life is pure. This is life inside the blessing.” Jesus walks on the water. Peter tries and begins to sink. Jesus grabs his hand and the wind dies down.

Jesus sees the crowds with compassion. So he teaches them for days and days. The people are hungry. There’s baskets left over and no one left out. *God loves every one of us, it’s true. And God loves the universe*