

March 15-21, 2024, Vol. 15, Issue 11

Sunday, March 17

9:30 am - Worship Service
- Jeff Wright will bring the message "Christ Among Us, The New Covenant", based on Jeremiah 31:31-34. There will be an opportunity for anointing during the service.

Past week - March 10

Worship Attendance:

Worship	157
Online	57

Offering:

Regular	14,432.00
Electronic	7,585.00
Foundation	5,000.00
Other	431.09
Total:	27,817.00

To watch the worship service online, please visit www.bgmc.net.

Pastoral Care Team:

Contact anyone on this team with pastoral care concerns - Michael Bishop, Pastor, Merrill Allebach, Rose Allebach, Glenda Bergey, Joye Bryan, Mark Derstine, Karen Hunsberger, Betty Kulp (John), Ellen Lacher, Marilyn Nase, Ralph Nase, Sylvia Shelly

If you or a family member are hospitalized, please inform one of the pastors or pastoral visitor team members. Due to confidentiality, hospitals no longer inform congregations when our members are admitted. We appreciate the information you pass along to our team to help us better care and offer support to all our members. Thank you, Michael Bishop

Dear Church,

First, an explanation. In last Sunday's sermon, I used an image of late actor, Steve McQueen, in his 1963 role as Capt. Virgil Hiltz in the movie, *The Great Escape* (you can watch a trailer of the movie [here](#)). I'm not sure I rolled out the illustration as well as I could have on Sunday morning. Allow me this elaboration: for me, the movie is an imperfect but helpful illustration of God's redemptive work in Christ. Humanity is like the POWs in the movie – whether we have religious language for it or not – we know sin holds us captive and we desperately want to escape our imprisonment. And in Jesus, a way to escape the imprisonment of the soul to sin was created at tremendous cost (Grace being free, but not cheap). ...



... **Second, an invitation.** This Sunday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day for all you Celtic Mennonites!) during worship, the Elders will be serving the congregation through the ministry of anointing. [READ THE FULL BLOG HERE](#)

Opportunity for Anointing



This Sunday, March 17, we will take time in worship for the Elders to offer anointing to those in attendance. The gift of anointing with oil is for our healing (James 5:13-20). We offer it at Blooming Glen on occasions such as Lent to symbolically stand in solidarity and encourage one another in healing and hope. Let Pastor Jeff, Pastor Michael, or Elder Tamara Denlinger know if you have any questions.

Lent & Easter @ BGMC

* **March 20**, 6 pm - Lenten Meals & Devotions

* **March 23**, 9:30 am - Kids Easter Celebration

* **March 24** - Palm Sunday
- 9:30 am - Worship
- 6 pm - Melodious Accord
Lenten song service

* **March 29**, 7 pm
- Good Friday Service
(communion & foot-washing)

* **March 31** - Easter Sunday
- 6:30 am - Sunrise Service at the pavilion
- 9:30 am - Easter Worship (no Sunday School)



Sunday, March 24

9:30 am - **Worship Service**
- Leonard Dow, Vice President of Community and Church Development for Everence, will bring the message.

Upcoming Speakers

March 31 - Jeff Wright
April 7 - Jeff Wright
April 14 - Josh Meyer

BGMC Staff

- [Jeff Wright](#), Interim Lead Pastor
- [Michael Bishop](#), Pastor of Music, Worship & Pastoral Care
- [Michelle Ahn-Doettger](#) - general inquiries, cemetery/burial, worship leader notes
- [Gretchen Cook](#) - facility use, congregant database, Sunday School administration
- [Conrad Martin](#), Bookkeeper
- [Kristine McClain](#) - communications (Glen News, Facebook, graphics)
- [Jen Yoder](#), Senior High Youth Ministries Coordinator

Membership Classes

Our three-session membership class will continue Sunday, March 17, and 24 at 3:30 pm on Zoom. We will be reading and discussing “*What We Believe Together*” by Alfred Neufeld. See Pastor Jeff for a copy of the book, or to schedule a time to take session #1. Join us if you are interested in seeking membership at Blooming Glen, or simply want a refresher on Anabaptist-related faith convictions. (You must be logged in to Zoom to participate.)

* Zoom link: [click here](#) Meeting ID: 824 3471 6148 Passcode: 016667



Kids Easter Celebration

We are excited to invite you, our friends, and neighbors to our Easter Celebration: A Community Event at BGMC on Saturday, March 23 at 9:30 am. Thanks to everyone who donated candy! We are also on a mission to gather 30 dozen hard-boiled eggs for this event - if you are able to donate and drop off on Friday, March 22, please [click here](#) to sign up. Monetary donations are appreciated, too; make checks out to BGMC (Easter Celebration in the memo line) and place in Jen Yoder's office mailbox. Please see Jen or Amanda Yoder with any questions!

Melodious Accord Lenten song service

Our Lenten song service will be held Sunday, March 24 at 6:00 pm. Leaning into Lenten themes of praise, confession and faith journey, the musical and poetic work that is Melodious Accord (thirteen American 19th century folk hymns arranged by recently departed Alice Parker) will be presented. Our intergenerational choir will share this grand collection with vocal soloists, harp, and the Red Barn Quintet. Congregational singing will be woven into our time together. Offering baskets will be available in support.



Knotting & Quilting @ MRC

Our Women's Bible Study will resume their time of work and service at the Material Resource Center on the second Wednesday of the month, 9:00 am to noon, from April through September. Join them beginning April 10! If you have questions, see Rose Lambright.

Ushers Needed

The Ushers are looking for additional volunteers to help on Sunday mornings. For additional information or to sign up, [click here](#). Contact Gil Bishop with any questions.

Sr. High Youth:

Weekly Sunday School in the Sr. High Classroom

- ◆ April 28 - Top Golf

Jr. High Youth:

Friends welcome at all events!

- ◆ March 26 - Game Night, 7:00-8:30 pm – drop-off and pick-up at Dave and Lori Bergey's home

Kids Club:

For grades K through 5

- ◆ March 16 - Pajama Party, 4:00 pm
- ◆ April 14 - Clay and Play, 12:00 pm

Medical Waiver: BGMC's Medical Waiver and Permission form for Children and Youth activities is available [here](#).

Dayspring Counseling Center of Penn Foundation will provide counseling sessions to congregational members and their families at a reduced fee through the Member Assistance Program (MAP). Call 215-257-6551 to schedule an appointment. More details are available in MAP brochures located in the foyers.

CONTACT US

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2024 Pavilion Season

Spring is right around the corner, and the BGMC pavilion will be open for use after Easter Sunday! We are now taking reservations for the pavilion for dates in April through June - contact [Gretchen Cook](#) with requests. A reminder that weddings and funerals will be given priority for this and other church facilities, which may make it necessary to reschedule previously scheduled activities.



Jubilee Funds



Reminder that Jubilee Fund applications are due to the church office by March 31! Each year BGMC members who are actively involved within the church and in a ministry/program that helps others are eligible to apply for Jubilee funds for the organizations and missions they are involved in. Application forms are available [on our website](#), or pick up a paper copy in the church foyers.

First Harvest Ministry - annual report

March 2023 arrived accompanied by the financial result of the First Harvest Project. Blessings flowed again as this year's corn crop produced an above-average yield, with the soybean crop producing an average yield. (High yields often cause lower prices.) Many thanks to supporters of supplies and transportation. Grain sales generated \$17,000 for available distribution:

- * \$12,000 designated for MCC, with a portion of that supporting the Damascus Goat Project
- * \$5,000 to support RamPacks, a local program serving the Pennridge School District

Thank you, Lord, for the support of the BGMC congregation. Once again, you have blessed us to share with others. - John and Mark Hockman

Our Church Family

In Our Thoughts & Prayers - John Grasse, Clyde Landes, Sharon Landes

In Our Community

Volunteers are needed at MCC Material Resource Center in Harleysville to help process and can meat, which will be sent many places around the world to people in need. Please call 267-203-8074 to sign up for a 3-hour time slot. Volunteers are especially needed on Monday, March 25, 3:00-6:00 pm and Wednesday, March 27, 6:30-9:00 am, 12:00-3:00 pm and 3:00-6:00 pm.

All women are invited to a free Mosaic Women's event - "Unity", focused on John 17, on Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am- 2:30 pm at Ripple Church in Allentown and on Zoom. The featured speaker is Sue Park-Hur, director of racial/ethnic engagement for Mennonite Church USA. [Register online here](#).

Upcoming Events

To be certain your news item will be included in the next issue of the **Glen News**, please submit it to Kristine McClain (Kristine@bgmc.net) by noon on Tuesday of each week.
Please note: Groups using the church during evenings and weekends are responsible to lock/unlock and turn off the lights.

**The BGMC office will be closed Monday, April 1 in observance of Easter*

- ◆ **Sunday, March 17 - Prayer Time Bible Study**; meets in person in the Prayer Room or the sanctuary, and on Zoom. Prayer time will be 7 to 8, with Bible study from 8 to 9.
* Zoom link: [click here](#) Meeting ID: 883 2558 1982 Passcode: 645177
- ◆ **Sunday, March 17, 3:30 pm - Membership Class** on Zoom; a session will also be held March 24. See page 2.
- ◆ **Monday, March 18, 7:00-8:30 pm - Intergenerational Choir**
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 20, 9:00 am - Women's Bible Study** in the Welcome Center (upcoming dates are March 27 and April 3)
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 pm - Lenten Meal** (hosted by Christiannaires) & Devotions
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 20, 6:15-8:00 pm - SEEDS** meets on the third Wednesday of the month. For more info or to help, contact Jodi Stewart-Moore.
- ◆ **Saturday, March 23, 9:30 am - Kids Easter Celebration**; see page 2
- ◆ **Sunday, March 24, 6:00 pm - Melodious Accord Lenten song service**; see page 2
- ◆ **Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service** with communion and foot-washing
- ◆ **Sunday, March 31, 6:30 am - Easter Sunrise Service** at the pavilion; **9:30 am - Easter Worship** (no Sunday School)
- ◆ **Sunday, April 7, 12:00-2:00 pm - Collaborative Music Ensemble**; meets the first Sunday of the month in the sanctuary - all instruments/skill levels welcome
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 10, 9:00 am-12:00 am - Women's Bible Study group knot-tying & quilting** at MCC Material Resource Center; see page 2
- ◆ **Saturday, April 27, 7:00 am - Spring Work Day**; save the date! All ages and abilities are welcome.

Wondering what's going on in and around Mosaic Conference?
See current & past issues of Mosaic News - their weekly e-newsletter - [by clicking here](#).

Due to technical difficulties, you may have recently had trouble logging into the [BGMC Facebook page](#). PLEASE TRY AGAIN ... and be sure to "follow", so that you don't miss a post!

