



**About the Cover:** This week, we are excited to introduce a new initiative at North Goshen, inviting artists from our congregation to share their gifts by creating the cover art for our weekly bulletins. For the next several weeks, our bulletin will feature artwork by **Jenny Gonzalez**, a talented sophomore at Bethany Christian Schools. Jenny's first piece beautifully captures a tree, symbolizing our *Seeds for Hope*:

*Planting for the Future* fall series. The tree represents growth, deep roots, and the promise of new life—an image of hope and renewal for our church. We invite you to take a moment to appreciate her work as it reflects the spirit of our community and the journey ahead. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us, Jenny!

**Attendance: September 15 — 57**

**North Goshen Mennonite Church**

501 N. 8th St., Goshen, IN 46528  
 574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org  
 www.northgoshenmc.org

**Pastoral Team**

Becky Helmuth 574-370-0767 | rebeccahelmuth@gmail.com  
 Becky's office hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 am to 2 pm  
 Sabbath day: Monday

Izaete Nafziger 574-202-4344 | izaete@northgoshenmc.org

**Office Administrator**

Belen Robledo 574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org

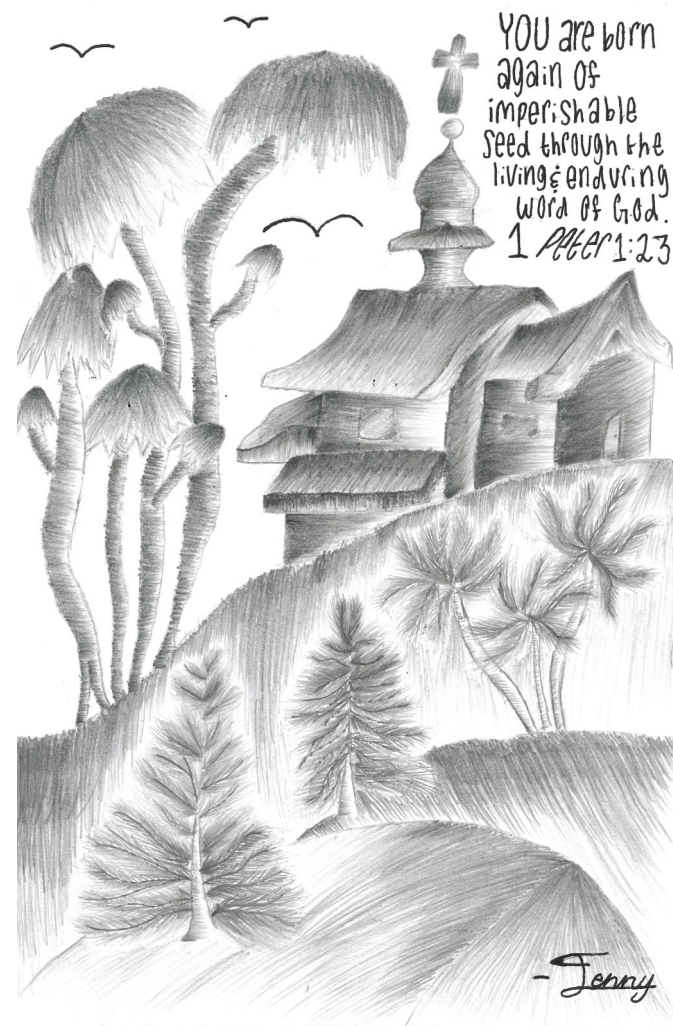
**Congregational Chair**

Kathy Nofziger Yeakey kathynofyeak@gmail.com

**Elder Team**

Jerry Wittrig jwtrg@comcast.net  
 Belen Robledo belen\_2910@live.com  
 Jan Lehman (Chair) jan.miller.lehman@gmail.com

**North Goshen Mennonite Church**  
**September 22, 2024**



Fall Series:

Seeds of Hope: Planting for the Future

*Finding strength and stability in God's love through community support.*

## North Goshen Mennonite Church

Cultivating Community: Growing Together in Hope  
September 22, 2024

**Focus Statement:** Reflect on the strength and stability we find in God's love as we consider how our community's support has grounded us through challenging times.

**Gathering Song** *What Is This Place* VT 022

**Welcome:**

**Announcements:**

**Prayer for Peace**

**Call to Worship**

**Songs** *Heart with Loving Heart United* VT 813  
*We are One in the Spirit* VT 387

**Offering/Song** *God Is Here Among Us* VT 062

**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 10:23-25

**Message:** Nurturing Hope In Our Diverse Garden

**Song** *In Christ There Is No East or West* VT 390

**Sharing Time & Prayer:**

**Sending & Song** *For We Are Strangers No More* VT 409

## Worship Participants:

Worship Leader: Deena B.                      Song Leader: Erica U.  
Speaker: Becky H.                              Translator: Erin Be-Mo  
Scripture Readers: Mary T. & Santa M.  
Children's Church: Daisy G., Kathy N. Y. & Jenny G.  
Nursery: Robert M., Ruth Ann W., Hilda L., Kristina B.

## This Week

Tues., 9:30 am Women's Bible Study  
Wed., 9:30 am Elder's Meeting @ Jerry's  
Thur., 7:00 pm Men's group @ Robert's  
Fri, Sat MCC Relief Sale

## Next Sunday:

Focus: Trusting the Soil: Faith in God's Plans  
Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-19                      Scripture Readers: TBD  
Worship Leader: Kathy N.Y.                      Speaker: Becky H.  
Song Leader: Erica U.                              Translator: Erin Be-Mo  
Children's Church: Bonnie C., Harlan Stoltzfus & Kristina B.  
Nursery: Elaine T., Kerry C., & Jenny G.

Our fall worship series, ***Seeds of Hope: Planting for the Future***, invites us to explore growth, community, and faithfulness during this season of transition. Using the imagery of gardening, we reflect on how God is at work, helping us plant seeds of hope and nurture them toward renewal and joy. Together, we trust in God's promises as we reflect on the past and embrace the present.

## Announcements

### Upcoming Events:

- **MCC Coin Collection:** We are excited to participate in My Coins Count this time of year for the upcoming Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale. This year, our donations will support MCC WATER projects, helping to address hunger issues worldwide. As always, My Coins Count monies will be collected each Sunday, so let's make these last few weeks count!
- **North Goshen Pie Booth at the Relief Sale:** Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28. Pies and Baked Goods need to be delivered to the church by 8 am on Friday morning or to the Elkhart County Fairgrounds during the day on Friday.

**Pie Booth Announcement Continued:** Food that contains Shortening, Oleo, or Lard will not be accepted, per regulations of the Health Department. We must use butter instead. Pie Booth Volunteers needed Friday evening 5-7 and 7-9; Saturday morning 8-10, 10-12 and 12-closing. Talk to Sue Leatherman Sommers to sign up for your shifts. See the MMRS Foods flier for more information.

- **Izaete travels to Brazil:** October 2 to November 1, Izaete and Alaiza will travel to Brazil to spend time with Izaete's mother who is in failing health.

### A Season of Prayer

Over the next seven weeks, Silverwood Mennonite Church will provide a time for prayer on Tuesday evenings leading up to and including Election Day in the United States. These gatherings will take place from 7:00-8:00 pm in the sanctuary from September 24 to November 5. We will begin with a focused time of praying together using the book *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*. We will use the Beatitudes to focus our prayers, reorienting us toward God's Kingdom. This focused time will use about 15 minutes of the hour. During the remainder of the hour, you may pray quietly, leaving whenever you are ready within that hour. All are welcome to join us in prayer.

The Depot MCC Thrift Shop in Goshen is seeking a full-time executive

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The Depot MCC Thrift Shop in Goshen is seeking a full-time executive

director. This position oversees all shop operations for this thriving community thrift shop, which donated \$1 million to MCC last year. The executive director will provide leadership to the management of receiving and processing donations and retail and online sales. The role also includes overseeing staff, managing finances, and promoting the mission of Depot Thrift. Learn more about this exciting opportunity and apply online by October 17 at [indeed.com/cmp/Depot-Mcc-Thrift-Shop/jobs](https://indeed.com/cmp/Depot-Mcc-Thrift-Shop/jobs)

**We Pray for Our World:**

Hold our country and its leaders in prayer, both current and future, as we navigate this critical time in our political life. As the election season approaches, may we discern the path toward justice, equity, and compassion for all.

Continue to lift up Gaza and Israel, praying for an end to violence and the establishment of peace. We hold especially close the people of Gaza, who are facing famine, shortages of essential supplies, limited access to healthcare, and the daily struggle to survive in unimaginable conditions. May we be stirred to act in solidarity with those suffering.

Pray for all those impacted by natural disasters—whether hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, or drought. May communities around the world find resilience in the face of these crises, and may we work toward systems of justice that address climate change and its disproportionate effects on the most vulnerable.

In our prayers, we call to mind regions suffering from war and political unrest—Ukraine, Russia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Haiti, Myanmar, and many more. May peace take root in the hearts of all, and may we be active in the work of dismantling systems of oppression that fuel violence and suffering.

Let us continue to be a people of hope, holding these burdens together in prayer and action.

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