

The Menno Beacon

November 2009

Volume 54 Number 5

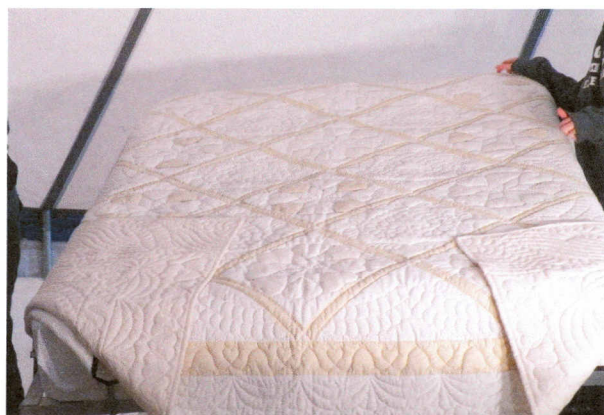
32nd Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale

The weather didn't discourage people from coming to the 32nd Annual Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale at the Menno Mennonite Church grounds on October 3, 2009. While the day started off cold, it soon warmed up and the vehicles started coming to the sale site.

The tent had been put up on the Sunday afternoon before the sale. Crafts had been made. Quilts delivered, cataloged and displayed. Apple cider being pressed, apple butter churning over a open fire in a copper kettle, and pies made. Breakfast being served at 7:00 a.m. with pancakes and Canadian pure maple syrup, and coffee brewing to warm bodies and hands. Lines of people forming for the bulk sausage, hams, bacon, Amish cheese, and stone-ground flour. Pennies put in the glass jug for the Penny Power project. Cooks and helpers preparing the New Year's cookies, ham-



Crowd eating



Cream Hearts appliqué quilt sold for \$1700

burgers, sausage sandwiches, BBQ chicken, Green Bean Soup, African Ground Nut Stew, and Taco salad.

Because of the weather, the auction was moved inside the tent shortly before the auction started. I heard MCA chairman Howard Reimer say, "I always wanted to see the auction inside the tent". Everyone helped move the chairs and stage inside.

The auctioneers, Jim Stucky and Harold White, started with the traditional selling of the "Communion Bread" loaf, used for the joint worship service on Sunday. Quilts from Pennsylvania, Kansas, Oregon, California, Montana, Washington, even Hawaii were auctioned off. The top quilt was a Cream Hearts applique, donated anonymously, selling at \$1700. Even though Walt Reimer wasn't at the sale due to some health issues, his craftsmanship of clocks, rolling pin, vase, lamps, and cutting

board brought top dollar once again. Auctioning of "Absolutely Nothing" was once again a favorite with many participating.

Kids put school kits together in their own trailer and watched some videos. "Baked Goods" had the traditional peppernuts, jams, jellies, breads of all sorts, and other items. There was always a line of people looking and buying at the "Ten Thousand Villages" tables set up in front of the parsonage. "Great Gatherings" was allowed a small area in the tent for the crafts of Dennis & Colleen Kagele and the other items of special interest.

Once the sale ended, people stayed to help put the chairs, tables, and other equipment in the trailers for storage. A few sprinkles of rain



Bob Buxman MCC representative

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A Note from the Pastor



I love to ride motorcycles, especially with friends. During the warmer months some of us from Menno Church and others do a monthly motorcycle ride. Most of these rides are uneventful. But the last one had a frightening moment.

It was the last Saturday in September. The day started out sunny, cool, and a little windy. As we rode to Wenatchee the wind picked up. Semi-trucks going by in the other lane threw powerful gusts of wind at us, but we managed without any problems. Wenatchee was sunny and warm with little wind as we stopped to eat and visit the Rocky Reach dam. From Wenatchee we rode north along the beautiful Columbia River to Orondo. At Orondo we turned east onto Hwy 2, the road climbing out of the Columbia River Gorge to the high plains around Waterville.

As we emerged from the gorge we found ourselves buffeted by high winds. In the distance, in the direction we were going we saw walls of dust in the sky. It worried us some, but it looked like we might be able to go around it. We rode east on Hwy 2, occasionally going through a little blowing dust but the visibility was good. Then we turned south into the Moses Lake Coulee. We could see a huge wall of dust up ahead. I hoped that being in the coulee would keep

us out of the dust cloud, and it did.

Then the road took us up out of the coulee onto the plains again. Two miles from Ephrata we encountered a wall of dust. There was no going around. I was at the back of the motorcycle group, and watched as each rider disappeared into the dust. Once in the dust cloud, I could barely see the road. I was afraid of stopping because I knew any car coming behind me would not see me in time to stop. There was no place to pull off the road, so I kept going hoping those in front of me didn't stop and anyone behind me wouldn't overtake me.

It's a scary feeling to be on a highway where visibility is almost zero. It's even scarier to be on a motorcycle where visibility is almost zero. For on a motorcycle you have no protection. There is no protective steel around you like there is in a car or truck. You are totally exposed. I prayed and hoped to not run into anyone and for no one to run into us. Once in a while I could see the red tail light of the motorcycle in front of me, and that was reassuring in a way. Finally after what seem like miles, but was only perhaps a half mile, we came out of the dust cloud into the visible world again.

We stopped to check and see if everyone was okay. Our motorcycles, our clothes, our helmets were covered with dust, but we were okay. Soon after we stopped several cars came out of the dust cloud behind us. I was so thankful we didn't stop while in the dust cloud, for those cars would surely have run into us.

Need to Know

There is thought to send the *Menno Beacon* only digitally (web or email). If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, could you send a note to the church indicating you wish to have a printed copy sent? Menno Church's address is listed to the right. This will help in the decision process. You can access the colored *Menno Beacon* on Menno's website: <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>



I now have a greater respect for dust storms than I ever had before. I now understand how dangerous they can be. I hope this will make me a wiser person when it comes to dealing with the forces of nature. I also recognize even more our fragility and dependence on God for our safety and well being. We do not deserve God's mercy and protection. We might not always come through unscathed. But let us always give thanks for the undeserved mercy and protection of God.

Pastor Terry

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

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor (tries for at least four times per year or more). Any address corrections, additions, or deletions can be sent to: **Menno Mennonite Church – 1378 N. Damon Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169**, phone 509-659-0926. Web site: menno.wa.us.mennonite.net. If you wish to help with mailing costs of the *Beacon*, donations can be sent to the above address. Terry Rediger, pastor, email: menno@centurytel.net, Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Bill Dyck, editor. You can contact Bill at: 509-677-3616 or email at: blsdyck@ritzcom.net or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the *Beacon*, **the next Beacon news is due January 3, 2010.** Thanks to Joan Smith, Sharla Dyck, Earl Franz, & Joyce Briggs for the pictures this issue. Bill



Monday golfers: Harold White, Terry Rediger, Earl Franz, & Roger Jantz

Warden Mennonite Church

720 S. Pine, Warden, WA 98857 (509)349-2444

During this Thanksgiving season, Warden Mennonite is holding a food drive along with other churches in the community in support of the Warden Food Pantry. We will gather on November 24 at 7:00 PM at the Warden Assembly of God for a community Thanksgiving service.



During Advent, we will focus on the theme: "The world is about to turn" (taken from Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1) as a way to celebrate Christ's coming into the world. A musical group including piano, guitar, flute, and Peruvian *cajon* box drum will lead the congregation in singing "My soul cries out," a song taken from the *Sing the Story* book.

Venture Club, our after-school program for kids, is in full swing. Pastor Brad is leading evening prayers on Thursdays, following the Anabaptist Prayerbook, *Take Our Moments and Our Days*.

We look forward to our annual Harvest Festival on November 22. Palmer Becker, author of the recent pamphlet: *What is an Anabaptist Christian?* will be joining us.

Pastor Brad

Gering Road Trip

Every October we make a trip to Missouri and Kansas. We left after the terrible October 5th dust storm. We were eager for a relaxing road trip and looked forward to viewing the beautiful fall foliage and smelling the crisp October, fall air. Our first night on the road greeted us with a cold temperature of 11 degrees in Missoula.; and instead of the fall scene we were expecting, we drove in snow, ice and fog. North Platte, Neb. had 16" of snow, and the trees had not yet had a chance to turn their golden colors.

We spent several days in Kirksville, Missouri visiting Jon and Deborah and the kids. Benjamin is 6 and in the first grade this year. Butch had the chance to go on a field trip with Benjamin to the University Farm at Truman State University where Jon works. Deb is very busy, working two days a week and keeping track of Emma, two years old and Emerson, 1 year old. The highlight of this Missouri trip (for the men) was the fishing trip that Butch and Jon took. They went Muskie fishing (for the third time) and Jon caught his first Muskie. We even have a picture to prove it. Grandkids are the BEST, and OK, muskie fishing is fun!

We headed to Kansas to spend the next week with Gretchen and Eric and family who live in rural Goessel. Butch had Bethel College board meetings the first few days and then we had some time to spoil another set of grandkids. Julianna is in the 3rd grade and busy with ballet, tap and piano lessons. Jacob and Timothy started Kindergarten this year and love it. Eric gave us a tour of the new addition at Bethesda Home in Goessel where he works. Great coffee, tea and pastries were enjoyed with Eric and Gretchen at the new Lincoln Perk Coffee Shop in the new Bethesda Entrance. It is an exciting addition to the town of Goessel and a "must-visit" if you get to Goessel. Gretchen is working mornings as a paraeducator in the Goessel Elementary School. We had a wonder-

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Warden's Calender of Events

November 24 @ 7:00 PM	Warden Thanksgiving Service @ Assembly of God Church
December 4-6	Men's Retreat @ Camp Camrec
December 16	Christmas Dinner

During the month of November, we are holding our annual food drive for the Warden Food Pantry. We are collecting food and money donations through December 6. We are in particular need of:

- Soup
- Mac & cheese
- Other boxed or canned "main meals" (e.g.: Rice-a-Roni, chilli)





Jerilee Rediger & Barb Franz reading stories to the kids

Hospital. She is an ordained minister who served the Mennonite Church in San Francisco. She now farms with her husband Paul in Central California. Paul has been a school teacher, is an artist and violinist, but his first love is the farm, where he and Ruth produce wholesome quality fruit and he is a supportive voice for family farms and farm laborers.

After church it was learned that all roads in Adams and most of Grant Counties were closed. Several of our members were involved in an accident while trying to get to church, while others turned around and went back home. Were we all going to stay at the church or brave it and try to go back home? We all made it back home or to where we needed to go. Those not from the area,

experienced a dust storm first hand! The tent survived Sunday's dust storm as well as the following smaller dust storms during the next week. You can go to: <http://www.satnews.com/cgi-bin/story.cgi?number=890719706>, to see what the dust storm looked like from space.

At the post MCA meeting, it was learned that for next year, there will be a raffle for a replica antique motorcycle and a possible contest for designing of a MCA coffee mug.

There was also discussion about how to let others know about helping at the sale, as some senior workers are retiring, and the changing of the MCA steering committee and looking for a new chairman.

(Continued from page 1)

started after most of the cleaning was done, postponing taking the tent down. God looked over us and provided decent weather for the actual sale.

Preliminary receipts totaled over \$91,000, with receipts still coming in. While the number of people was down a little over last year, the excitement and enthusiasm still remained strong.

Sunday, October 4, was a day that will be remembered. Early Sunday morning the wind started to blow and just kept blowing. By 8:00 a.m. I-90 freeway was closed in both directions between Ritzville and Moses Lake due to blowing dust and accidents. A number of us made it to church, listened to special speakers, Ruth and Paul Buxman give the message.

Ruth Buxman served in Haiti at the Albert Schweitzer



Leo Hartshorn playing the drum



The MCA Country School trailer where the kids watched videos



Wheat Pattern Whole Cloth Quilt
sold for \$1650

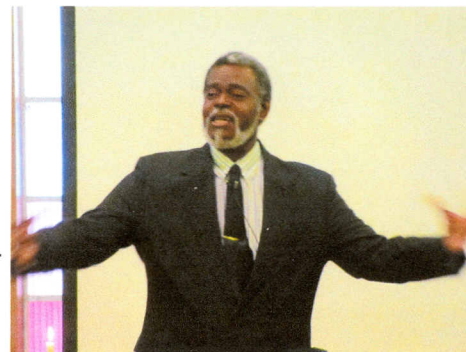
Menno Church Harvest Festival

November 8, 2009, was the traditional Harvest Festival at Menno Church. This years'



Music Team

guest speaker was Charles and Thirawer Duplessis from Mount Nebo Bible Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA. Menno Church is a participating church with *Churches Helping Churches*, and helps support Mount Nebo Bible Baptist Church.



Rev Charles Duplessis

The Mount Nebo Bible Baptist Church, along with the Duplessis family home, located in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Before Katrina, there were about 120 attending the church and after there are 35 devoted attendees.

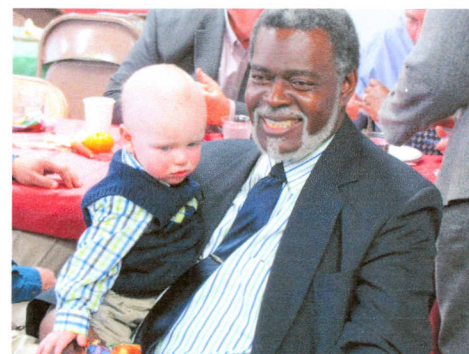


Thirawer & Charles Duplessis during the Sunday School time sharing about life after Katrina

For three and a half years, Charles and Thirawer have worked with faith and determination to rebuild both buildings. On February 27, 2009, they were able to spend their first night back in their rebuilt home. They are now holding church services in their home till the church is rebuilt. You can go to their website at:

www.mountnebobiblebcno.com

to learn more about them. You can also go to the *Churches Supporting Churches* at: www.cscneworleans.org/indexB.html .



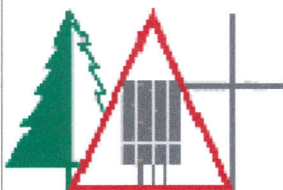
Justin Gering with Charles Duplessis



Rebuilt home of Charles & Thirawer Duplessis

During the Sunday School time, they shared some pictures of what their home and church looked like after Katrina and what their rebuilt home looks like now.

A potluck meal followed, with lots of food and visiting.



From the October 2009 "The Chumstick"

WMF Board Transitions

Several executive positions changed at the October board meeting. Michael Claassen has served as Treasurer for a number of years. He has done a great job of carefully managing the CAMREC financial resources. Aaron Reimer, Menno Mennonite, transitioned into the position of Treasurer. With his finance & banking background, Aaron will continue to keep CAMREC finances in good shape.

Mary Mae Hardt stepped down after 8 years as Chair. During her tenure she oversaw the construction of the Chapel and the hiring of our new managers. She handed over the reins to Morlin Elias, Seattle Mennonite. Morlin brings incredible experience and enthusiasm for updating our summer youth camps and looking at innovative program changes for CAMREC.



Note from Departing Chair: *I want to thank all of the WMF Board and individual church members who provided me support and encouragement over the years. Being WMF Chair has been an important connection to the wider Mennonite Churches of Washington for myself and my family. Blessings, Mary Mae Hardt*

Our trip: We left camp on Oct 5 and drove to southern California for our daughter's wedding in Redlands on Oct. 10. The wedding was lovely and we saw many friends and family. We arrived back at camp on Oct 15th. We did miss the first snow here at camp (about an inch) but were here for the next 1 3/8' snow-fall early last week. We hope that will mean earlier snows than last year-we shall see.



Kathy & Jason

On Oct 20th we had a crew from Warden church come and start on cabin 3, taking all the cedar shakes off the roof.

They brought a big tarp to cover the roof since we had rain

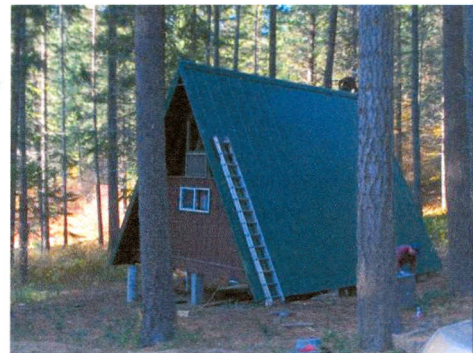
off and on that week. On Thursday (22nd) another group came over from Seattle area to start putting up insulation and the metal roofing. A few guys stayed over to continue although we had quite a bit of rain on Friday so there were other jobs that were done. More people came on Friday and Saturday until we

had a representation from all the churches. Besides the roof for cabin 3 we also had a porch put on cabin 9, brush cleared, wood split, windows and walls washed in the lodge and work done on the tubing run. We even had time to carve a few pumpkins. Saturday afternoon was spent in committee meetings for some, and then in the evening, the WMF board met. Morlin Elias took over the reins of the chair from Mary Mae Hardt and Aaron Reimer was introduced as the replacement for treasurer Michael Claassen. All in all it was a very good weekend and much was accomplished.



Maurice, Kathy, & Joyce

Maurice & Joyce Briggs



Men's Retreat – December 4-6

Don't miss this years Men's Retreat (young men age 13 and up are welcome). There will be plenty of GREAT food and warm fellowship. More information and registrations will be available in November. Put the dates on your calendar, and invite a friend. If you've never been up before come give it a try. Can we hope for snow?

News & Notes:

Our move to 9 Lakewood Circle, N. Newton, KS went as planned. A big thank you to Roger, Greg, Craig, Cheryl, Howard and Aaron. We packed and all of them were crucial in the loading process, transporting and unloading. When we flew in the evening of Oct. 15, our bed was made and waiting for us, and Carmen had brought food for the 12 or more who collected that evening to welcome us. The next evening Lois brought a meal for about 15 family members and following that Howard and Aaron left for the long drive home pulling that wonderful trailer. Greg flew home on Saturday after attending the first quarter of the Thresher football game.

Last Sunday (Oct 18) we attended Shalom Mennonite Church, and today (Oct 25) we are going to go to Faith Mennonite. We still have three more to visit right here in town.

Yesterday was a very nice day and we had time to take our bikes out for the first time. We have experienced one big rain during the night with minimal thunder and lightning and several days of wind. Bushes have been planted in our front yard, and several trees in our yard, but the grass seeding has to wait for the ground to dry and the sprinkler system to be installed.

Carmen and Roger have planned ahead to make the business part of the move as easy as possible, bank, driver's license, car license, doctor, and recycling garbage according to the rules! That is a hard one for us to adjust to.

We ordered window coverings and in two weeks they will be delivered. Roger will install them as he has time, and then we will not feel like we are living in a fishbowl anymore.

May God bless all of you. Please stop to visit when you are in this area.

Walt and Clara

Donna Hostick, Dione Jantz, and Pam Stucky traveled to Scotland for just over two weeks during September. While there, they drove almost 1,000 miles and saw quite a bit of the country. Favorites included the neolithic sites in the Orkney Islands, a tour to the islands of Staffa and Iona, visits to castles and abbeys, and an overnight stay in Culzean Castle.

Approximately 95 descendants of Cornelius and Marie Jantz gathered at Menno at noon on Sunday July 12th. Four of the seven living first cousins were in attendance and 30 second cousins. Attendees came from CA, IL and ID as well as from the local areas within the state.

Many old pictures and other Jantz memorabilia were on display at the church along with a complete wall of the current descendants of Cornelius and Marie Jantz. As in the past name-tags were both shape and color-coded--the shape to indicate generation and color to indicate descendants of one of the five brothers.

A potluck dinner was held at 1:00 pm and as usual food was plentiful and excellent.

After dinner group photos were taken of the different generations and families in attendance.

After more than 29 years at LeMaster Daniels, Roberta Hodgson is retiring from public accounting effective November 13, 2009. J.C. and Roberta recently returned from a vacation trip to South Carolina, meeting up with Del Franz's family and visiting historical sights. South Carolina was the 50th state that Roberta has visited.

Jeanette (Franz) Filan joined Earl Franz recently on a ten day bus tour of the United Kingdom seeing parts of England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. Four more days were spent exploring London.

Forry and Happy Hardt flew to Salt Lake City for the 11th annual gathering of the Health Sector Assembly October 8-11, 2009 in Sundance, Utah. The Assembly is a Think Tank that annually prepares a policy paper on national health care policy. This year's paper focused on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention under Health Care Reform. Happy serves as a facilitator for one of the five Assembly Break-out Groups.

Happy Hardt had successful Posterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion surgery at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane on October 30. The Hardts will remain at Ponderosa Falls RV Park near Cheney through mid-November while she recuperates.

Mary Mae Hardt traveled from Mount Vernon to Spokane October 15-18 to be with her parents during Happy's surgery.

On October 16, Ellie and Spencer Gering participated in the Missoula Children's Theatre production of the "Amazing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe", at the Ritzville Elementary School with more than 50 local students as the cast. Members of the Octet were Spencer, as Oscar the Octopus, and Ellie, as Myrtle the Turtle. Melanie Gering provided musical talent as the accompanist for the production.

(Continued from page 3)

ful visit with all my siblings and spouses. We managed to allow a buck to hit our van, but Butch was driving very slow because he was worried about deer in Kansas, so it was not as bad as it could have been.

Our trip home was interesting because parts of I-70, I-80 and I-25 interstate were closed due to yet another blizzard making its way across the states. So we were forced to tried a new route and actually enjoyed some fall colors near the end of our homeward bound trip. We always feel so blessed to arrive back home safely.

Butch and Diane



Menno Mennonite Church
1378 N. Damon Rd.
Ritzville, WA 99169

Non-profit organization
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Ritzville, WA

Address service
requested

- T was the month before Christmas*
- *When all through our land,*
 - *Not a Christian was praying*
 - *Nor taking a stand.*
 - *See the PC Police had taken away,*
 - *The reason for Christmas - no one could say.*
 - *The children were told by their schools not to sing,*
 - *About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.*
 - *It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say*
 - *December 25th is just a 'Holiday'.*
 - *Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit*
 - *Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it*
 - *CD's from Madonna, an XBOX, an I-pod*
 - *Something was changing, something quite odd!*
 - *Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa*
 - *In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.*
 - *As Targets were hanging their trees upside down*
 - *At Lowe's the word Christmas - was no where to be found.*
 - *At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears*
 - *You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.*
 - *Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty*
 - *Are words that were used to intimidate me.*
 - *Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen*
 - *On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton!*
 - *At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter*
 - *To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.*
 - *And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith*
 - *Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace*
 - *The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded*
 - *The reason for the season, stopped before it started.*
 - *So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'*
 - *Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.*
 - *Choose your words carefully, choose what you say*
 - *Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS,
 - not Happy Holiday!*

Please, all Christians join together and
wish everyone you meet during the
holidays a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christ is? The Reason? for the Christ-mas Season!

Calender of Events

NOVEMBER

- 22 7:00 p.m. Warden Mennonite Harvest Festival-Palmer Becker, speaker
Ritzville Community Thanksgiving Service
- 29 First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

- 2 6:30-8:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- 4-6 Men's Retreat at Camrec
- 6 Second Sunday of Advent
- 9 6:30-8:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- 10 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Menno Women in Mission meet
- 13 Third Sunday of Advent
- 2:30 p.m. Ritzville Jail Bible Study
- 16 6:30-8:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 2:30 p.m. Rose Garden worship
- 23 tba RMA Christmas Basket prep & delivery
- 24 tba Christmas Eve program