



Minnesota Messenger

CHURCHES OF GOD

Our 150th Anniversary

The Minnesota Churches of God Conference will be 150 years old in 2024! We invite you to celebrate with us June 7-9 at our conference campground, Long Lake Bible Camp outside of Richmond, MN.

Our anniversary theme is Roots to Revival, focusing on the strong commitment of our early leaders and anticipating the future blessings of our faithful Father. A full weekend of special speakers, activities, food and fellowship is being planned.

Lodging is available in the camp dormitories and in nearby Cold Spring. (Email mchurchofgod@gmail.com for lodging details.)

More information will be coming soon, but please SAVE THE DATES!

Thank you!

We would like to thank Jeff and Terri Moore for planning the Fall Conference, and everyone who helped to make it a success. If you missed out, you can find the messages on the conference website at this link. <https://mncogconference.org/video-sermon-series/2023/9/11/fall-conference-2023-be-bold-be-bright>.

We would also like to thank Jason and Bethany Becker for directing Minnesota State Camp for 7 years! We appreciate their dedication to this very important week for our youth, and all the planning and

preparation that entails. We know many young lives were impacted to follow Christ through their efforts.

New Camp Director

We are pleased to announce that Jeremy Kirkpatrick from the Pine Grove Bible Church has accepted the position of State Camp Director. If someone is interested in working at camp, please email us for Jeremy's contact information.



Dear Conference Members,

I wanted to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to do my Eagle Project at the campground! The Lord speaks to me at this campground, so it's been an honor working with Jon, and creating a project that spreads the Love of God. Your thoughts, prayers, and funds have warmed my heart. This project overall has drawn me closer to God, so may he bless the conference, and this campground! Thanks again for all of your support!

Kyle Shull

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Shalom! We hope this report finds you in good health and flourishing in your faith and witness.

Autumn was busy with back to school for our teachers Jared Hoemberg and Jeff Moore. They both coach football as well. Samuel Moore helped coach with his dad for part of the season also.

There are several health issues in our fellowship. Jessie Hoemberg is recovering from back surgery in August. Jared Hoemberg is improving after experiencing some health concerns in September. Easton Braaten has ongoing struggles with his OI and leg/hip pain. Jeff recently experienced a severe sinus infection that lingered for over a week. We appreciate all your prayers for these concerns.

Jeff was blessed to speak at Isaiah Bormes's baptismal service on August 27th at the CoG Campground. We pray many blessings on Isaiah's spiritual walk.

Darrell Hoemberg spoke at Fall Conference on September 9. His message was about the importance of being bold and bright with

our faith in our families.

In late September, Terri Moore and Ione Vierzba attended the Michigan Women's Conference at North Kent Bible Church, Rockford, MI. Terri presented a workshop called "Truth or Consequences: It's Not a Game." During the five-day trip, Terri and Ione visited the Bliss family in Milledgeville, IL. Sharon Bliss accompanied them to Michigan where they were able to stay with Bernadette Wagenaar (Virginia Moore's (of Illinois) sister-in-law and Sharon's aunt) and her sister Anita. They enjoyed hearing Pastor Dick Eldred speak for the Blanchard Church of God and meeting members there on Sunday before heading back home. The trip, although long, was overall a blessed time of connecting with sisters and brothers in faith – both old and new.

The Moores held Family Fellowship at their farm on September 29-30, enjoying beautiful fall weather that allowed outdoor time. Since the last Fellowship, more animals have been added to the farm, including chicks, calves, and pigs. There was discussion about various topics of faithful living accompanied by significant Bible reading.

The first annual(?) Minnesota Women's Enrichment Weekend was held October 6-8 at the MN COG Campground. The theme was FLOURISH based on Psalm 115:14, NIV. Lisa Hoemberg and Eileen Hartung attended Saturday. Terri was on the planning committee and spoke at the Sunday morning service, wrapping up the weekend with a message entitled "Shalom."

Victoria Rennie of Fargo and Terri Moore met in St Cloud to enjoy a production of Little Women at the Paramount in October after dinner together with Victoria's husband, David. (Victoria's dog, Kaia, also made the trip). In November

Victoria and Terri attended a production of Pride and Prejudice in Fargo.

Joyce Moore is doing well living at home and we are preparing to celebrate her 81st birthday on November 22nd.

We thank and praise YHWH for the bounty He provided this growing season. Harvesting and canning was hard work for which we reap many delicious meals in the months ahead! We praise Him also for the ministry opportunities He grants us and the touch of His presence in our lives.

Terri Moore, reporter

FLOURISH

Women's Enrichment Weekend 2023 May YHWH cause you to FLOURISH, you and your children.

Psalm 115:14

The Minnesota state Women's Weekend was held October 6-8 at the State COG Campground. Thirty-three women from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin attended the event despite chilly temperatures in the chapel where worship and speaking sessions were held.

"FLOURISH" was addressed by speakers from the MN Churches of God on topics related to relational, physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health. Paula Kirkpatrick (Pine Grove COG) kicked off the event with a message entitled "Stop, Be Still, Sink In – Sacred Spiritual Surrender" sharing thoughts about the walking pace of faith and resting in sabbath despite tasks that are unfinished. Her points were well-timed to encourage the women at the Weekend to immerse themselves in their experience at the retreat and focus on their relationship with God.

Lynn Piram (Eden Valley COG) spoke to the women about mental health in the message "A HappyPlace," shar-

ing personal experiences of leaving her comfort zone to really listen to others as a means of encouraging and uplifting those struggling with negative thinking and depression. Lynn emphasized we need purpose-filled wellness and balance endure.

Andrea Moore and Rachel Karl (Hutchinson COG) presented on “Emotionally Healthy Christianity” addressing the key areas of viewing reality accurately, forgiveness, taking appropriate responsibility, anchoring our worth in God, and continuing growth in self-awareness. Andrea shared entertaining personal stories that demonstrated these points while Rachel oversaw the visual aids.

Makenna Landry (Pine Grove COG) spoke on the topic of “God’s Forgiveness,” reminding us of the precious gift we receive when God grants us relief from paying the debt for our sin. She pointed out that Jesus as Advocate is our voice to our heavenly Father and that we can pray for our sin to be revealed so we can repent and receive the blessing of forgiveness.

A second message on forgiveness was presented via a youtube recording made by Trina Denton (North Kent COG, Michigan) of a message she presented at the 2023 National Women’s Conference. She used the metaphor of carrying luggage filled with rocks to demonstrate the weight and futility of carrying unforgiving attitudes with us in life.

Saturday evening the women were blessed with a stimulating message from Ashley McGarry (St. Cloud COG) on spiritual healing. She challenged the women to take God at His word and examine their lives for compromise with cultural and societal ideas and to strongly engage the spiritual battle on the side of God’s truth.

Sunday morning Terri Moore wrapped up the FLOURISH topic

with a message about “Shalom,” exploring the meaning of the Hebrew word and encouraging intentional pursuit of God’s shalom by loving YHWH’s word, having a mind stayed on YHWH, and receiving the peace that comes through Christ.

Ione Vierzba (St. Cloud COG) presented devotions by the fireplace on Friday night and addressed healthful benefits of proper sleep. Thank you to all these women for their thoughtful and professional presentations that shared of their hearts. Hannah Bormes instructed interested women in making bead bracelets throughout the weekend.

A special thank you goes to Jeff Moore, Darrell Hoemberg, and Jon Janku who performed kitchen duties of cooking and cleaning on Saturday to the delight of the women. They made delicious cookies and Jeff held a caramel roll making “class” in the afternoon.

Cheryl Bormes (Pine Grove COG) and Tascha Hauber (Restitution COG, Belle Plaine, Iowa) did a terrific job of cleaning after the Weekend ended. Many women also provided food and stepped in to help throughout the Weekend. Thank you for your generous and willing service!! And thank you to Paula Kirkpatrick for her ongoing encouragement through the year-long planning process, as well as to all those who were praying. Thank you to the planning committee (Ione Vierzba, Cheryl Bormes, Tina Johnson, Terri Moore) for their many hours of considering, shopping, and preparation.

There are plans to make available links to the recorded messages by the speakers at some time in the future. Watch for information about that to come. There will also be a planning meeting this winter for the next Women’s Enrichment Weekend. Information will be sent to MN churches. Please attend that meeting

or notify Terri Moore (houslite@wcta.net) or Ione Vierzba (ionevierzba2@gmail.com) if you are interested working on the next Women’s Enrichment Weekend.

Welcome to THE WELL: Worship Evangelism, Love and Learning

Greetings from The Well and Mankato.

We are honored to announce that we have been accepted into the Church of God General Conference. We are thankful for their guidance and assistance with the process to establish The Well.

We have started having a carry in dinner once a month. This gives us a great time for fellowship and getting to know each other on a more personal level.

We do have some prayer requests and would appreciate your prayer support regarding:

1. Our contract with the Country Inn & Suites is up at the end of this year. We pray that they will continue to allow us to meet there at the same rental rate as they offered this year.
2. Many of our members have various health issues.
3. Many of our members are searching for employment.

Thank you for your encouragement, prayers and support of The WELL.

Laura Cardwell, reporter

Eden Valley Church Report

Eden Valley Church of God has a new facebook page thanks to Brenda T. who volunteered to create the page. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/EVChurchofGod>.

We mourned the deaths of Margaret Swanson on May 4 and Kelly Sog-

ge on September 4. We are praying for the families of those who passed on.

Over the past year, our church has taken a special focus on our children. Our children are the future foundation of the church. One of the most important things that God wants from us as we age is to pass on our faith to the younger generation. It is the most precious gift we can give.

We were offering Sunday School classes for youth after Sunday service, although recently the members of the church voted to have Sunday School before the service. This will entail starting the service one hour later. After service the youth and adults can participate together in the fellowship that we have afterwards.

The teachers of Sunday School are dedicated to the spiritual growth of the students. It has been a blessing to have more children participating in the congregation. This includes a rhythm band led by Lynn Piram during Sunday service any time there are enough children present. The kids go in front of the congregation and are given percussion type instruments and use them to keep beat with a song. What a special blessing to see our children taking part in worshipping God with their rhythm talents and smiles!

On Saturday, August 5, we hosted a VBS (Vacation Bible School) and had singing, crafts, activities and a lunch for all children in attendance. It was a great opportunity for children in our community to come and fellowship with each other and to focus on the theme: "Fishers of Men". Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible. We also hosted a corn feed on August 20th. The corn was donated by Barry and Aaron Albright. Thanks for the tasty corn! We also had the great news of baptizing Jill Peresko (Barry Albright's daugh-

ter) on August 21st. What a blessing for both Jill and Barry! God is good all the time.

Tina Johnson, reporter

Pine Grove News

Ecclesiastes 3:3 says "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." There have been many joyful events for our church body this fall, but also times of sorrow.

Sunday afternoon bridal showers were held for Sierra Hillsdale on Sept. 17th and Liza Zhykhovich on Oct. 1st.

Wedding congratulations go to Michelle Burke and Scott Neu who were married on Sept. 17th, Sierra Hillsdale and Daniel Eiken who were married on Oct. 21st, and Liza Zhykhovich and Liam Johnson who were married on Nov. 3rd.

Congratulations also go to Matt and Morgan Zamaites who welcomed baby Everett in October and David and Amanda Blanchard upon son Jacob's official adoption on Nov. 28th.

Our church was saddened by the death of former pastor Sydney Kirkpatrick on Sept. 24th. The Oct. 8th worship service honored Syd through song and a message by his son Jeremy Kirkpatrick. We offer our sympathy and prayers to Dee, Ian, Jeremy, Hope and their families.

We also sorrow with the Hillsdale family in the recent death of Gary's father and with the Neu and Burke families due to the loss of Michelle's father.

Several ladies and teens attended the first Women's Enrichment Weekend at Long Lake Bible Camp Oct. 6-8. Cheryl Bormes helped to organize the retreat and Makenna Landry and Paula Kirkpatrick served as two of the speakers. Carolyn Swartz was able to attend the Pastors' Wives Re-

treat in Michigan at the end of October. Philip and Viv Kirkpatrick traveled to Louisiana for Re-Fuel South in November.

Our youth have been busy with activities and service. Coffee house conversations were held with youth and young adults in September. A bonfire gathering was also enjoyed at the home of Nathaniel and Abby Johnson. On Oct. 15th, Youth Sunday was held, including a fellowship meal and communion.

On Nov. 18th the Operation Christmas Child packing party was held. Thanks to all who contributed items and packing skills. Jeremy Kirkpatrick announced 267 shoeboxes were packed for children around the world!

Other church activities included a church workday on Sept. 30th, and the annual Harvest Supper on Nov. 11th. A planning meeting for 2024, (plus pizza) occurred on Nov. 25th. On Aug. 26th and Nov. 28th, Red Cross Blood Drives were hosted by our church. We appreciate Susan Johnson spearheading this effort.

Makenna Landry began her pastoral internship in November at Pine Grove. We appreciate her service to us as well as Pastor JJ and Hope Fletcher, who were honored on Oct. 1st for Pastor Appreciation Month.

Paula Kirkpatrick reporter

From Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions

Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions 6th Annual Missions

ng to many. If you are interested in missions or serving where you are at, you can watch the individual replays of each of thespeakers here: <https://kog-missions.com/online2023/Conference> was a great blessing

We had a wide variety of speakers and topics as to how people were participating in finishing the task that Jesus gave us. A number of sisters who faith

fully pray for Maksim were able to get on and greet him. He said to me after that even though he did not feel well at all and his head hurt terribly, when they were getting on the stream everything lightened a bit. He is very grateful for partnership in spreading the Kingdom gospel to the Russian speaking nations whether by offering prayers or finances. All are needed to finish the task, which he will do either until he dies or Jesus comes. There is no end date when one is called to minister, nor is there for the believer. We must finish the race strong and with all we have.

Newsletters can be found here if you are not on the mailing list or if your church does not hang them to read. <https://kogmissions.com/newsletters/>

May we all reflect on what task we have been given and may we finish it without compromising as Jesus did.

Tracy Z.

Hutchinson Church of God

On the evening of October 18th we enjoyed a visit from ABC Academic Dean, Michael Cisler and 3 Bible college students. It was a blessing to worship, fellowship and open God's Word with them. Refreshments were served after the service so we could get to know the students a little better. open God's Word with them.

On the same evening of October 18th, Grayson Ivan Forcier was born to Jacob and Kelsey Forcier of Rochester, MN. This is the second grandchild this year for Jeff and Amanda Forcier and the 11th great grandchild for Lee and Melody Moore.

Refreshments were served after the service so we could get to know the students a little better.

On the same evening of October 18th, Grayson Ivan Forcier was born to Jacob and Kelsey Forcier of Rochester, MN. This is the second grandchild this year for Jeff and Amanda Forcier and the 11th great grandchild for Lee and Melody Moore.

Pastor Jeff Moore was our guest speaker on Sunday, November 12th. Several from the St Cloud and Eden Valley congregations came down to worship with us. We enjoyed having all of them stay and share our Harvest of Hope dinner. It was a special day of worship and fellowship with these brothers and sisters in Christ!

Several of us met at the Hutchinson movie theatre in October to see "The Blind." This is the story of Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty fame. Amanda's Wednesday night Berean class has been watching the movie series, "The Chosen." On November 29th they helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Every November we collect boxes of diapers that we donate to Common Cup Ministry in downtown Hutchinson.

Christmas blessings to all of you as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Linda Sandifer, reporter

Remember to check out the MN Church of God Conference website. There is so much available there, including the online Systematic Bible Study course. <https://mncogconference.org/> Scroll to the bottom of the homepage and like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. We are also on LinkedIn and YouTube. If you would like to support the MN Conference, you can give your offering online here. <https://mncogconference.org/online-giving> Also, donations can be sent to the treasurer, Dan Karl. Mail checks to: Dan Karl 19199 651st Avenue Buffalo Lake, MN 55314

