

## *Prayers for Mennonite Education December 2020*

*This month we want to especially remember the guidance and campus counseling staff in our prayers. Students are managing much more than academics this year, and these key staff members have a critical role, offering support and resources. Also remember that teachers and other staff are supporting students informally every day.*

Daily prayers for December 1 – 31, 2020

1. **The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for ethnic unity and student equity, pursued through our weekly staff meetings, chapel services, professional development and intentional community building times.
2. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** When Bethel College transitioned to remote classes for the rest of the fall 2020 semester, about 100 student-athletes remained on campus – pray for their health and safety and a strong sense of community.  
  
**Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for the continued health and safety of our students and faculty/staff as QCS has been relatively free from sickness. Give thanks for those that have recovered.
3. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** The EMU community is grateful for the hard work of our EMU Campus activities team and their leader, Tyler Goss, who planned fun and interesting events for students this semester amidst pandemic restrictions.  
  
**Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for the mental health and wellness of Hesston College students, faculty and staff as they navigate an unprecedented global pandemic, political discord, and the everyday ups and downs of living in community.
4. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Please join us in praying for our school and that the search for a new principal will be fruitful. Pray that the Lord brings the right person to the school.
5. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** During this time of COVID-19, we are mindful of the social and emotional learning needs of our students. We are grateful for our school counselor, Leanne Bender, as she oversees this aspect of our campus. We seek prayer for her and our entire staff, as we seek to meet the mental health needs of our students.
6. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Give thanks for the dedication of the Bethel College Women's Association, who have faithfully raised funds for the college for more than 80 years. Members carry out the annual BCWA holiday bake sale today, using curbside delivery this year.
7. **MEA's Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** Pray for SeBAH instructor Tony Brun and his students from various countries who are participating in the course "Christian Spirituality and Discipleship." Some of the students have become ill with COVID-19 and thankfully have overcome it. Let us pray that all students can successfully complete their classes at the end of the term in December.
8. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Pray for Stacie Tschiegg, guidance counselor at Central Christian School. Stacie is equipping teachers to address the social and emotional needs of students as well as being a caring, listening presence to students who come to her welcoming space.
9. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for our guidance counselor, Krysten Parson, in her first year in this role.

10. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for Goshen College administrators as they make decisions regarding the health and safety of students and staff for the upcoming spring semester.
- Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Thank God for the gifts and training of Gini Trotter, K-8 counselor, and Debbie Katz, high school counselor at EMS. Pray for their well-being as they support students who are navigating the disappointments, constrictions, and challenges of school during a pandemic.
11. **Lancaster Mennonite Schools, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Give thanks for the health and safety of LMS faculty, students and staff that allowed the school to provide in-person education the first three months of school! Pray for continued good health for everyone.
12. **Dock Christian Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Pray for our Dock teachers and staff as they support the academic, emotional and spiritual lives of our students in both online and remote formats.
13. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Jill Hoopes, Bethel College's director of student wellness, as she meets the challenge of connecting with students after most have returned home to complete the semester via remote learning.
- Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for Goshen College students who are at home this month, taking a break after an intense semester.
14. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray for all staff members as they navigate their students' emotional needs. Pray for a peace as they continue to deal with their own and their families' anxieties and decisions around the holiday.
15. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for our students as they wrap up their semester and anticipate a safe and refreshing winter break.
- Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** For the second consecutive semester, Bethel College students are taking finals online. Pray that students are able to find space and time for study and rest in their various home circumstances, and good focus for finishing the semester well.
16. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** We request your prayers for our families. Many have been sick with COVID, or have a close relative who has had it. These are our extended family and we uplift them as they have uplifted us.
17. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** Especially during this season focusing on the birth of Jesus, pray that those who interact with young children may liberate care (identified by Carol Garboden Murray). Liberating empathetic, joyful, understanding, loving care is vital for the social/emotional health of the young, and their mental health as well. May sharing Jesus' birth, His message and example, bring hope in these stressful times.
18. **MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for the IBA students of the Study Center at Evangelical Garifuna Mennonite Church in Bronx, New York, who are taking the course "Discipleship in an Anabaptist Perspective." Pray for Lilian Flores, tutor, that God may give her wisdom and guidance as she leads the weekly classes and continues to face challenges in this pandemic time. Pray that the courses help them grow spiritually and encourage them to continue to learn more about God's word. Pray that they will become instruments to spread and expand God's kingdom.
19. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for students at Bluffton University as they start a long winter break. Pray for their health and safety and the health and safety of their families and communities as they prepare to return on Jan. 20.
- Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** We give thanks for our cafeteria staff and volunteers who have needed to change how they help nourish our students.

20. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Pray for continued strength and health of our teachers, staff, students and families as we all work together during this unique year of learning.
21. **Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for the QCS board that has been able to meet consistently despite the changes in how we do business.
- Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Pray for the pandemic response team at LMS as they work diligently to make decisions related to the ongoing pandemic. Pray for wisdom, patience and strength as they determine the necessary steps needed to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff.
22. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Bethel College's campus pastor, Michael Unruh, completing his first semester in the position in unusual and challenging circumstances, and for creative ways to minister to and connect with students at a distance.
- Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for EMU Counseling Services Director Allison Collazo and her staff as they continue to meet student mental health needs remotely during the remaining days in the semester.
23. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Pray for the pandemic response team at LMS as they work diligently to make decisions related to the ongoing pandemic. Pray for wisdom, patience and strength as they determine the necessary steps needed to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff.
- Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for our leadership team who has needed to make decisions for the safety of our students, teachers and staff.
24. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for our families as they anticipate the Christmas holidays.
25. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray that we all might experience the birth of Jesus in new and exciting ways.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for Hesston College campus counselor Julie Lehman as she moves on to pursue other paths. Pray for Julie, her husband Todd, and their two daughters as they make this transition. Please also pray for vice president of Student Life Deb Roth and her team as they work to fill the open position.
26. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our Bluffton University students who will be completing their student teaching experiences and social work field placements next semester. Pray for their health and safety as they work to ensure our children are receiving the best possible education and to help our neighbors seek resources that are desperately needed at this time.
27. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Pray that all LMS students, faculty and staff can relax and enjoy the Christmas break. Pray that this Christmas season is a meaningful time for all with family and friends. Also pray that those who may feel loss at this time of year will find support and comfort from others.
28. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for Goshen College employees and students who live in the region, as COVID cases continue to spike.
29. **Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for our teachers who are asked continuously to take on greater roles than "just" teaching.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for campus pastor Micah Hurst and Hesston's ministry team as they attend to the spiritual needs of our campus community.

30. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:**  
Please join us in praying for our school as the fundraising events continue to be canceled. It is difficult for a school our size, but we know nothing is impossible with the help of our God.

31. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** EMU offers praise to God for the relatively few COVID cases we've had on campus this semester, and we're very thankful for faculty, staff and students for all their hard work in keeping everyone safe.

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA), is the education agency of Mennonite Church USA. These prayer requests were gathered from across all levels of Mennonite education, from early childhood – grade 12, undergraduate schools, graduate schools and seminaries and MEA's Hispanic Ministries Education programs. By partnering with these schools and educational programs and helping them flourish, MEA works to ***strengthen the church through education***. Thank you for joining us in prayer for our schools.

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