



Prayers for Mennonite Education November 2020

This month we want to especially remember the theater and drama departments in our prayers. Their productions will look very different this year – if they are not canceled altogether. Directors, staff and students are working hard to design creative ways to practice the dramatic arts together.

Daily prayers for November 1 - 30, 2020

- Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our student performers, directors and stage managers as they share their final performance of the virtual fall play “Alone, Together” today, November 1. Pray for their continued creativity in developing new ways to present and share their love of the stage.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for the theater students and faculty as they find creative ways to produce a fall Mainstage performance.
- Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We pray that a spirit of kindness, empathy, and unity would prevail in our community during our upcoming election and in the weeks/months to follow.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: LMS has three virtual Open Houses scheduled the first two weeks in November. Please be in prayer for prospective families who attend and for administration and admissions staff as they answer questions and encourage families to consider LMS.
- Diamond Street Early Childhood Center, Akron, Pennsylvania:** Pray for the children, teachers and staff as they grow and learn together.
- Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for Fall athletes as they wrap up their fall seasons.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Give thanks for EMS’ outdoor production of Les Misérables in late October. Nearly 30 students were involved under the musical direction of Joy Anderson, drama coordinator Mark Gornto, and assistant director Leah Huyard.
- Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Give thanks for the gifts and hard work of Karen Robu, Bethel College director of theater, who was able to adapt her original play, No Cross, No Crown, to a virtual format that can still be viewed on Bethel’s YouTube channel.

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio: Give thanks for the creative talents of Kelly Beun as she directed the Fall production of “Charlotte’s Web,” which was performed in a barn to a limited audience and recorded for a broader audience.
- MEA’s Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** Pray for the new agreement between SeBAH and Hesston College for the pastoral and biblical training of men and women leaders of the Hispanic Mennonite Church and other Hispanic Anabaptist institutions.
- Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for the search for a Chief Financial Officer. Pray that the right person will be led to this position.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for EMU Theater faculty and staff who are working to keep the theater spirit alive on campus through play readings and outdoor gatherings.
- Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our campus community as we launch our five-year strategic plan with attention on academic success, well-being, emotional intelligence, social justice and advocacy.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: We are grateful for our families who continue to choose QCS and follow our guidelines.

9. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for BC students who are considering short- and long-term service-related assignments as they meet with service agency and camp representatives Nov. 9 and 11.
- Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** Hillcrest Academy recently turned 75! We celebrate this significant birthday with gratitude and hopefulness. Pray that as we look for the best way to move forward, to change our world for the better, that we will be inspired to impact our community and embrace the future. With God as our foundation and guide, pray that today and tomorrow we will lead others through our faith.
10. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Thank God for the creativity of Jared Stutzman, choral director; Nick Gardner, band and orchestra director; and Maria Lorcias, strings teacher at EMS, who have been rehearsing outside and using protective equipment to continue music training.
- Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for the GC student musicians as they hold concerts and recitals virtually this month.
11. **Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for healthy bodies and wise minds as our students may begin to grow restless as the semester moves on. Pray they make decisions that are not only for the sake of their safety, but also for the good of others. Pray that the inherent sense of community and collaboration that comes with creating theatre doesn't wane and they grow in their talents and gifts. Pray that this new way of doing things strengthens our ability to adapt and that we always remain grateful and in awe of what God provides in time of joy and in time of need.
- Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** We lift up our Board and Leadership Team as we work to make the best decisions for our students, families, staff, and faculty.
12. **The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** We desire to be a light to the city through our student care, educational excellence, and social and emotional program for students and teachers. Pray for God's leading in this call. Our theme verse is Matthew 5:14-16.
13. **Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** Please pray for the finances to come in. Pray that parents start getting paid again after many of them lost their jobs because of Covid, for our wonderful staff who themselves sacrifice so much for the success of the school, and mostly that the lives of children and their families would experience the transformational power of Jesus Christ.
14. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** Please keep our international and domestic residential students uplifted in your prayers. These students not only have the regular stresses of teenage years, but also being away from families during the pandemic is not easy. We are amazed at their resilience and strength. We also learn from them and would love to have more students from around the world grace us with their presence in future years.
15. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Dan Wassink at the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution at BC as he hosts – virtually – the second offering in KIPCOR's annual film series this afternoon.
- Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray that God will create hearts of thankfulness for all the blessings we have: health, safety, food and family.
16. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for IT Director Brent Graber, M.A., whose work in implementing practices to enable distance learning over the past eight years has made it possible for students from anywhere to access AMBS's theological education offerings online.
17. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for our music and theater department leaders and involved students as they face new realities of what performances will look like this semester and how to showcase their hard work in different ways.
- Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and their families in our community and ask for continued strength and health for Dock faculty, administration, staff, students and families in the months ahead as colder temperatures and cold/flu season approach.
18. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Give thanks for the Moms in Prayer groups that meet faithfully every week to pray for LMS.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: We give thanks for our teachers, who continue to go above and beyond this year to keep our students safe, and for the creativity that our faculty and staff show each day to bring out the best in our students.

19. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for participants in AMBS's Leadership Integrity Circles, which bring together experienced organizational leaders to reflect on their leadership experience with others through spiritual and theological lenses.

Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio: Please pray for our music majors and music faculty as they continue to share the joy of music in new and unexpected ways this month. Pray over their health and safety as they present the fall chamber concert today and practice for the 125th Messiah performance next month.

20. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for Justin Poole, Director of EMU's theater program, on his sabbatical this fall. In particular, pray that he'll return with renewed energy for theater in this challenging time.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for GC students as they take final exams and prepare to return home for the end of the semester.

21. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** We ask for prayer for the cast/crew of our Dock Grades 9-12 campus production, Little Women, which will take place in November. Please pray specifically for our entire 2020-21 Dock Drama/Theater Department staff on both campuses comprised of the following: Mariana Kurtz – HS Director, Michelle Sensenig – HS Music Director, Jordan Kolb – HS Producer, Steffi Eger – HS Set Designer, Darwin Zehr – HS Tech Director, Heidi Painter – MS Director, Laura Landes – MS Music Director, Kathy Mease – MS Choreographer, Jason Sprunger – MS Tech Director, Kathy Kennel – Theatre Coordinator, and all cast and crew members.

22. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Thank God for a return to health for our student-athletes, and pray for them and their coaches in a month when the calendar is crowded with make-up games for volleyball, soccer and football.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray that families and communities who will be welcoming EMU students home this week stay healthy and safe as students transition to living at home and finishing the semester.

23. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** Thank God for programs like Kinderforest and Nature Preschool where the outdoors is the stage and the children are the all-inclusive cast. Pray that these Merry Lea nature-based early childhood education programs may plant seeds of life-long creation care. See <https://www.goshen.edu/merrylea/nature-based-early-childhood-education/kinderforest>.

24. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our students as they undertake finals at the end of this month. Pray for their minds and hearts to grow as they finish the semester as well as for their continued health and safety when they return home for an extended winter break.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Pray for continued energy, enthusiasm and good health for faculty, staff and students at Lancaster Mennonite School as they enter the excitement of the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

25. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Pray for our school in a time of increasing polarization. May the school community continue to come together around the shared interest in Anabaptist education for the children and young people of this area.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: As the seasons change, our prayer is for the continued health and safety of all our Hillcrest Academy students and their families. We pray especially for our student athletes and our coaches, for spectators coming onto our campus, and for our fans as they travel; that all will be well.

26. Praise God and give thanks for all of the schools across Mennonite education, from kindergarten through graduate and seminary students. Pray that our Anabaptist values will be revealed in all that we do.

The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Give thanks for The City School, and pray for overall stamina, self-care, pace and shalom for each person connected with the school.

27. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for our teachers as they wrap up the first quarter of school, balancing new schedules and new health and safety measures and curriculum.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: Please pray for wisdom and creativity to allow students to be able to express their artistic talents during a pandemic. Play for the drama, music and art teachers to find creative ways to engage students and provide a showcase.

28. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for BC forensics students and their interim coach, Mark Rittenour, as they navigate the uncertainty and unfamiliarity of competition during COVID.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: Please pray for our arts and music departments as they work to create a positive learning environment for our students. Pray for our winter concerts, that they will be a source of joy, even as we make changes to keep students, teachers and their families safe.

29. **Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please say a prayer of thanks for the theatre team: Doug Peters, designer and tech director; Jim Diller and Gerry Selzer, lead carpenters; Holly Swartzendruber and Ken Rodgers, musical theatre team; and our newest theatre faculty, Celaine Worden. She is teaching courses and directing students new to her, and handling it wonderfully and with grace. Please pray for Rachel Jantzi, theatre and communications professor, as she leads this team. Pray for the ability to remain positive and have the strength to be a constant for our students.

30. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for participants in AMBS's online short course, A Worship Leader's Introduction to Voices Together, as they explore how their worship can grow in vitality through understanding the new hymnal within their congregation's unique culture.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for students, faculty and staff at EMU as they transition from courses that have been in a variety of formats to courses that are entirely online for the remainder of the semester.

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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