



Prayers for Mennonite Education October 2020

This month we want to especially remember maintenance and custodial staff in our prayers. These often-overlooked heroes have become critical players in the reopening plans of the schools, doing more than ever before to keep classrooms, corridors, restrooms, dining halls and other common areas clean and safe.

Daily prayers for October 1 – 31, 2020

1. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for the Board of Directors, meeting today and tomorrow, and for the whole Bethel community, holding the annual Fall Festival in a very different way this year.

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania: We pray for continued health and safety of all our Dock students and families and especially for our athletes and coaches as they compete in Fall sports.

2. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our maintenance and custodial staff this month and always as they work harder than ever. We recognize their dedication to keeping the Bluffton campus community healthy and safe.
3. **Hinkletown Mennonite School, Hinkletown, Pennsylvania:** Pray for our facilities and custodial staff as they prepare classrooms each night for use during the day. Pray that they may be encouraged in their crucial role at HMS, knowing that their work is caring for students even when they don't see the students in person. May these staff members particularly remain healthy and well.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: October 3 and 4 is Homecoming and Fall Festival weekend at LMS. Many of the usual events will be virtual this year. Pray for a good time of celebration, fun and catching up with former classmates, both in-person and virtually. Give thanks for the many lives enriched by years spent at Lancaster Mennonite.

4. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for alumni and families as they reconnect during Virtual Homecoming Week.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania: We are thankful for our Fire Department, for their volunteer service to the community and their interest in teaching children about fire safety.

5. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for the care teams at EMU who are responsible for providing physical, emotional and spiritual care for any residential students in isolation because of illness.

Freeman Academy, Freeman, North Dakota: We held our 121st Corporation Meeting on September 29th. We ask for God's wisdom and strength as we navigate these challenging times.

6. **The City School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Please pray that we will continue to reimagine education for teachers, students and families during this time of COVID-19. Also pray for creativity and grace with our hybrid school model.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Give thanks for Shalom's maintenance team, who has done a great job in prepping for our reopening, and in keeping the building clean as we're in session.

7. **Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for the wellbeing of our student-athletes, whose physical health is under particular threat from potential post-COVID complications.

8. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Pray for parent-teacher conferences taking place on Oct. 8 and 9. These are important times for parents and teachers to talk together to ensure students are receiving the education and care that they need.

Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas: Please pray for the international students at Hesston College who have been unable to come to campus because of COVID-19 and other complicating factors. Pray for their health, pray for patience and pray for a continued thirst for knowledge.

9. **Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** We ask for prayers for our first-ever Fall Festival Chicken BBQ and Auction taking place on Oct. 9 and 10.
10. **MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for the IBA students and their tutor, Ramiro Hernandez, at the Study Center in El Balsamo and Jesus el Buen Pastor Mennonite Churches in Muscatine, Iowa, who are studying the course on the Old Testament. May God give pastor Ramiro wisdom and guidance as he teaches the students in their weekly classes. Pray that this course will be a blessing for the students, their congregation and community. Pray that the students will find new tools and learn new things so they may be better leaders.
11. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** We give thanks for the opportunity for in-person classes since August. As we strive to engage our students and nurture our community in safe and meaningful ways, please pray for guidance and well-being as we work together to navigate our situation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Today, the Goshen College community celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day, exploring our past, present and future together on this good earth. Please pray that God will bless our time together.

Pray for custodians and all of the behind-the-scenes workers at **Goshen College** as they help keep the campus community safe.

13. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray for our Parent-Teacher conferences as we continue to work for the community in difficult times. We ask for connection and support for teachers and parents to provide a quality learning for students and collaboration with parents.

14. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for AMBS's maintenance and campus security employees Jeff Marshall, M.Div., and Norm Cender, whose behind-the-scenes work and attention to detail in maintaining a hospitable campus are an integral part of the seminary's mission.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:

Longtime employee Adam Akers took on a new role earlier this year as director of facilities. Pray for Adam and all the maintenance and custodial workers who face extra challenges in a pandemic.

15. **MEA's Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** Please pray for Liliana Potes, student, leader and member of a Mennonite Church in New York City as she enrolls in her third SeBAH class.
16. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** In observance of Children's Sabbaths weekend, which unites faith communities of every religious persuasion, pray in this election season that we may open our eyes to the inherent dignity and worth of every child. May we recover God's vision of a just and compassionate society. May we consider the problems facing children and families such as poverty, gun violence, lack of healthcare and quality education. May we vote in ways that will nurture, protect, and seek respectful justice including love, security, and equal opportunities accessing God's hope for all young children.

UMEI Christian High School, Leamington, Ontario:

We are back on campus full time with face to face instruction. Please pray for the health and safety of our staff, faculty and students as they come back together as a school community.

17. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for board members as they meet Oct. 15–17 — that God’s Spirit would guide them in listening well and wisely as they give direction to the ongoing work of the seminary.

Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:

We give thanks for all of the wonderful people who bless our campus day in and day out with the skills and abilities they share in their special way. And we pray for everyone in our world as we all find the best in each and every day.

18. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray that those participating in EMU’s virtual homecoming events are inspired to work for a better world.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Pray that parents of athletes will be receptive to and respectful of spectator restrictions. Pray that athletes will stay healthy so that we can continue the season.

19. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our student musicians and faculty as they find new ways to share the joy of music. Watch over their health and safety as they practice for and present the fall instrumental concert this month.
20. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Join us in giving thanks for those who spend extra time cleaning our spaces: teachers, volunteers and cleaning personnel.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Give thanks for all the administrative assistants, maintenance, custodial and food service staff as they continue to spend many hours working to provide a safe environment for all students, faculty and staff in this time of uncertainty and fear due to COVID-19.

21. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Give thanks for our wonderful maintenance team: Russ Miller, head of maintenance, with Glenda Raudales, Angela Hostetler and Kathy Troyer.

22. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Pray for all of us at Bluffton as we search for and practice new ways of spreading peace throughout the world. Please pray for the peacemakers including alumna Andrea Flack-Wetherald who will share with students how to use improv in the act of peacemaking.

Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas: Please pray for the continued success of our newly established Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning, or CALL, and the program’s leaders, Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg and Michelle Hershberger.

23. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for Facilities Director Brent Miller, who worked extremely hard over the summer to prepare the building for students, and for his maintenance and custodial staff, who keep the building clean and accessible so our students can stay healthy.

Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio: Please pray for our student-athletes and coaches as contact sports resume competition at Bluffton. Pray for their health and safety as they practice the values of sportsmanship and respect this fall.

24. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for custodial supervisor Michelle Sheriff and all the custodial workers, including student workers, who have a risky and especially necessary job keeping facilities clean and safe during COVID.

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania: We give thanks for the community spirit shown in making the modifications required due to COVID restrictions. Please join us in praying for the physical and social-emotional health of our Dock students, staff and parents.

25. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Cesar Garcia, president of Mennonite World Conference, and Kip Wedel, who organizes the Menno Simons Lectures at Bethel College. Cesar will be delivering the first-ever virtual lectures in this annual series today and tomorrow.

- 26. Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Thank God today for the custodial and maintenance staff, who are keeping two buildings clean and safe for 350 K-12 students with positive attitudes and creativity.
- Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** We ask for prayers for continued safety as we meet face to face. We lift up our facility staff for the hard work that they provide to keep us safe and clean. We pray for our teachers who have the additional responsibility of keeping desks and common touch areas sanitized.
- 27. Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Music is such an important part of our faith and lives. Please pray for our students, music teachers and the entire school community as we learn new ways to sing, play, perform and worship while reducing risks to each other.
- Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania:** Pray that we can continue to create a community among our faculty as some of the typical gatherings and events are changed due to social distancing restrictions.
- 28. Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** Our community was saddened by the sudden loss of Dennis Schrock, a beloved teacher for many years at Freeman Academy, who did not get near enough years in retirement. We ask for healing and peace for all those hurting from loss.
- Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray for continued health for everyone, for protection from regular flu and seasonal illnesses, along with COVID-19.
- 29. Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Please pray for our campus community as Bluffton works to become an anti-racist institution and for our students, faculty and staff who are actively working to eliminate racism on campus and beyond.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for continued discernment and leadership at all Mennonite schools and colleges in the face of unprecedented challenges.
- 30. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for the yearlong student employees and summer crew of AMBS's maintenance and campus security department and for their consistent and careful work in keeping the campus clean, safe, beautiful and welcoming.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for our faculty, staff and board as they work to complete a strategic planning process this fall.
- 31. Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Give thanks for the persistence and passion for sustainable energy of maintenance staff person Roger Reimer, who was largely responsible for getting the new solar collector carport with EV charging stations installed on campus earlier this summer.
- Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for the facilities crews at EMU as they work to maintain the outdoor space that is more important than ever during this time. They make our campus look so beautiful inside and out. What a gift in these disorienting times for students--that their classrooms, dorms, physical grounds are places of respite and comfort.

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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