

Prayers for Mennonite Education March 2021

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 programs through grade 12 schools, undergraduate schools, graduate schools and seminaries, and MEA's Hispanic Ministries Education programs, IBA and SeBAH. 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 the schools.

Daily prayers for March 1 – 31, 2021

1. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Robert Milliman, Bethel College vice president for academic affairs, and other Bethel administrators and faculty as they host a site visit by representatives of the college's accrediting body.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: Pray for the continued blessing of student, faculty, and staff health.
2. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** Today, March 2, Bluffton criminal justice major Tajah Upshaw will present about her internship with the D.C. Public Defenders Office, which focused on death penalty cases. Please pray for our faculty, students, and alumni who are working on social justice and criminal justice reform.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Stories of belonging – or not belonging – is the theme for Chapel (grades 6-12) and Gathering (K-5) at EMS this year. Thank God for people who are willing to share in video format, and for students as they listen and consider their own stories, as well as how to help others feel a sense of belonging.
3. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for participants in Pastors and Leaders 2021 as they meet online to explore together how congregations and their leaders can thrive in this time of unprecedented disruption. May this event be a space for them to take a break and recharge.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for student musicians and performers as they find creative ways to share their gifts on a virtual stage.
4. **Instituto Biblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for the 36 volunteer Tutors/Regional Coordinators of IBA. May God grant them wisdom, patience and energy as they teach the weekly sessions in 26 different study centers across the U.S. Please pray for guidance and wisdom as they deal with different issues and challenges caused by the pandemic. May they continue to be essential instruments for IBA and the Hispanic church as we build God's kingdom.
5. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for God's peace and direction as we learn together with flexibility, creativity, and care for ourselves and our whole community.
6. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Give thanks for the dedication of Bethel College nursing faculty and the junior class, who will creatively observe lamplighting (rescheduled from February), which recognizes students' commitment to the program and their chosen profession, amid COVID safety protocols.
7. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Today, March 7, is an open house for prospective families. Pray for these families as they discern the best schooling situation for their students.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: Today, March 7 is National Teacher's Day in Albania. Pray for our teachers, that regardless of the challenges they are facing and the worldview of our students and parents, they will promote the learning and well-being of all students and show them God's love through their deeds.

8. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** We are thankful to God for the care and coordination provided by our COVID nursing and health staff at EMU. This semester they have provided increased testing of student athletes and continued contact tracing for any positive tests.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: Prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings that our stakeholders continue to provide us as a school community.
9. **Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** The Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary thanks God for the opportunity to serve a number of new students from both the U.S. and Honduras. We ask for prayers for these students who will begin classes in the Pastoral Ministry certificate program in the month of April.
10. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray for good communication between parents and teachers at Parent-Teacher conferences March 11 – 12.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Parent-teacher conferences will be held March 11 – 12 at all LMS campuses. These conferences provide good opportunities for discussions on the best way to enable each student to learn to the best of their ability. Pray for parents and faculty as they meet and also for the students that will lead some of the conferences.
11. **Peace Academic Center, Kykotsmovi, Arizona:** Please pray for the teachers and staff of PAC. Enrollment for the 2021-2022 year is growing and teachers are needed.
12. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Today, March 12, is the last day of the third academic quarter. Please pray for students' stamina and resilience as they push on toward the end of the school year.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas: Pray for Bethel College student-athletes. Because of the COVID-shortened fall season, there are more games and matches in more sports than usual, so we pray for good health and safety for all.
13. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Please pray for students to persevere in their hard work for music, theater, art, and athletics as we look forward to the time when they can once again display their efforts to cheering crowds.

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania: This year the weather combined with Covid-19 has made some feel isolated or trapped. We request prayer for the mental health of students and staff as winter is concluding and social distancing measures continue.
14. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Please pray that students will grow in relationship with Jesus and learn to follow Jesus daily in their lives.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: As we plan our Service and Learning Term (SALT), which takes place every other year, pray for continued guidance as Hillcrest Academy administration along with the faculty and staff look for creative ways to engage and inspire our students through this program in the shadow of COVID-19 guidelines.
15. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Early morning texts and calls are the norm for support staff at EMS, who find and prepare substitute teachers, often on short notice. Requests are high this year as teachers follow protocols to quarantine for COVID mitigation. Thank God for those managing the constant juggle, and for substitute teachers stepping into complex teaching environments.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: Pray for our teacher in-services today, March 15, and on March 31. Pray that they will be a time of learning together about how to help our hurting student population.
16. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for EMU's Board of Trustees as they meet this weekend, March 19 – 21, to listen and learn from University staff and faculty and make decisions for the ongoing health of our university.

17. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for endowed scholarships such as the Paul and Bertha Miller Pastoral Leadership Scholarship — which has benefited 38 students over 30 years at AMBS — and for donors who are generously contributing funds for continued student support.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for the Hesston College community as we mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Evan Oswald '48, who started the school's athletics department in 1951.
18. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** We ask for continued prayers for our principal's search and a smooth transition for the community.
19. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for our performing arts students as they perform the musical "Little Women" March 19 – 21.
- Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** March 19 is "World Changer Day" at Lancaster Mennonite School. Pray that this fundraising event will give students a chance to care, serve and give as they see themselves as the hands and feet of Jesus, making a positive impact on the world. Students will engage in acts of service in their classrooms throughout the school day, partnering with Mennonite Central Committee and local organizations.
20. **UMEI Christian High School, Leamington, Ontario:** Please keep our school in your prayers as we are back on campus, together as a school community, for face-to-face learning once again. Pray for our continued health and safety.
21. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** As we proceed through lent, pray that adults will endeavor to see Jesus in young children, looking with all-merciful, compassionate eyes as ambassadors of God's everlasting love for all children, especially those who experience neglect, abuse, poverty, hunger, fear, loneliness and lack of purpose in life during these days of pandemic challenges.
22. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Bethel College admissions staff, and especially for the high school seniors and parents attending the annual Scholarship Day that honors top incoming students and gives the opportunity to audition for arts and academic scholarships.
- Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** Please pray that CCS continues to build a strong faith and learning community in which students and faculty/staff support each other.
23. **Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio:** The week of March 21 – 27 is Spiritual Life Week at Bluffton. Please pray for our spiritual life staff and ministry team, our students and the week's presenter, Drew Hart, who will be sharing the message "Who Will be a Witness? Getting Into Good Trouble."
24. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for students at EMU (and everywhere) who are feeling especially isolated and struggling with mental health challenges during this long pandemic. May they be reminded of God's love and care and see signs of hope around them
- Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for spring athletes as they navigate school and sports and a changing schedule due to COVID.
25. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** We ask to be uplifted in prayer this month as will again be without our Schmeckfest event. This event marks one year of no fundraising events for our small campus. We miss our wonderful guests and volunteers. Please pray for us to feel God's guidance as we daily navigate to continue this mission we are called to. We uplift you all as you do the same.
26. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Karen Robu, Bethel College director of theater, and students as they begin a month of rehearsals for the spring play, "I and You," by Lauren Gunderson.
- Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas:** Please pray for the leadership and board of Hesston College as they plan for the future of the institution.

27. **Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** Pray for Dini and Klementina, the leaders of the school. We are being Christian at church and in our workplace and we have to face the secular worldview outside those places. It seems that we are in the middle of a competition of worldviews. Pray that we would stand firm in the kingdom/world of which we are citizens and in the competition of worldviews.

28. **Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:** We give thanks for God's faithfulness, for the start of the renovation, and for the gift of each day of school.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for the safety and health of students and employees, and gratitude for weekly COVID testing.

29. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** The last quarter of this school year at Lancaster Mennonite School begins today, March 29. Pray that students, faculty and staff will continue to work with energy and enthusiasm toward the completion of another good year in spite of all the new challenges presented by the pandemic.

30. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for AMBS alumni, who are living out their faith and applying their seminary learnings in contexts around the world. Pray for Alumni Director Janeen Bertsche Johnson, M.Div., as she works to connect alumni to each other and to AMBS resources in creative ways.

Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for our faculty as they enter the fourth quarter of the school year, continuing to adjust their teaching methods and maintaining connections with students.

31. **Colegio Americas Unidas, Cali, Colombia:** We thank God for your prayers for the Americas United School and the hand of God supporting us because nothing is impossible for God! We fervently pray in thanksgiving that with COVID precautions we are healthy. All the glory to the Lord! We pray for more students for the new school year, for wise decision-making as this school year ends and the new year begins.

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