

# Born of Fire



Franconia Mennonite Church

May 31, 2026

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11).

*Prelude*

*Gathering Song*

*Lori Cassel and Worship Team*

*Welcome, Opportunities, Call to Worship*

*Pastor Kyle Rodgers*

*Singing and Worship*

*Congregational Prayer*

*Amber Clemens*

*Scripture Reading*—Luke 12:49-53

*Troy Godshall*

*Sermon*—“Born of Fire”

*Pastor Rob Presthus*

*Introduction of Candidates for Baptism and Membership*

*Pastor Kyle Rodgers, Faith Partners and Candidates*

*Discipleship Commitments*

*Congregational Response*—BB 777

*Bronwen Leister*

*Song of Response*

*Sending*

*Pastor Earl Anders*

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12:12

## Pray God's blessing upon...

- those joining the church today through membership transfer and baptism, that they will grow in faith and love for God and the body of Christ here at Franconia.
- **students, teachers, and parents** finishing the school year.

## Student Prayer...

- Praying that our children shine with the light of Christ. Psalm 118:27

## Pray God's grace, comfort and healing for...

- **Liliana Menzies'**, following her successful jaw surgery at CHOP. Pray for Liliana as she begins the long healing process.
- **Kathryn Nice** remains at Montgomery Rehab and hopes for an opening at Living Branches.
- **those** who are mourning recently lost loved ones, may God grant them peace and comfort.

## Those enduring long-term illness...

- **Bev Moyer** - Breast cancer
- **Curtis Kratz**-various health concerns
- **Ron Widrick**—Back fractures
- **Jenni Moyer** - Fallopian tube cancer
- **Caryn Widrick** - Depression

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Earl Anders ..... *Pastor*  
Isaiah Cramer ..... *Youth Pastor*  
Bronwen Leister...*Dir. Children's Min.*  
Rob Presthus .....*Pastor of Admin; Care*  
Kyle Rodgers .....*Pastor of Outreach*

### CHURCH BOARD

Nate Weaver.....*Chair* Kevin Landis  
Dale Bergey.....*Sec.* ...*Treas.*  
Butch Cassel Rob Presthus... *LT Rep.*  
Anthony Detweiler...*V.C.* Paul Veltre  
Andrew Landis Ben Yoder

Nursery 0-3yrs

Fmcgust

Available at sound booth

*Led by the Holy Spirit, we are an Anabaptist congregation  
committed to following Jesus in all things,  
so that God's love flows through us to our community and the world.*

## Baptism



**Cody Caroff:** I was born into Franconia Mennonite Church, and from as early as I can remember, church was a regular part of my life. I attended Sunday school, went to church every week, and because I went to Penn View Christian School and later Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, many of my closest friends were also part of my church community. Through church trips, boys clubs, and the people around me, I always knew who God was, but for much of my life I would not have said I had a personal relationship with Him.

As I got older, sports, work, and other priorities gradually took the place of church in my life. By the time I reached college, attending church had become inconsistent, and my relationship with the Lord was not something I actively pursued.

When Paige and I began preparing for marriage, we asked my childhood pastor from Franconia to marry us. Through premarital counseling and returning to church together, God began drawing me back to Him.

Although we attended different churches for a season, we eventually felt led back to Franconia, especially as we began thinking about raising our children in a church community.

Over the past few years, I have started turning to scripture for encouragement and guidance in ways I never had before. One verse that has become especially meaningful to me is Isaiah 42:16, which reminds me that even when I did not realize it, God was still guiding my life. I am continuing to grow in my faith and am choosing to commit my life to following Jesus and serving Him at Franconia.



**Alex Landis:** I grew up in Sellersville and attended Emmanuel Lutheran as a child. Around age 10, I started going to youth group and church at First Baptist, now Renew. Since then, I have lived in Williamsport while attending Penn College, as well as Lancaster and Colorado. In April 2025, my family moved back to Sellersville. My wife, Tianna, and I are blessed with two

sons, Jonah and Daniel.

During college, I walked away from the Lord and fell into a lifestyle centered on work, money, alcohol, and marijuana. I moved to Colorado hoping for a fresh start, but instead I distracted myself with skiing,

# Baptism

**Alex Landis** (cont.) mountain biking, and climbing while continuing the same unhealthy habits. In 2020, I met my wife, and about 2 years into dating she asked me to go to church with her. I remember my heart immediately jumping at the thought. At that point, I was searching for a way out of the life I had built for myself. We found a wonderful church and began attending regularly.

In 2023, I truly asked the Lord to become the center of my life, and everything began to change. We were convicted to stop living in sexual sin, quit alcohol and marijuana, and pursue Christ together. I began reading my Bible daily, and for the first time I understood what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

I want to be baptized as a public declaration of leaving behind my old life and living a new life through faith in Christ. I also hope my testimony encourages others who may feel hesitant about returning to church. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.



**Ava Stokes:** Growing up, I wasn't raised in a family that regularly attended church, but my great-grandmother planted the seed of faith in my life. Through Family Worship Center, I attended Vacation Bible School and Sunday services, but at the time, faith felt more like a routine than a relationship.

As I got older, I knew about God, but I didn't truly know Him. I searched for fulfillment in the world instead of in Christ. Over time, though, I began to understand what forgiveness, grace, and faith really meant. Even through difficult seasons, God was patiently drawing me closer to Him.

Everything started to change when the Ramos family invited me to church. What seemed like a simple invitation became a turning point in my life. Through FMC youth group and service projects trips, I began to experience God personally and see His presence in every part of my life. I found joy in serving others, grew stronger in my faith through mission trips and fellowship, and started to understand what it means to fully trust God.

One verse that continues to guide me is James 1:19: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." It reminds me daily to lead with patience, understanding, and love.

## Baptism



**Mary Kate Wilson:** Hello, my name is Mary Kate Wilson soon to be Mary Kate Moyer. I'm engaged to Brody Moyer, and Kara Detweiler is my faith partner.

I grew up Catholic and was very involved in the church from a young age—serving as an altar server, singing in the choir, and attending Catholic school through college.

While I had a strong foundation in faith as a child, my relationship with God became strained over time. As I got older, my focus shifted toward sports, friendships, and staying busy, and those things gradually became my main source of happiness instead of God.

That disconnect deepened in high school, especially after an injury left me feeling isolated. I struggled mentally and physically and began shutting both God and others out of my life. A major turning point came during a senior-year retreat, where I was pushed to open up about what I was going through. That experience helped me begin to forgive myself and others and allowed me to let God back in, even if only for a short period.

In college, I drifted away again due to negative influences and a lack of a supportive faith community. It wasn't until later, during my master's program—and ultimately after meeting my fiancé, Brody—that my faith started to become more consistent and meaningful.

Today, my relationship with God feels intentional and personal. Through church, prayer, and devotionals, I continue to grow in my faith. Looking back, it's clear that God worked through the people in my life to guide me back to where I am today.

## Transfer/Confession of Faith



**Paige Caroff:** Ever since I can remember, faith has been part of my life. I grew up in a Christian family attending Souderton Mennonite Church, where church and faith were central to our lives. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at a young age and was baptized on my 13th birthday. During youth retreats and church events, I often felt deeply connected to God, but as life became busier, that passion slowly faded.

## Transfer/Confession of Faith

**Paige Caroff** (cont.) I attend Christopher Dock Mennonite High School and then Eastern Mennonite University. While there were many opportunities to grow in my faith, I often pushed God away in times of need. Throughout high school and college, I began to struggle with my mental health, and these struggles deeply impacted my relationship with God.

It wasn't until Cody and I began premarital counseling that I started thinking more intentionally about my faith journey. As newlyweds, we visited several churches but struggled to find a true sense of connection and community.

We began attending Franconia Mennonite Church, Cody's home church, with the desire to build a strong spiritual foundation for our family. Over the last year, my mental health struggles intensified, and I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Through prayer, support, and trusting in the Lord, the fog I had been living in finally began to lift.

Today, I am incredibly grateful for the caring community we have found. Cody and I feel confident that God has led us to exactly where we are meant to be, and we are excited to plant roots at Franconia as we continue growing in faith together.



**Abby Cramer:** I grew up in North Wales and currently reside in Lansdale with my husband, Isaiah, and our daughter. I attended Cairn University, where I also met Isaiah. I've worked in the dental field for about the last decade.

My father has served as a pastor for my whole life, and I'm thankful to have been raised in a home where faith in Christ was the foundation of everything. I was around 6 years old when I understood what it meant to become a believer, and wanted that for my own life. My middle and high school years were a gradual process of realizing my own need for a relationship with the Lord, rather than hiding behind or relying on the identity of being a pastor's kid. I'm grateful for the godly influences who faithfully spoke truth into my life during those years.

In more recent years, God has given me many opportunities to surrender more deeply to Him. Time and time again, He has shown me His sustaining love and grace. I often think of 2 Corinthians 12:9: "But

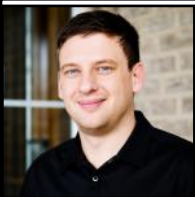
## Transfer/Confession of Faith

**Abby Cramer** (cont.) he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” I also return often to Psalm 16:1–2: “Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’”

What a sweet gift it is to know the peace of being made new and loved by the Creator of the universe.



**Isaiah Cramer:** My faith journey early in life is largely defined by the personal investment of individuals the Lord placed in my path. My mother passed down to me a love of the Word and the local church at a young age. My belief in the gospel was confirmed in prayer with my family after a night of AWANA when I was five. I had a very positive church experience growing up. I was discipled by the associate and youth pastor, and the senior pastor privately tutored my biblical studies. By early middle school, the desire stirred in me to make the ministering of the Word my life’s work, but I needed a lot of sharpening of my faith and life. Bible college was a maturing time in my faith journey. I learned of the need of accountability and community, but what has sharpened me the most is my marriage to Abby. Her honesty and care have produced a greater maturity in me as the years have gone by. I am indebted to Christ for her impact on me. I am ever growing in my need of God’s grace, and the awareness of its depth, and I feel this will be the theme of my faith story until the Lord calls me to be with Him.



**Aaron Esbenschade:** I was first baptized at five years old in a Brethren in Christ church after hearing teachings from the book of Revelation. As a young child, the fear of hell moved me to take that step. At age ten, I was baptized again at North Lima Mennonite Church in Ohio so I could become a full voting member. Later, I transferred my membership to Leetonia Mennonite Church.

After high school I served as a missionary in Mexico with the Assemblies of God, seeking a deeper experience with the Holy Spirit. While there, I lived with a conservative Mennonite family. Upon returning, I continued pursuing a committed Christian life.

## Transfer/Confession of Faith

**Aaron Esbshade** (cont.) During college, while studying biology, I began to drift from my faith. Over time I became more distant from the church and described myself as a “cultural Mennonite.” Though I still valued my heritage, I no longer felt spiritual power in my walk with God. After marriage and starting a family, I slowly moved into a place of doubt and practical agnosticism.

A few years ago, during a difficult season, I reached a point of complete surrender. In my brokenness I cried out to God and He met me. I returned to Franconia Mennonite Church and made a commitment to be consistent in my walk with Christ, even if my family could not join me at first. Since then, I have experienced God speaking to my heart in fresh ways.

This past year I began working as a substitute teacher at Dock Mennonite, which has felt like a meaningful homecoming. When the membership classes were announced, I knew it was the right time to take this step.

I’m deeply grateful to be here and look forward to growing with this body of believers as a member of the congregation.



**Lakelyn Kauffman:** I grew up Christian and was saved & baptized at a young age, fully understanding what it meant for the trajectory of my life. I also grew up in a volatile household with many financial struggles, but this actually brought me closer to God. I saw His provision time and time again and had no doubt God was protecting my family and me. To this day, His provision is one of the things I can trust most in my faith walk because of how I experienced it when I was little.

All through my childhood and teen years, my life verse was Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” I held this close as I walked through many uncertainties. College for me provided a Christian environment that helped bring me even closer to God. This was where I was taught about the Holy Spirit and his pivotal role in guiding me in my faith journey, and it opened so much for me. Shalom, a holistic peace, became my tenet during this time. I could finally lean into this peace, stability, and

## Transfer/Confession of Faith

**Lakelyn Kauffman** (cont.) loving relationship fully. While in college, my search continued for a church I could call home. Once I graduated and began attending Franconia with my now husband, I immediately felt how close-knit the community was. There were so many opportunities to connect with others, and Sundays were filled with conversations before and after service. Over the past two years, I've been able to say I have a home church. This led to my decision to officially join Franconia as a member.



**Maxwell Keeler:** I grew up in a faith-centered family at Towamencin Mennonite Church, accepting Jesus at 13 and being baptized the following year. In high school, I was heavily involved in MYF, though attending tech school for machining introduced some negative influences. While I valued church, my drive for work and hobbies often put my spiritual life on the back burner.

At college, I struggled with the freedoms of being on my own, allowing Satan a foothold through lust. However, my roommate invited me to CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) my first semester. I accepted, and God blessed me with an amazing community. My faith truly became my own, culminating at a CRU Big Break mission trip in Panama City, Florida. Approaching college kids on spring break and sharing my faith stretched me deeply, teaching me to rely on God's strength rather than my own.

After graduation, my default mode of focusing on work returned, and I felt less close to the Lord. During this time, I started dating my now-wife. As she was the first person I had ever dated, I prayed intensely about our future, wanting to ensure our relationship and marriage would be Christ-centered.

After we got married, we stayed at Towamencin for a few years before searching for a church of our own. We transitioned to LCBC, but the pandemic and the birth of our daughter, Savannah, disrupted our rhythm, leaving us watching services online without a consistent community. When Savannah was almost two, Grandmom offered to pick her up for Sunday school at Franconia. That small nudge was exactly what we needed to return to regular attendance. Franconia truly feels like where we belong, and it is why I am now seeking to transfer my membership.

## Branchwood park

 Start


 250 ft  
Turn right onto Harleysville Pike

 0.4 mi  
Turn right onto Keller Creamery Rd

 1.0 mi  
Turn left onto Hunsicker Rd

 200 ft  
Turn right onto Keller Creamery Rd

 0.6 mi  
Turn left onto Morwood Rd

 350 ft  
Turn right onto Camp Rd

 0.4 mi  
The destination is on your right

 Arrive



# Directions to Branchwood Park for Baptisms



This year's theme is **No Fear**  
based on Ephesians 6:10-20

Friday July 31 thru  
Sunday August 2, 2026  
Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA

Families Welcome  
Special Events for Children & Youth

USE QR CODE TO  
VIEW PROGRAM  
DETAILS  
EMAIL THE CHURCH  
OFFICE  
TO REGISTER



Rosedale Network  
of Churches  
a global family of Anabaptists

FOLLOWING JESUS NEWSLETTER  
~ MAY 31, 2026~



## Happy Anniversary

John and Janet Alderfer — June 5 — 55 years

Weston and Karen Landis — June 5 — 50 years

## Group Activities

*Email contact person for more information*

### | Girls' Club (Grades 3-5)

Contact Lindsey Hoover [lindseyhoover3@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyhoover3@gmail.com)

See you in the fall

### | Boys' Club (Grades 3-5)

Contact Mat Landis [mat.landis@chlsystems.com](mailto:mat.landis@chlsystems.com)

See you in the fall

**For General Info about Children's Ministry, Boys' & Girls' Clubs:**

### | Junior High (Grades 6-8)

Contact Tasha Alderfer [jtaldfer@gmail.com](mailto:jtaldfer@gmail.com)

June 10 — Eighth Grade event

### | Senior High (Grades 9-12)

July 25 — August 2 — Mission trip

Contact Pastor Isaiah Cramer [icramer@franconiamennonite.org](mailto:icramer@franconiamennonite.org)

### | Young Adults (Ages 18-25) \*INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!\*

Contact Anthony & Kara Detweiler [akcdetweiler@gmail.com](mailto:akcdetweiler@gmail.com)

TBA

# June 7

## Church Picnic!




after the service



**Installation Service—Mark Yoder**  
(Greenwood Mennonite DE)  
Conference Overseer

**Burgers, sides, and drinks will be provided.**  
Feel free to bring a non-refrigerated  
dessert to share and lawn chairs.

 <b>DOCK</b> MENNONITE ACADEMY	<b>Senior Speeches</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 2</b>		
		6:30 PM	Choir Room: C-6	Ava Stokes
		6:30 PM	Chapel	Anna Landes
		7:00 PM	Theater	Addison Landis
		8:00 PM	Chapel	Tyler Alderfer
		<b>Wednesday, June 3</b>		
4:30	Theater	Ryan Merrill		
5:30	Theater	Sophia Veltre		

# Ushers Needed

*Are you willing to serve?*

We are in need of **volunteers** to serve as ushers. If you are willing to serve please text Levi Culver @ 267-498-8491. Thank you.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY WALK IN THE PARK & PICKLEBALL THURSDAY JUNE 11TH

**6:30 PM AT THE UPPER SALFORD PARK**  
(559 SALFORD STATION RD, SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473)

**ALL ARE WELCOME! THIS IS AN INFORMAL GATHERING FOR  
FELLOWSHIP, EXERCISE, AND ENJOYING GOD'S CREATION.  
WALK AND TALK AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!**

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO PLAY PICKLEBALL WE WILL  
HAVE AN EVENING OF INSTRUCTION ON THE RULES AND GAMEPLAY. IN  
THE FUTURE WE ARE HOPING TO HAVE PICKLEBALL ON WALK NIGHTS SO  
THAT YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY.**

# BREAK OUT



Sometimes our ordinary life can make us feel trapped.

We can feel trapped by our worries, our doubts, our fears, and our sin.

Sometimes we just wish we could break out and be free from these struggles. We will learn that with God we can BREAKOUT, Escape from Ordinary to Extraordinary!

**Kidz Blast June 15-18.** For kids entering 3rd grade through those finishing up 5th grade. Registration is open! Use the QR Code above.



## Splash into Summer Family Event

Thursday, June 18 6-8pm by the pavilion.

Come celebrate summer by sliding down the water slide or splashing in the kiddie pool.

Then cool off with a free treat from Mr. Softee's ice cream truck.



**FOLLOW THE WORD**



**VBS 2026**

**FMC**

**PSALMS 23**

**JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**6:30 - 8:30 PM**



Monday Celebrate Recovery—7 pm

*This week*

Tuesday Shine—4 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting—E203—7 pm

Thursday Breakfast with the Pastors—Heritage—6am

Sunday The Delight of Giving Everything to Jesus! - Mark Yoder  
Overseer Installation  
Church Picnic following worship service

June 15—18 Kidz Blast

July 5 Combined BFG and Sunday service in the UFH

July 12– 16 VBS

**UPCOMING**  
*Events*



**Visitors**, feel free to use our nursery.  
Download the free KidCheck app for a secure check-in.

Today's staff

Infant SS—John & Cathy Weaver

Infant/2&3 Church—Sarah & Riley Francis

Next week's staff

Infant SS—Ken & Janet Michener

Infant/2&3 Church—Joel & Tiff Landis



**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Last Week's Offering —\$44,696

**Offering—Ways to Give**

- \* Sunday morning—**offering boxes** as you enter the auditorium
- \* Online at [franconiamennonite.org](http://franconiamennonite.org) thru **Vanco ACH** (scan QR Code below)
- \* **Electronic Funds Transfer**—call Monique Kratz at the Church Office
- \* Mail to Church Office



Last Sunday Attendance

Sunday School—106

Worship—207

215-723-3220, website: [franconiamennonite.org](http://franconiamennonite.org)  
Monique Kratz: [mkratz@franconiamennonite.org](mailto:mkratz@franconiamennonite.org)  
Diane Nice: [communications@franconiamennonite.org](mailto:communications@franconiamennonite.org)