



*Mary Lee Springer and Scott Swartzendruber have both asked to be replaced from their current positions of Church Secretary and Church Treasurer. Over the past many years of service, both have done outstanding jobs for Hopedale Mennonite Church. Mary Lee would like to be replaced by September 30, 2022, and Scott would like to be replaced by December 31, 2022. The Administration Commission would like to respond to their requests, so that job training for each position can begin as soon as possible. If you would be interested in either position, please contact a member of the Administration Commission:*

**"CRIPE GIFT TO HMC"**

Around 1900 ,Tim Cripe and Barbara Birky were married. They lived in Delavan and attended HMC. When they died they were buried in the Hopedale Mennonite Church Cemetery. Their son, Delzon, married Charlotte in 1975. They lived in East Peoria and worked at Caterpillar. Having only 1 niece as their closest relative, most of their estate was left to charities. In honor of Delzon's parents, they left gifts of \$34,000.00 to Hopedale Mennonite Church and \$17,000.00 for maintenance of the Hopedale Mennonite Church Cemetery. These gifts were received in May of this year.

MYF will be held at 5:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, beginning September 18th, for Middle School & High School students. More information to come soon!

Seeing all the first day of school pictures lately has brought to mind Luke 18:16-17 (NLT):

**16** Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. **17** I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

I think if we spend time reflecting on a few common characteristics of childhood, we'll understand a little bit of what Jesus was saying.

The first characteristic of childhood that I think might help us receive the Kingdom of God like a child is curiosity. As adults, we often jump to find solutions, answers, and explanations. Even though, for the most part, we know we don't have it all figured out, we tend to lack the same level of curiosity as children. Perhaps if we spend a little bit more time exploring and asking questions, we might find ourselves more open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Which leads into the next characteristic of childhood that I want to share, trust. Children trust that adults will take care of them, probably because they are so dependent for the first few years of life. We need to trust that God knows what we need, maybe better than we do, just like we expect our children to trust us.

I'm sure this isn't everything that Jesus meant, so I ask you to consider, what other ways do you think Jesus wants us to have faith like a child?

Blessings, Pastor Jessica Litwiller