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Family Week Registration
will open May 1, 2026

2026 - 2027 enrollment is open!

Visit our website at smbi.org to apply!
Contact the office for a catalog



-Priority Registration ends May 1, 2026
additional applications accepted on a
first-come, first-serve basis

pray

Please continue to pray for the
students and staff of SMBI.



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Preparing for Life & Ministry

Anxiety and the Kingdom

By: Rebecca Troyer— Third Term Student

Anxiety is a prevalent term in our day and age, but it's not a new problem. Jesus addressed this issue in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:25-34. Similarly, the command to "fear not" is mentioned all throughout the Bible, Old and New Testaments. So, what does the kingdom of God have to offer to those who struggle with anxiety?

Merriam Webster describes anxiety as "apprehensive uneasiness or nervousness usually over impending or anticipated misfortune." Most of us recognize anxiety as an unsettled feeling or dread in the pit of our stomachs.

Currently, anxiety disorders are the number 1 mental health condition in America, affecting 40 million adults annually. Most alarming is the dramatic increase in adolescents, currently at 31.9% (between the ages of 10-24), which is a 52% increase from 1990-2021. This continues to be a growing trend, with women affected more often than men. Experts site economic uncertainty, COVID-19, social media, and climate concerns as the cause of this national and global crisis, but from God's Word we know this is not new. (therapymatters.com by Claudiu Manea)

The effects of anxiety reach far beyond our minds to our physical, emotional, and social health as well. Anxiety can lead to tense muscles, headaches, and difficulty sleeping. It increases your heart rate and blood pressure leading to hypertension and cardiovascular problems. Chronic anxiety keeps your body in fight or flight mode, restricting blood flow to your GI tract and causing digestive problems and stomach ulcers. Anxiety may lead people to depression, substance abuse, and suicide. It affects school and work performance and social interactions in daily life. (mayo clinic – anxiety disorders)

No wonder Jesus commands us in Matthew 6:25 "Do not be anxious about your life!" So many other Scriptures reiterate this statement: Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Luke 12:22-34, Philippians 4:6-8, 1 Peter 5:7, and 2 Timothy 1:7 are other passages that tell us not to be anxious.

But Jesus does not just tell us NOT to do it and then leave us hanging. With His commands He gives promises that empower us to obey them. Notice in Isaiah, after "fear not" He says, "I am with you" and "I am your God. I will strength-

en you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Therefore, our ability to carry out this kingdom concept of no anxiety is based on His character, "I am," and on His word, "I will." The Father has given us Himself as the key to rise above our feelings and circumstances to walk in freedom.

Philippians 4:6 states, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." This gives us the 'how' to conquer our anxious thoughts. When we start to feel anxiety creeping in, we must pray about it. It seems like such a basic principle, but it works! When we bring our requests before God and leave them there, we must no longer worry because we have given it away! Through prayer, we are surrendering our fears to His capable hands.

Don't forget, "with thanksgiving!" After we have committed the matter to Him, we need to praise Him for who He is and what He has done. Counting our blessings is one way to get our focus off ourselves and back to a healthy way of thinking and viewing life.

The passage continues with a promise in verse 7 for the ones who do this, "and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." His peace far surpasses psychology's answers or rationales for anxiety!

Lastly, Philippians 4:8 gives us alternatives to fill our minds with instead. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." When our minds are filled with prayer, thanksgiving, true, lovely, and praiseworthy things, we will not have room for fear.

While God gives us commands, promises, and weapons, the battle is not over! It is a gruesome, daily, sometimes moment by moment battle of taking every thought captive and subjecting it to Truth. Remember not to fight this alone! Tell a trusted friend your struggles, have them pray for you and keep you accountable. The enemy knows that if he can claim our minds, he can control us. God is not willing to let that happen and neither should we! Through His power, we can rise above even the most prevalent issues of today.

Return Service Requested

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Student Life



Greek I Class



Missions Involvement—3rd term



Choir Practice



Sledding Party



Student Ensemble

Summer Project Update

The primary project on schedule for the summer is the dining room/kitchen remodel that has been discussed for a number of years. Plans continue to develop and it is scheduled for Aug. 17-Sept. 11! Most of the project is already contracted. We are very grateful for the material and labor donations which have already been committed to the project. It is difficult to know what the actual cash cost will be due to an unknown amount of additional donations. The estimated cash cost is \$75,000-\$100,000. Donations can be earmarked and sent to the office.

The actual project includes new floor and wall coverings, an open ceiling concept with natural lighting in the back portion of the dining room, and a higher suspended ceiling in the front portion. The kitchen will be redesigned with new cabinets increasing overall counter space by 50 square feet. It will also streamline the dishwashing and open up the floor space with one larger serving bar.



Ministers Week Flash Drive

Order flash drive at smbi.org—\$30
Flash Drive includes:

- Inspiration and Instruction in the Hebrew Scripture - Nathan Zook
- Learning Effective Discipleship - Isaac Deemer
- Counted Faithful in the Ministry (1Tim. 1:12) - Jared Weaver
- Spiritual Disciplines - Bonnie Bauman
- What are you Teaching? - Kendra Kennell
- Faithful Financial Stewards - Various Speakers
- The Gospel of the Kingdom - Rodger Byers

births

- Charles IV & Cretora (Mast) Kline
-Moriah Grace
- Tim & Heather (Bauman) Lattin
-Timothy Obadiah
- Anthony & Rachel (Mullett) Martin
-Amaris Elvira

upcoming events

Fourth Term Choir Tour

- April**
- 3, 7:00 pm Kempsville Amish Mennonite Church – Virginia Beach, VA
 - 4, Travel
 - 5, 7:30 am Lighthouse Mennonite Church – Monticello, GA
 - 5, 7:00 pm Montezuma Amish Mennonite Church – Montezuma, GA
 - 6, 6:30 pm Red Oak Community Mennonite Church – Altha, FL
 - 7, 7:00 pm Magnolia Mennonite Church – Macon, MS
 - 8, 7:00 pm Emmanuel Mennonite Church – Hartselle, AL
 - 9, 7:00 pm Island Creek Mennonite Church – Hillsville, VA

Fifth Term Classes

April 13—May 21, 2026

- Acts—Linford Weaver
- David/Joseph—Austin Weaver
- Biblical Cultural Foundations—Clifford Schrock
- Spiritual Life—Elijah Yoder
- Music Theology & Appreciation—Samuel Heatwole
- Hebrews—Linford Weaver
- Missiology—Elijah Yoder

There are still openings in Fifth Term for men.

Apply on our website or contact the office for more information.

Fifth Term Choir Tour - May 23—June 11, 2026

West Coast—Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and more...

WATER

June 22—July 31, 2026

Most out of country spots for women are full.
There are openings for men.
Contact the office for available locations.



mailing updates

Please email the office with address changes, updates, and alumni news.



Follow us on Facebook for updates!
Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute

support the work

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for grace in the transition for assistant administration, Austin and Desiree Martin. Pray for them in the arrival of their baby in May.
- Praise God for strong enrollment and dedicated students.
- Pray for staff needs for next year.

Student Aid Fund

provides discounts for pastors (and those supporting their children), school teachers, long-term mission staff, and those with financial need

recurring donations

We rely on contributions from churches, individuals, and businesses to provide 35% of our annual budget! Just 30 donors contributing \$1/day adds over \$10,000 to the budget!

