



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

May 12, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Congrats, Graduates!

'Tis the season of graduations, including high school and college. To “graduate” means, of course, “to receive an academic degree or diploma.” But I like its alternative definition: “to pass from one stage of experience, proficiency, or prestige to a usually higher one.” According to the first definition, we will have eight graduates this year at FMC. Here they are, what degree they’ll be receiving, and what they plan to do next.

Harper Gage (son of Jackie and Becky) is finishing the 8th grade this year through the virtual academy. He is looking forward to in-person school next year. **Caleb Diener** (son of Glen and Sharon) will be graduating from Hillsboro High School. He plans to attend K-State and to major in biology and pre-medicine. **Carson Linnens** (son of Kelly and Julie) will graduate from Hillsboro High and will attend KU in the fall, majoring in business. **Landon Roberts** (son of Rickey and Sonya; Landon has been an active member of the Wednesday evening youth group) will similarly graduate from Hillsboro High School and will attend K-State in the fall, majoring in Feed Science. **Callie Linnens** (daughter of Kelly and Julie) will graduate this Sunday from KU, with a bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science. This summer, she will be starting a job as a Medical Assistant for a spine surgeon. She will be working at a clinic in Olathe. **David Hiebert** (son of Mark and Sandy) graduates this Saturday from K-State, with a degree in Ag Tech Management, and will begin a new job at Purple Wave, an ag on-line auction site. **Kara Unruh** (daughter of Kent and Cassie Schlotthauer, daughter-in-law of Tim and Alissa Unruh) graduated last February from Tabor College with a double major in Communications and Bible and Religion. She will continue working part-time as our secretary (yesssss!) and part-time serving delicious coffee drinks at the Rhubarb. **Hank Unruh** (son of Doug and Tammy) graduated last weekend from AMBS, with a Master of Divinity degree. As part of that he is completing a Ministerial Leadership Information form that will circulate among congregations looking for pastoral leadership. In the meantime, he is looking forward to continuing his ministry at FMC.

As far as the second definition of “graduate,” here’s hoping we are all passing from one stage of experience and proficiency to a higher one. But don’t forget that our prestige is already guaranteed! Thanks be to God!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **PICNIC AT DOUG & PAM BARTEL'S FARM THIS SUNDAY!** Please gather with us May 16 for a time of fellowship and food immediately after our worship service. See separate email for more information.

- ☞ Please enjoy an outdoor country gospel show at 6 p.m. May 22 by artist **Rusty Rierson. Rusty will perform through the evening in City Park in Burns, Kan.** Bring along a lawn chair or blanket. A freewill offering will be taken at the show. Read below for more information about Rusty.
Rusty plays each year at the Kansas State Fair and has won numerous awards for his singing and guitar talents, leading to his signing a record label. Rusty has toured all over the U.S. as well as abroad and worked alongside artists including Dustin Lynch, Love & Theft, Walker Montgomery, Craig Campbell, and many more. Please visit <https://rustyrierson.com> to learn more.
- ☞ **You are invited to an evening of gospel music at the Parkview Church Sunday, May 23 at 7 p.m.** Eduard Klassen is a Paraguayan folk harpist now living in Canada who has presented over 4500 music concerts in 42 countries since making a personal commitment to Christ. Eduard's natural sense of humor helps him to develop an excellent rapport with audiences wherever he goes. His wife Christine joins him on the keyboard. CDs will be available for purchase, and a freewill offering will be received.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **MCC Central States COVID-19 update:** We look forward to re-opening the MCC office in North Newton on July 6. Please keep us in your prayers as we consider our protocols, processes and capacity. Material resource donations continue to be accepted in the 24-hour donation room. Financial donations can be made at mcc.org, mailed to the office (MCC Central States PO BOX 235 North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off by appointment. Please call the MCC office at 316-283-2720 with any questions. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee.
- ☞ **Get your MCC Relief Sale gear** online at <https://wearatomic.com/product-category/mcc/>. The proceeds from the sale of these products go to support MCC.
- ☞ **Serve with MDS!** Throughout the summer there will be multiple opportunities in Pine Ridge, SD to complete the Volunteer Center. Tasks are 1 to 2 weeks long and include: drywall, painting, hanging doors, trimming, floor epoxy coating, kitchen cabinet install, mini-split A/C units. Each of the tasks could take 2 or more people. The tasks being scheduled right now are drywall, painting and door hanging. **Contact:** Jeff Koller – (717) 823-7415 – jkoller@mds.org
- ☞ **Camp Mennoscah is seeking to fill a part-time custodian/housekeeper position.** Hours average 10 per week and are flexible, dependent upon the camp schedule. For more information, contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org
- ☞ **Nurses needed for summer youth camps!** Camp Mennoscah needs nurses for June 17-19 (First Camp), June 20-26 (Junior I) and July 25-30 (Senior High). Nurses receive a stipend or a discount up to full camp fees for their camper (camper does not have to attend the same camp week). Contact us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for more information.

Verse of the Week

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” – Ephesians 4:29 (NRSV)