



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

May 19, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Alleluia! The Church is Born!

For seven plus weeks, First Mennonite Church has been celebrating Easter. Daring to proclaim, perhaps a bit hesitatingly and fearfully, “Christ has risen! Alleluia!” But then, the following Sunday, First Mennonite Church gathers again, all together in the same room. And suddenly from heaven there comes a sound like the rush of a “violent wind” (this is Kansas, after all), and it fills the entire sanctuary where we are sitting. And then, suddenly, divided tongues, as of fire, appear among us, and a tongue rests on each of us. And lo, all of us are filled with the Holy Spirit, and we begin to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gives us the ability.

This coming Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. That miraculous story told in Acts 2:1-21. That day that is sometimes referred to as the “birth of the Church.” And no wonder. The Church found itself on that day. They found their purpose. They found their mission. They were given precisely what they needed to carry out that difficult, exciting mission. They were given the Holy Spirit.

If—no, when! ☺— you come to church this Sunday, you will notice that a few things look different in the sanctuary. Should I tell you what? No! I will leave you in suspense. Suffice it to say that Pentecost is not just a day—it is a season. Another season like Easter. A season that warrants its own celebration, its own vestments, and colors, and flowers. Its own hymns, and biblical texts, and stories, and theological focus.

Nadine Friesen is giving the sermon. Hooray! I can’t wait. I’m not sure . . . but I think she’s going to talk about Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit (actually, I am sure, because she told me ☺). She even wants to pick the hymns—which as far as I know, she hasn’t done yet. But she warned me that she is going to want lots of guitar. So no Sunday off for me! ☺ And I don’t mind one bit. Pentecost is one of my favorite days—and seasons—of the year!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ 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.
- ☞ **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. His wife Christine joins him on the keyboard. CDs will be available for purchase, and a freewill offering will be received.

- ☞ **PICNIC AT DOUG & PAM BARTEL'S FARM** has been rescheduled for the evening of **Wednesday, May 26!** Please gather with us May 26 (weather permitting) for a time of fellowship and a wonderful dinner! More information will follow.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **Vacation Bible School!** Nurture Committee is exploring whether we will have Vacation Bible School this summer. We are partnering this year with the Hillsboro United Methodist church. Do you feel a sense of interest and excitement about providing children with a VBS experience this summer? If so, please contact Doug Miller or Pastor Hank and let them know! dougmillier4@outlook.com youthpastor@fmchillsboro.com
- ☞ The sewing group is making Dignity kits for MCC. We are sewing the basic kits but need help collecting the other items to fill them. We will need ladies' cotton briefs (sm, med, lg), hand towels, washcloths, bars of bath soap, bars of laundry soap, wide tooth combs, nail clippers, wooden or plastic clothespins. Please put any of the above donations in the storage cart in the narthex. Thank you for your help!
- ☞ **Summer Food 4 Kids is back this summer!** Starting June 1, Grab-n-Go meals will be served from 12:00-12:30 every weekday. You know what that means: we need cookies! Start your ovens!! Volunteers are still needed for Thursdays. Call 620-947-3824 if you can help. Thanks for your part in making summer a safe and healthy one for children.
- ☞ **The Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR)** at Bethel College is offering its core mediation training (Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict) via Zoom June 14-18. There is a fee discount if you register before May 28. Visit kipcor.org for more information.
- ☞ **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.
- ☞ **Still room at the inn!** Camp Mennoscah still has a few openings at most camps. Register online at campmennoscah.org!
- ☞ **From not enough to overflowing!** Camp Mennoscah is grateful for all the nurses who have offered to be a camp nurse and for anyone who spoke with someone about being a camp nurse. Over three days, the camps needing nurses had the positions filled--plus additional nurses willing to help! What a blessing to have such support for Camp Mennoscah and the campers!

Verse of the Week

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”– Isaiah 26:3-4 (NRSV)