



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

July 14, 2021

### From Secretary Kara Unruh

#### “Let’s Be Friends!”

While Pastor Tom enjoys a relaxing week up north, he’s left me in charge of the office (and some of his duties, like this one)! Because many of you may not know me very well, I thought that I would take this opportunity to share a fly-over version of my story so that we can get to be better friends. ☺

Not so long ago in a land not so far away, I was born and raised in Fairview, OK, a town very similar in size to Hillsboro. I grew up attending a church different in worship from what you lovely folks attend, and my primary interests were music, sports, and FFA (which covers most of what Fairview schools offered!). Having close ties through FFA to agriculturally-based Oklahoma State University, I had always assumed that I would end up pursuing my journalism degree there, which would launch me into a career in writing for who-knows-what and who-knows-where. After being “known” my whole life (just a part of small-town living), I was just ready for a bigger city, to blend into the crowd, to find a new path.

Then came church camp just before my senior year where I knew that God was leading me to the one and only Tabor College, which just so happened to be nearly the exact same as my hometown in many ways. Funny how that happens, isn’t it?

This journey to and through Tabor made me realize that it is such a blessing to be known, seen, and loved by those around me. Too many are left behind, lost in the chaos of a whirlwind world, given over to loneliness. They have little recognition of a greater God who reaches out with steady, patient hands, awaiting a turned face and willing spirit. Tom, I think I just set up a pretty good sermon for you! ☺ I am thankful that the Lord allowed me a safe, meaningful experience to learn and lead at Tabor, where I encountered intelligent and kind professors, Aleen Ratzlaff and Doug Miller! I wish I could soak up every ounce of knowledge they have!

Many days, my life feels much like a dream. I must be honest, it was always a wonderful, wistful desire of mine to work at a coffee shop. Not by coincidence, God was overly gracious to give me Avery as a perfect life partner, who *just so happens* to have an “in” with a certain coffee shop! I love working with coffee and my coworkers, one of whom is FMC’s very own Maura Wiebe! We sure are going to miss her at Rhubarb Market when August rolls around.

I also very much enjoy my other job: getting to know and serve you all as partners in ministry. I’ve greatly enjoyed visits from those of you who have stopped in to say hello and have welcomed me into your church family; I hope to connect with more of you in the future and hear your own unique life stories.

Thank you for letting me serve you these last months. Here’s to working together in the coming months, each of us in our own capacities with our own gifts, to better love and serve and bring praise to our Father!

## Let's Remember in Prayer/Among Our Friends

- ☞ **Pray for those struggling with both physical and mental illnesses.**
- ☞ **Pray for our city leaders**, that they would seek God for counsel.
- ☞ **Pray for the unrest in Haiti**, that justice would be served and poverty would decrease.

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Next Care Meeting is August 4 at 7 p.m.**
- ☞ **Central Kansas Community Foundation (CKCF), host to 19 affiliate foundations across central Kansas, is holding an online charity auction July 21-27.** A theme of 'The Sky's the Limit', sets the stage for us all to consider the boundless possibilities for enriching our communities. The auction is an effort for CKCF to promote and solicit financial support for this not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization and the affiliates under their organizational umbrella. CKCF as a host foundation offers back-office accounting, operational and programmatic support across central Kansas to their affiliates and the communities they serve. Like us on [Facebook](#) so you can follow as we promote items and opportunities for giving. Also [Click Here](#) to find more pre-launch information including how to preregister and a sneak peek at items that will be up for bid. Your support is making our communities stronger and more vibrant! The possibilities are limitless when we come together!
- ☞ **Join in this special Annual Assembly storytelling opportunity!** WDC's Assembly theme July 30-August 1 is "Woven into God's Story." StoryCorps has invited WDC to partner with their storytelling project, *One Small Step*, to share and record our own stories within WDC. *One Small Step* is an initiative to facilitate conversations across differences. (Facilitators are bilingual in Spanish and English.) It's a chance to spend time virtually with someone different than you and discover the stories behind each other's beliefs. To join another WDC member for an online conversation, sign up at <https://onesmallstep.storycorps.org/wdc/>.

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Let's chat about peppernuts and cinnamon rolls!** Arts and Crafts Fair is quickly approaching, and fairgoers will be counting on us for delicious goodies, which means that we need your help! Please email ([jmadda1974@gmail.com](mailto:jmadda1974@gmail.com)) or call (620.747.0174) Jan Amstutz to learn how and when you could help.
- ☞ **The 2021 issue of *Mennonite Life*, Bethel College's annual online journal, is now live at [ml.bethelks.edu](http://ml.bethelks.edu),** with articles and reviews by Brad Born, Rachel Epp Buller, Peter Goerzen, Raylene Hinz-Penner, Mark Jantzen, Jim Juhnke, and others.
- ☞ **Extra help needed for summer youth camps!** Camp Mennoscah has paid and volunteer positions for grounds, maintenance and custodial positions. Volunteer kitchen staff is needed for July 18-24; willing hands and the ability to follow directions is all that is needed. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) for details. You will make camp an amazing experience for everyone!
- ☞ **The MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS is now open to the public.** Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. Masks are respected but not required for fully vaccinated adults. We look forward to welcoming you back at MCC! Contact us at 316-283-2720 or [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org).
- ☞ **Have you noticed WDC's website has a new look?** Check it out at <https://mennowdc.org>. While it is still a work in progress, the refreshed website is now THE place to go for all things WDC! Beginning in July, the *WDC Sprouts* weekly newsletter email will be discontinued. WDC articles, announcements, and other information will be posted

exclusively on the website. Email alerts will be sent to let you know when new content has been posted.

- ☞ **Current openings at MCC** can be found at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org). Current open positions include Canning & Trucking Manager, Multimedia Producer, Meat Canner and many international service opportunities.
- ☞ **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!
- ☞ **Join Jerusalem Seminar this winter!** Bethel College and Tabor College are again sponsoring a trip to Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, from December 26, 2021, to January 15, 2022. The four emphases of the trip are to (1) understand the Bible in its context, (2) learn about the three major religions of the area (Judaism, Islam, Eastern Christianity), (3) understand the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and (4) take time for reflection, worship, and prayer together. There is currently room for additional persons to participate. If interested, contact Peter Goerzen ([pgoerzen@bethelks.edu](mailto:pgoerzen@bethelks.edu)) immediately. Cost is estimated at \$4700-\$4900 per person.

## Verse of the Week

But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" –Matthew 4:4 (NRSV)