



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

August 11, 2021

### From Kara Unruh

How many of you journal? I've recently been looking back through my journal, almost ¾ full of all kinds of words, taped flowers and sticky notes, all bound by two pieces of tape keeping the front and back covers where they belong! People use journals in different ways, often dependent on personality type or purpose. I remember being instructed to use scientific journals or vocabulary journals in school; other journals are more personal, like a diary of daily blurbs that tell of a person's experiences or emotions. I had no initial purpose with my journal other than to house my first public "sermon," but I've relied on it to be a sort of collection of all sorts of influential moments in time.

Some of those moments have materialized as longer entries from the heart, sermon notes, poetry, goals, original songs, verses and personal commentary, back-and-forth conversations with God, and more. It's amazing to look back at abundant, dry, and static seasons with a new perspective. As we're in a specific season, we don't notice growth, setbacks, or beauty in uneventful times until we've moved past them. What's really fun is getting the chance to "watch" your life unfold in a kind of flip book.

There is one sentence that repeats in my mind while I thumb through years of content: "God, look at how faithful you are!" Moment after moment of receiving wisdom, expressing my desires, or whatever else was written down, the one consistent truth is that the God who allows me breath was there with me, with loving intentions, each time I've met with Him in this journal. It's my personal testimony to the Lord's working, His love, and His drawing me to Himself as we walk together.

I like to see the Bible as a series of journals fused together into one book. We know the exact authors and purposes of some of those journals, others we are left to wonder. Some of them describe anguish and anger, others tell of praise and triumph. But in each book, I see how the accounts point to God's faithfulness to humanity and fulfillment of His promises. These books of the Bible were written to preserve the works of God in the lives of those who saw them firsthand, that we who now read it may believe and be assured of His character and the extension of those promises.

Imagine, if reading the overwhelming evidence and testimony of God's faithfulness from people of the past is special, how much more so to experience and reflect on the testimonies that you yourself have received from Him! How wonderful that we don't just have to read that God was the same God He said He was thousands of years ago, but we only need to examine our memory banks of the last 20, 50, even 90 years to tangibly grasp the faithfulness of the God we call Abba.

In case you need someone to tell you, here you go: stop and look back. Take account of the moments you've lived yesterday, yesteryear, yester-decade, and write them down. If you don't already, I invite you to begin keeping notes often in a notebook of your thoughts, song lyrics that speak to you, conversations that changed your perspective, prayers— anything that reveals the Lord's fulfilled promises to lead you in the way everlasting. You'll be so thankful that you did!

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Tabor College** is continuing the Music on the Plaza series! **The Mike Fetters/Tom Harder Jazz Duo** will perform with guest vocalist **Lois Harder** Saturday, August 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the Kliewer Plaza. The concert is free and open to the public. Starbucks will be open; bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the evening!
- ☞ **Greet & Eat with Wiebes and Harders:** Because of you know what ... it's been a long time since we've been able to go out to eat together after worship. This Sunday, all who would like to go eat and visit with Wiebe's and the Harder's, after the worship sharing time are invited to meet at the Mexican restaurant. Please let the church office or Nadine at [stillfriesen@gmail.com](mailto:stillfriesen@gmail.com) know so we can reserve enough room for all who enjoy eating without cooking or washing dishes. If you know someone who is newer to our congregation, please bring them with you.
- ☞ **The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Annual Meeting** will be Thursday, August 26, 6:00 pm at First Mennonite Church, McPherson. The cost of the meal is \$20.00. Please RSVP to Barb BJ Reeves at [bj.reeves@live.com](mailto:bj.reeves@live.com) or 620-543-6863 by August 22. We will be checking with health information sources regarding group meetings closer to the date for everyone's protection. The funds will go to the McPherson Housing Coalition for the construction of Oak Harbor Cottages for low income/homeless families.
- ☞ **Offender Victim Ministries is hosting a "Just Desserts" fundraiser** Sunday, August 29 from 6-8 p.m. at Carriage Factory Art Gallery Park (126 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St.) in Newton. Join them for an evening of fellowship with the local restorative justice community, sweet treats, and live music! Tickets are required: Adults (\$20), Ages 5-17 (\$10), Under 5 (Free). Find more information and reserve your tickets at [www.offendervictimministries.org](http://www.offendervictimministries.org).

## Other Announcements

- ☞ We live in a culture that seeks to blind our children to the reality of God's love for them. **Join other moms as we pray for our kids, their teachers and their schools** (Elementary, Middle and High School). We gather every Tuesday at 9 AM, starting August 24, at 609 S. Main, Hillsboro. Childcare provided.
- ☞ **Now at Kauffman Museum: "Vapes: Marketing an Addiction."** This new exhibit examines what is known about e-cigarettes and includes selections from the exhibit "Better Choose Me: Collecting and Creating with Tobacco Fabric Novelties, 1880-1920." Previously on display at NMC Health in Newton, "Vapes" will be at Kauffman Museum through Jan. 9, 2022. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m., closed Mondays and major holidays. There is a small admission charge for non-museum members.
- ☞ **COVID-19 protocols:** The FMC Covid response team is urging the following in regard to the Covid virus: 1. Masks are highly recommended when we gather indoors, 2. Be alert to social distancing, 3. Stay tuned for further updates as we remain sensitive to county and CDC guidelines.
- ☞ **Peppernuts at FMC!** Our peppernuts project is continuing this week! **Join us this Friday Aug 13, and Saturday Aug 14.** Thank you to all who have already volunteered your time! There is still something for everyone! Please notify Kara at [secretary@fmchillsboro.com](mailto:secretary@fmchillsboro.com) or 620.947.5662 if you would like to help!
- ☞ **REQUESTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.** FMC desires to support FMC members and members' children who attend a Mennonite college or who choose to receive a seminary education. If you are interested in applying for such financial support (tuition) for the 2021-2022 academic year, contact Doug Miller.
- ☞ **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 trip will be led by Dr. Doug Miller and will include two dozen biblical sites, such as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, ancient ruins, Dead Sea and Dead Sea Scrolls, Masada, Mt. Nebo, Petra, museums, and much more. There is currently room for

additional persons to participate. If interested, contact Dr. Miller immediately at 620.947.2439 or dougm@tabor.edu. Cost is estimated at \$4700 per person.

## **Verse of the Week**

“But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you,<sup>[b]</sup> not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.” –2 Peter 3:8-9 (NRSV)