

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 (NRSV)

2 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹*For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.* ¹²*So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.* ¹³*For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.*

Faith without Works Is Dead

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ –
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday **September 5, 2021** **The Puzzle of Faith**

GATHERING

Gathering Music		Shirley Baltzer
Welcome and Announcements		Darrel Knoll
Prelude to Worship		Shirley Baltzer
*Call to Worship	VT 851	Darrel Knoll
*Prayer		
*Hymn	God of Grace and God of Glory	VT 716
The Psalm	Psalm 125	

*Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.*

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD
surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore.**

*For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to
the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands
to do wrong.*

**Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts.**

***But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!***

Hymn	For the Healing of the Nations	VT 705
Time for Children		Lenna Knoll

SHARING

Sharing and Prayer		Nadine Friesen
Hymn	Longing for Light	VT 715

LISTENING

The Second Lesson
Sermon

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
The Puzzle of Faith

Doug Miller

RESPONDING

Hymn
Sending
Postlude

When We Walk with the Lord

VT 570
VT 1050

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you watch this service!

COVID-19 protocols: The FMC Covid response team is urging the following regarding the Covid virus: 1. Masks are required when we gather indoors, 2. FMC should reduce capacity in the sanctuary and fellowship hall to 50% 3. Inside dining & public restroom use are tentatively cancelled for Arts & Crafts Fair.

Sunday, Sept. 12 – KIPCOR Film Series resumes live, with *The Prison Within*, 2 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Individuals incarcerated in San Quentin Prison and charged with murder take a journey of redemption through participation in a restorative justice program. *Bethel's COVID-19 protocols: physical distancing and mask-wearing regardless of vaccination status.*

Our facilitated congregational meeting (concerning our current pastoral review) **is set for this Wednesday, September 8.** All FMC members and those who attend regularly are welcome and encouraged to attend. A pizza meal will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall, with seating also on the patio (weather permitting). The meeting will follow at 6:30 in the sanctuary. If you would like childcare, please communicate this to Kara at the church office or someone on Ministries Council so that this can be arranged. If you have any questions about the meeting, you may contact Doug Miller or Nadine Friesen.

The family of Linda Bartel sent a card to the church. It can be read on the bulletin board.

School kits for MCC!! Now is the time to get school kids for MCC since many of the items are on sale now. Here are the items that you can put in the box in the church foyer. Thanks for supporting MCC!

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils

- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes.

Thank you for your generous support of the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale! Just recently, the relief sale board gave MCC a check for \$500,000 from the sale in July! Thank you for donating your time and energy to support the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. In the past 14 months the Kansas sale has donated just under \$1 million (all during a pandemic!) to support the worldwide work of MCC. Your support becomes food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, and locally owned projects that address barriers to human flourishing. Thank you!