



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

February 16, 2022

### From Pastor Tom

#### Spiritual Nourishment

In our next passage from 1 Corinthians (Chapter 3, verses 1-9) the Apostle talks about the “food” we need to nourish our spiritual selves. But aside from making the contrast between “milk” and “solid food,” for now he doesn’t say any more about what some of those forms of nourishment are. But that doesn’t mean we can’t talk about it! ☺ What would you say nourishes you spiritually? Or to put it differently, what do you need to be spiritually healthy and to keep growing in your faith and spirit? While it’s probably somewhat different for all of us, I would guess there are some common themes. So here are four practices that nourish me.

First, spending time with Scripture. I’m of course doubly blessed in that I actually get paid to read the Bible! But its first and most important blessing is how doing so helps my faith keep growing. With the twin goals of planning a worship service and writing a sermon, I have to do more than merely read the Bible. I have to spend time with it, meditate on it, listen for how it speaks to me and what questions it elicits. When a passage is particularly familiar already, I try to think about it in new ways, to ask new questions of it. But I also always learn and grow from others, and one of the ways I do this is by reading Biblical commentary—reading what Bible scholars have to say about a given passage. Oh my, is God’s word richly flavored—or as the psalmist puts it, “sweet as honey!” And then I love sharing with others what I myself have learned, whether in a sermon, a Bible study, or informal conversation.

Second, spending time in prayer. Prayer, I believe, aligns our will with God’s will, our thoughts with God’s thoughts. A perfect example of this is the Lord’s Prayer. I hope you all find it as meaningful as I do to pray it together as part of every Sunday morning worship service—to say to God such things as “Thy will be done,” and to ask God to give our daily bread, to forgive our sins, and to not lead us into temptation. Indeed, it becomes even more meaningful to pray it every day, which is how Jesus intended it! In my role as pastor, I am often called upon to pray for others, or at the beginnings of meetings or other times together. Doing so forces me to try to think about things and people the way God does, as well as to think about what we all need from God, and then to ask for those things as simply and straightforwardly as possible.

Third, spending time with God. This is different from prayer—or maybe is simply a certain kind of prayer. My favorite way of spending time with God is going for walks. I love Kansas for its “big” skies, and always feel particularly close to God when I am looking at the daytime or nighttime skies. The psalmists express it beautifully: “The heavens are telling the glory of God” (Psalm 19), and “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers . . . what are human beings that you are mindful of them . . . Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor” (Psalm 8). Well said! Thanks be to God!

Fourth and finally, spending time with others in the church. Whether worshipping (and especially singing!) together, or simply sharing a meal and conversation, I always come away feeling nourished by more than just a piece of Pizza Hut pizza. Far more! I am literally strengthened by others—by you all—for the

journey, the journey through life that we share together, a journey consistently (and by God's will, I believe) marked by both joys and hardships. Is that not what faith is: a journey? How blessed we are that we draw strength and nourishment from one another! Thanks be to God for the Church!

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ ***It's pizza night!*** Come tonight for a fellowship meal at 6 p.m. and sermon discussion at 7 p.m. The sermon discussion will include a sneak peek at our next text from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. If you are unable to join in-person, a Zoom option is available at the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/91457452132?pwd=UXU5U3VWSXViSFpyUUR4cW03aFBxdz09>
- ☞ **Explore FMC!** Sometime during the upcoming season of Lent Pastor Tom will once again offer an opportunity to “explore FMC”—what we believe, where we come from, how we do things, and what it means to be a member. If you are interested, please let him know. The time and day will be determined in part by the schedules of the participants.
- ☞ **Please join us for the grand opening of Kauffman Museum's 125th-anniversary exhibit, “The Magic of Things.” Saturday, Feb. 19 come-and-go from 2:30-4:30 p.m.**, with remarks by lead curator Reinhild K. Janzen at 3 p.m. *Current Bethel COVID protocols require masking indoors regardless of vaccination status.*
- ☞ **Sunflower Performing Arts at Hesston College will host acclaimed British vocal ensemble Voces8 on February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church.** Based in the United Kingdom, this world-famous vocal octet will present a program titled “Choral Dances” which explores the interweaving of dance and music through the ages. The program will adeptly entwine various styles, refusing to follow the standard chronological ordering of music within a concert. Tickets may be purchased in person at the door or at the Hesston College bookstore, or online at [hesston.edu/bookstore](https://hesston.edu/bookstore). Masks are required for this event.
- ☞ **Mennonite Friendship Committee (MFC) is hosting its annual Liverwurst and Fried Mush fundraising dinner Friday, Feb. 25 from 5-8 p.m. at Journey @ Yoder.** For many people, it's an unusual meal, but once they try it, they come back year after year! All proceeds help MFC to provide care for all who need services, including those who no longer have the funds to pay for their care. The dinner menu consists of liverwurst, fried mush, whole hog sausage, tomato gravy, cream gravy, or syrup, applesauce, orange juice, and coffee. Gluten-free options are available. For more information, call 620-663-7175.
- ☞ **MCC Central States Annual Meeting** will take place virtually on Saturday, February 26 from 1-2:30 CST. Please email [tinaschrag@mcc.org](mailto:tinaschrag@mcc.org) for a link to the Zoom meeting.
- ☞ **First Mennonite Church of Halstead, KS will be hosting their annual Verenike Supper Feb. 26 from 4-7 p.m.** This will be a drive-thru supper at the church. Verenike, ham gravy, sausage, a pickle, and a cookie will be served. The donation proceeds will benefit Safe Hope, New Hope Shelter, and the Kansas MCC Relief Sale. Safe Hope provides domestic and sexual violence advocacy services to Harvey and surrounding counties. New Hope Shelter serves homeless men, women, and children in Harvey and surrounding counties. They look forward to seeing you there! First Mennonite Church is located at 427 W 4th St, Halstead, KS 67056
- ☞ **List your quilt in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Quilt Auction Buyer's Guide. Deadline is March 1.** Please deliver your quilt, comforter or quilt related item to a quilt committee member or taken to the MCC Center in North Newton. Quilt forms are available online at [kansas.mccsale.org](https://kansas.mccsale.org). For more information, get in touch with Charlene Driggers, [charlene.driggers@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.driggers@gmail.com) or 620-947-1749.

- ☞ **All are welcome to join the fun at 14<sup>th</sup> annual MCC Comforter Blitz on March 7, 8 and 9 at the Journey Yoder Campus**, one mile north of Yoder, KS. Times are Monday and Tuesday 9-5, and Wednesday 9-4. Come and have a good time while helping others. No sewing skills required. Lunch is available by donation each day, or you may bring your own sack lunch. You can bring snacks to share during the workday. Masks are highly encouraged and plan to practice social distancing. This event is hosted by Kansas Friends of MCC, to make good quality, beautiful comforters for MCC to send for warmth, comfort, and love all around the world. Please contact the MCC Central States office with questions at #316-283-2720, or check the Comforter Blitz Facebook Page, "MCC Comforter Blitz for Kansas."
  
- ☞ **The WDC Executive Board will host a zoom gathering on Thursday, March 10 at 7:00-8:30 pm for congregational delegates, pastors, and other congregational leaders, to share information and conversation to help prepare for the upcoming Special Session of Mennonite Church USA Assembly in May 2022.** Glen Guyton, Executive Director of MC USA, will be present to engage with questions from participants, and Spanish/English interpretation will be provided. Register for the zoom forum by March 8 by completing this online registration form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesxcq5d9-o\\_xG65j-2d97ShewcHielQ9jD6fmLjmg07RJELw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesxcq5d9-o_xG65j-2d97ShewcHielQ9jD6fmLjmg07RJELw/viewform?usp=sf_link) or contact WDC at [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or 316-283-6300. The Zoom link for the gathering will be sent in advance. *NOTE: The Special Session of MC USA Delegate Assembly is May 27-30, 2022. Congregations are encouraged to appoint delegates as soon as possible. Registration for the assembly is open February 1 - May 16. For more information see <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate-session-22/>*

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Needed: part-time church secretary/administrative assistant-** approximately 15 hours/week (negotiable). **Also needed: part-time custodian-** once weekly cleaning routine and as needed for occasional other events throughout the year. If interested, contact Neal at 620-755-4636, Bob at 620-381-4355, or the church office at 620-947-5662 or respond by email at [secretary@fmchillsboro.com](mailto:secretary@fmchillsboro.com).
  
- ☞ **Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Quilter's Corner:** Quilting donations are welcome and needed i.e. quilting fabrics, quilting supplies, vintage linens, unfinished quilting projects, etc. Donations may be collected by Sale liaisons at their churches and brought to Sale meetings or brought directly to the MCC Center with the indication that they are for Quilters' Corner. If you have questions contact Ann Yoder Smith, 919-604-3282, [rws.ays@gmail.com](mailto:rws.ays@gmail.com).

## Verse of the Week

"For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."— 1 John 3:11 (NRSV)