



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

August 10, 2022

From Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom is enjoying the cool Colorado Mountains and will return from vacation tomorrow, Thursday evening.

From WDC: Sandra Montes-Martinez, Associate Conference Minister

“Let us join in prayer so that as we proclaim the good news of salvation as Jesus followers, we can also connect with our communities by inviting our neighbors to join the table, being empathetic, and seeing each other as equals.

From the Office Secretary

Thanks for your prayers as I traveled to California and back. I had a wonderful time with family, celebrating the marriage of my son, Eric, to Kelly Lam. Both of my other two children and their families were there and I even got to visit three cousins. The two little granddaughters were a special highlight!!! (A 1 year old and 2 year old)

Among Our Friends and in Our Prayers

- ☞ Continue praying through the directory this week.
- ☞ Pray for those struggling with cancer.
- ☞ WDC Prayer Request – As a new school year begins, pray for wisdom for Sunday school coordinators, teachers, youth sponsors and mentors who guide faith formation for children, youth and adults in WDC congregations, public and private schools.

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **This Friday and Saturday - August 12 and 13th - PEPPER NUT Baking!** Don't miss out – there is still room for you to join in! Work times are scheduled from 8 – 1 and 1 – 5, with an hour of shift change from 12 – 1. Feel free to come whenever it works for you. **Shift change will be for rotating lunch hours.**

Anyone who can come and help for even an hour will be greatly appreciated!!! Bagging will also be a task to be done in the afternoons when peppernuts are cool!

- ✿ We will join **Trinity Mennonite Church this Sunday morning for worship and a carry-in meal** at 10:30 am. (it has all been moved inside due to the expected hot temperatures). "Hopeful Blues" will be providing the musical program for the morning. They are a musical group from Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita. Please **bring food to share**. (No lawn chairs needed.) Join us as we celebrate the end of summer as school starts that week.
- ✿ **ATTENTION WOMEN!** All are invited to a time of sharing and breakfast together, Saturday, August 20 - 9:00 a.m. at Waters Edge – Hesston. Meet at 8:15 at the church to share rides. Please call, text or email Judy Jantz - or sign up on the sheet on the white board by August 15 so we know how much room to reserve.
- ✿ **Arts & Crafts Fair Opportunity!** FMC will make our building available for ministry on September 17th, offering a place of physical and spiritual rest. The sanctuary will be open for silent meditation and prayer, restrooms available for a donation, and á la carte items for sale for a taste of the Mennonite heritage of Hillsboro - verenika, sausage and cherry moos. Please pray for this ministry and let Doug or Sue know how you would like to participate. THANKS!

Other Announcements

- ✿ **Thank you for sharing your favorite hymns!** It is great to continue to receive these. There is no deadline so you can continue to share with one another. Paper and pen are on a foyer table or call in the office and let us know!
- ✿ Be sure to check out the highlights of last month's Mennonite World Conference 2022 Assembly in Indonesia on this highlight video: <https://mwc-cmm.org/resources/mwc-indonesia-2022-highlight-video> Other recap videos are also available at this link.
- ✿ **No Sunday School this week** due to the worship and picnic with Trinity. *The Lord's Prayer in Slow Motion* study in the adult Sunday School class (9:30 a.m. in the chapel) will resume the following week.
- ✿ **News from the WDC Annual Assembly**

Over 140 adults, youth and children gathered in-person July 29-31 for the Western District Conference Annual Assembly at Camp Copass in Denton, TX, with additional participants joining virtually online. What a rich experience it was!

Fellowship and Fun: We made new acquaintances and reconnected with longtime friends from across WDC, and had opportunity to meet representatives from partner organizations and agencies. We cooled off with watermelon and ice-cream out on the patio, and ate meals together in the dining hall. We played MennoJeopardy, and joined in other games, puzzles, coloring, and tying a comforter together.

Worship and Prayer: We sang with the band from Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero and shared in communion around tables. Through sermons we were inspired to “provoke one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:19-25), and reminded that “alone, you are nothing” (“solo, no eres nada”) because wholeness comes only when we lay our pride aside and reach out for one another and Jesus (Mark 5:21-34). Offerings invited us to share our gifts, and morning prayers at the lakeside invited us into God’s presence through silence, song and scripture.

Work and Witness: At delegate business sessions, we received reports of WDC ministries from the past year, and affirmed leaders for their service and for new roles that are now beginning. We discerned congregational transitions (releasing Turpin Mennonite Church from membership in WDC and welcoming Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Casa de Paz and Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto as member congregations) and approved financial plans for 2023. Around tables we shared conversation and listened together for God’s voice in this gathered body of the church. Later in the evening, the tables were used to assemble hygiene kits for Mennonite Central Committee, and supplies for San Antonio Mennonite Church refugee assistance, later dedicated as part of the worship offering.

Learning and Growing: In workshops we considered how to provide hospitality for those who are most vulnerable, how to practice realistic and healthy expectations for pastors and congregational leaders, and how to tell money autobiographies. We were challenged to confront the idols of our age, encouraged to practice healthy boundaries, and called to invite others to follow Jesus alongside us. We had the opportunity to explore theology and practice of the Lord’s Supper, and also hear about the communion we share with the global Anabaptist family through Mennonite World Conference.

For these gifts of encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and mutual faith, let us give thanks! As we go forth from Annual Assembly, may we continue to be *United in Purpose, Together in Love.*

Verse of the Week: 2 Corinthians 3:17 (NRSV)

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

Hope you are experiencing your freedom in Christ as His dearly loved new creation!