



**First Mennonite Church**

**Midweek E-Newsletter**

**October 12, 2022**

**Inspiration from Kevin’s Corner, in “On the Level”, a monthly newsletter from Mennonite Disaster Service.** (September, 2022)

While taking the day off before meetings in Montana, I did a solo hike into the Glacier mountains. Finally, after many switchbacks I arrived at Strawberry Lake, a beautiful glacial body of water. Shrouded in the morning mist, suddenly the clouds lifted and the sun broke through—a glorious surprising moment. I was filled with awe and wonder.

It reminds me of the story in Luke 5 where Jesus is teaching in a crowded house in the city of Galilee. Then, all of a sudden, I imagine dust starts falling from the ceiling and parts of the roof are lifted off by four men carrying a paralytic to gain access to Jesus. After some back and forth with his critics, Jesus heals the man, who gets up and walks away.



For me the point of the story is: when life knocks us down, or maybe an incident paralyzes us, we need someone to hold us up, or in this case, break the ceiling, giving us access to Jesus. The roof was lifted so someone could have access to Jesus. As faith communities, we need to keep doing more of that.

Bob Smietana, in his book “Reorganized Religion; The Reshaping of the American Church and Why it Matters,” writes that we are called to practice surrogate faith for a world that has lost it. I see a beautiful parallel when a carload of volunteers from Kalispell, Montana, or a van load from Wichita, Kansas, and a busload from Holmes County, Ohio respond, rebuild and restore someone shrouded by fear and loss – and just maybe – restoring them to faith.



Executive Director  
Mennonite Disaster Service

## **Verse of the Week:**

Ephesians 4: 15 (NRSV)

***“But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”***

## **Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers**

- ☞ Praying through our directory:
  
- ☞ **Praise God** for His nearness and love!
  
- ☞ **Pray for our upcoming congregational meeting and new visioning for our future.**
  
- ☞ **WDC Request:** Give thanks for boards, councils, elders, and other church leadership teams in WDC congregations, and pray for God’s guidance as they care for their communities of faith.

## **Upcoming Events**

- ☞ **Sunday, October 23:**
  - Guest Speaker: Jenny Wintermote
  - Carry-in Lunch
  - Congregational Meeting

☞ **MCC Meat Canning:** There is a **sign up sheet** on the hall whiteboard for helping at the event on **Oct. 27**. We still need one more person. Is it you?

☞ **“Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat”** will be October 26. Bring pantry items to help our local food bank at Main Street Ministries. The collection box is in the foyer. Help our youth group efforts! (You are invited to walk the streets on that evening with us too!)

☞ **Women’s Event: November 5 – 9:00am – 3:30pm at FMC**  
**“Joy is More Than a Detergent”** - led by Nadine Friesen

- ☐ Fun
- ☐ Fellowship
- ☐ Inspiration



☞ **Building A Lasting Connection** Relationship Retreat: November 4–6 at **Camp Mennoscah**. Give your relationship the gift of investment. Communication is key for a healthy and long-lasting relationship. During this 2-day retreat, couples will learn and practice skills together that promote healthy communication with one another in order to promote ways of effectively expressing hope, validating feelings, and navigating concerns together. Led by Katie Dyck (LCMFT) and Renee Reimer (ordained WDC pastor).

## Other Announcements

☞ **Sunday School:** Discussing the topic of **justice** this week as we conclude the “Simply Enough” series. 9:30 am for adults.

☞ **Main Street Ministries:** Monday we received an email with this request.

We have a large family that moved into Main Street Ministries that is needing a few things:

- 4 dressers
- tall kitchen trash bins 7
- plastic laundry baskets
- 5 XL twin box springs/frames
- 6 sets of curtain rods with brackets (size: their tall narrow windows)

Please let Angela Jost (620-947-3812) or Lynette Hiebert (785-587-4991) know if you have these things available to donate! You can also email [volunteersm@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersm@gmail.com).

☞ **MCC Buckets of Thanks:** This Thanksgiving season, show your gratitude and provide hope to those in need by collecting relief supplies for MCC. The supplies you donate will

fill a Bucket of Thanks (aka an MCC relief kit) for people affected by conflict or disaster around the world. For more information, including supply lists and a ready-to-use curriculum for children, visit: [mccbuckets.org](http://mccbuckets.org). (The requests from MCC partners for relief kits keep going up!)

- ☞ Six new copies of “**A Common Place**”, a publication of Mennonite Central Committee arrived on Friday and made me look at our magazine rack! My we have a lot of good resources! I noticed that no one had taken any of the previous issues (spring/summer), so I left a few in case you want one. Feel free to take and keep when there are multiple copies, or at least borrow what you are interested in. Mennonite updates, college news, leadership and devotional materials, etc. are all available.