



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

November 9, 2022

From the Pastor

The Beauty and Truth of Leaves

Fall is a beautiful time of year, and this fall has seemed especially beautiful and long-lasting. I have always enjoyed the changing color of tree leaves in Autumn, and on my daily commute to work, I always drive by a particular maple tree on South Lincoln that is bright, fiery red. For me it's an occasion for worship! So the longer this beauty lasts, the better.

But it doesn't and won't last forever. The truth is these leaves are in process of dying. Fall is also a time of preparing for winter. Which in our case includes raking and bagging up all the dead leaves in our front and back yards. There are worse jobs; it's been a good way to catch some more of the lusciously cool, fresh fall air. Too bad there aren't any kids around to jump in the piles before I bag them up! Of course, I'm not done yet. Maybe I'll jump in a few of them myself before I'm all finished! ☺ One could say that that too is an occasion for worship.

May you all find meaning and pleasure in the beauty and truth of this changing season. And may it provide you with occasions for worship!

Tom

Verse of the Week:

Isaiah 40:8

***“The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.”***

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

☞ **Pray for one another** through our directory!

☞ **Pray for our Ministries Council tonight** as they meet at 7 pm to discern leadership and plan the budget for 2023.

- ☞ **WDC Request:** Pray for WDC congregations and members participating in the Worship and the Arts Symposium at Bethel College this weekend, singing and worshipping together using resources in the MC USA Hymnal, *Voices Together*.

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **This Saturday:** Two musical events – both at 7:00 pm.
 - **Symphonic Band** fall concert at Tabor. (Pastor Tom will be participating in this).
 - **Community Evensong service** at Memorial Hall on the Bethel College campus as a conclusion to the Worship and The Arts Symposium. Bring your copy of *Voices Together* if you have one. Some will be available to borrow or buy at the service.
- ☞ **Sunday: Special Guest**

Once again, Jesus is being counter-cultural. Eating with tax-collectors? Not fasting? And what does he mean with his parable of the unshrunk cloth and new wine? Is he saying that everything sacred has to get thrown out? Or is there more to the story?

Michele Hershberger, a Bible Professor from Hesston College, will be with us on November 13. Join us as she unpacks the Matthew 9 story, so we can hear the words of hope Jesus offers to churches today as they face major obstacles. She will return to speak with our vision council, ministries council and anyone interested on Wednesday, November 16th at 7pm
- ☞ **Special Offering:** Sunday, our special gifts will go to Mennonite Mission Network.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **Mission Sunday – November 20th**

Larry and Margaret Goering (Sandy Hiebert's parents) will be our special guests, sharing twice with stories you won't want to miss!

 - 9:30am - the story of their MCC adventure in Mexico in 1968 – 1970 with Mexican treats in the Fellowship Hall.
 - 10:30am – the story of their return trip in 2016 when they went back to Mexico almost 50 years later and got “The Rest of The Story” which will be shared during our worship service.
 - Lunch (following worship) – authentic Mexican enchilada lunch with all the fixings.
 - Extra bonus: If you want recipes and to learn to cook the authentic Mexican dishes, come on Saturday, the 19th at 1:00pm. Please let Sandy Hiebert know if you are interested so she can plan accordingly. (920) 650-4364 [*Help would be appreciated even if you come for an hour or two.*]

- ☞ **November 13, 20, & 27 - Boxes for College Students:** Don't forget your gifts for our 7 undergraduate college students. Enjoy being creative! Let's bless them with the extravagant love of God! We will also have cards to sign for each of them along with our two grad students, so plan to add your name and possibly a few words of encouragement!
- ☞ **Thursday, November 17, - 7:00pm - Jazz in the Black Box** featuring Tabor College Jazz Band and Theatre of Voices in the Shari Fleming Center for the Arts – Prieb Harder Theater. Free admission – donations accepted.
- ☞ **Special Invitation** to arrive soon. Watch for your personal invitation to an extravagant luncheon at our “**Christmas Giving Gala**” hosted by our youth group. Your donations will be used for sharing gifts with families at Main Street Ministries for Christmas. Mark your calendar to get into the Christmas spirit on December 4th following our worship time.
- ☞ **WDC News:** Associate Conference Minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn plans to be out of the office November 14 - December 31, 2022, for a sabbatical leave. During this time her focus will be strengthening faith formation resourcing for pastors & congregations and personal renewal, through classes on faith formation and a retreat on *Leading Well: A Christ-Centered Community of Curious Leaders* sponsored by Vibrant Faith.