



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

February 10, 2021

### From Pastor Tom

#### What's in a Website?

Some might say that websites are a thing of the past. Yet most churches still have one, including First Mennonite Church. And that's because websites are a tool for spreading the gospel. Which is a somewhat pious or evangelical way of saying they are a tool for helping the church be more missional. (Which is a somewhat pious and trendy way of simply saying, "helping the church be the Church." ☺) A website is a tool for "getting the word out there"—about who we are, what we do, what we care about, what "matters." Put crassly, it is a tool for advertising. But as the Church, what we should be advertising is not ourselves, but the Kingdom of God. Because it's not about us.

Having said that, it is of course about us. Who we sense God is calling us to be and to do. And Jesus' "Great Commission" gets us started: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:16-20). It's no coincidence that our mission statement at FMC is: "Making disciples through loving relationships." Sounds like a good thing to have in our website!

You may have noticed that if you Google "First Mennonite Church Hillsboro Kansas" (or anything like that) you get taken to a website that is woefully, um, out of date (which pretty much ensures that it is a "thing of the past!"). But never fear. Work has been going on behind the scenes to bring it back up to date. And not just up to date, but fresh, dynamic, inviting. To that end we have solicited the help of Derek Hamm. Who besides being an FMC member happens to teach Graphic Design (including website design) at Tabor College. Derek has been meeting with our leadership, in particular our pastoral and office staff, to gather the data he needs to design a new website for us. And, (drum roll), it is almost ready to be launched! Derek has been telling us that a good website will be user friendly, even as it quickly and simply conveys who we are and what we are about, what makes us distinctive. To repeat, it ultimately isn't about us. But it also is! So stay tuned. You may just find yourself in it. ☺

### Ways to Help

- ☞ **MCC Comforter Blitz: At Home** The annual MCC Comforter Blitz is happening virtually this year from now through March! The Kansas Friends of MCC committee is challenging congregations and individuals to complete 300 comforters for MCC by the end of March! Read all the details and information on getting comforter making supplies from MCC at [mcc.org/blitz-at-home](https://mcc.org/blitz-at-home). Share pictures of your work on the [MCC Comforter Blitz](#) Facebook page. Contact [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org) or 316.804.8432 with questions.

- ✎ **Mennonite Mission Network:** Praise God that travel restrictions were lifted, permitting Pablo Sanchez from Argentina, to finally join the Service Adventure unit in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Pray for him as he adapts to the household which is comprised of Lexie Coburn, Luisa Dutchersmith, leaders, Eric and Julie Yoder and their family.

## Upcoming Events

- ✎ **Everence will host a *Social Security and retirement income planning webinar*** on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. This online workshop is free. Register soon by contacting our office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).
- ✎ **The Hesston College Theatre department will present five performances of “Silent Sky,”** a play by Lauren Gunderson about pioneering astronomer Henrietta Leavitt in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The show runs through Feb. 17, 18, 20, and 21, featuring live music by faculty members **Dr. Holly Swartzendruber** and Ken Rodgers. The shows on Wednesday and Thursday start at 7 p.m. Saturday’s showtimes are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday’s show begins at 2 p.m, all to be held at the Hesston High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and can be reserved online at [hesston.edu/bookstore](http://hesston.edu/bookstore), by phone at 620.327.8105, or purchased on site. Seating is limited, and masks are required.
- ✎ **Enjoy a drive-thru venenike supper** complete with ham gravy and sausage February 20 at Halstead FMC, 427 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Cost is by donation with all proceeds to go toward local COVID relief.
- ✎ **You are invited to join the virtual MCC Central States annual meeting on Saturday, February 26 at 9 a.m. CST.** The meeting will include a reflection on MCC in pandemic times, details about what COVID-19 has meant for MCC thrift shops and a look at our financial statements. To join the meeting please email [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) and then Zoom meeting information will be sent directly to you.
- ✎ **Join MCC for a series of “MCC and me” webinars to hear more about service opportunities.** Are you ready to step out and into service? To gain new skills and experiences while working for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ? MCC is working to adapt our programming as the situation with COVID-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change. For more information and to register: [mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities](http://mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities).  
February 25 at 8 p.m. EST: International service worker  
March 6 at 12 p.m. EST: International service worker  
March TBD: Mobile Meat Canner

## Other Announcements

- ✎ Mennonite Education Agency has initiated a search for an executive director. To learn more and for a complete agency profile and position description, see: <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/Resources/News/Pages/default.aspx>.
- ✎ MC USA’s annual Lent at Home guide is now available for download at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home/>.
- ✎ Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful space for families and groups needing space to spread out! Facilities for differently sized groups are available with a variety of gathering areas. Trails and fields are waiting to be hiked and used for fun activities, too! Contact Camp Mennoscah at

620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to reserve. You are invited to enjoy this sacred space!

☞ **Youth Venture** is accepting applications for summer 2021! Discover and experience the work that God is doing in the world with a team of other young people as you serve, learn, worship, and build relationships. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture](http://MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture) to learn more!

## Weekly Encouraging Bible Verse

“We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.” – 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NRSV)