

Matthew 13:10-13, 16-23

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³ The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ -
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 12, 2020

GATHERING

Gathering Music	Jenny Epp
Welcome and Announcements	Susie Kliewer
Prelude to Worship	Jenny Epp
*Call to Worship (Psalm 119:105-112)	Susie Kliewer

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.

I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

*Prayer		
*Hymns	Thy Word	Insert
	All This Pain	Purple Sgbk 55
Time for Children (Matthew 13:1-9)		Tammy Wintermote

SHARING

Sharing and Prayer		Pastor Tom
Hymn	As rain from the clouds	Grey Sgbk 52

LISTENING

Scripture		Matthew 13:10-13, 16-23
Sermon	Great Harvest: Sower, Seed, or Soil?	Pastor Tom

RESPONDING

*Hymn	This Is God's Wondrous World	Purple Sgbk 8
Benediction	Isaiah 55:10-13	Pastor Tom
Postlude	Seeds	Purple Sgbk 62

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL *who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you are able to watch this service!*

AMONG OUR FRIENDS

CAMP MENNOSCAH:

Camp Mennoscah will be reordering tee shirts! Get your order in no later than July 9 by calling 620-297-3290 or emailing office@campmennoscah.org. Only a high demand will allow us to reorder tee shirts a third/additional time. Now is your chance!

Camp Mennoscah is open to a limited number of individuals, families, and groups for both days and overnights. Reservations must be made in advance. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 for further information. We are excited to make this sacred space available to you!

EVERENCE:

Everence to hold Medicare webinar

Everence will host its popular workshop, *Make Medicare an easy step*, as a webinar on Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. This webinar is free. Please register by contacting Darlene Buller at 877-467-7294, 316-333-1808 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

**Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare.*

MCC:

Grounded in the words we read in Philippians 2: 3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others," **MCC Central States offices and material resources center is closed to the public indefinitely.** The realities of COVID-19 continue to change but the dedication of MCC staff to work for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ continues on. Essential workers will continue to work at MCC, but the rest of the staff will work from home. Your material resource donations (school, hygiene or relief kits and comforters, details at mcc.org/kits) are needed at this time and can be shipped directly to MCC when ordering online or

dropped off in the 24-hour donation room towards the east end of the building (121 E. 30th North Newton, KS 67117). In spite of the challenges from COVID-19, the global work of MCC continues. Your financial donations are needed to keep this work going. Give now at mcc.org/donate or by sending checks to MCC PO Box 500 Akron, PA 17501. To contact staff with questions please email us at centralstates@mcc.org or call the office 316.283.2720.

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK:

Mennonite Mission Network has many partners around the world that we help to support. None of Mission Network's ministries would happen without congregational contributions to support these life-changing ministries. First Mennonite Church's contribution of \$2,054.50 has enabled Mission Network to partner with more than 115 organizations around the world. Thank you for your prayers and generous contributions in 2019.

– Stanley W. Green

MENNONITE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hundreds of people tuned in to last week's Mennonite Church USA's live online panel discussion entitled "Race, Church and Change". Hosted by MC USA leadership, this important conversation addressed the impact of racism on the church and approaches for dismantling it. If you missed the live event, be sure to watch the video here: <http://mennoniteusa.org/leadership-development/webinars/>

Join Mennonite Church USA leadership for another live event addressing racism in the church. We are pleased to welcome back our panelists for this follow-up discussion, addressing key questions such as:

- What role does racial healing and reconciliation play in being anti-racist?
- How do we begin a conversation about white supremacy?
- What would it look like for MC USA congregations to practice racial reparations?

Join us Thursday, July 23 at 5:30 pm CT. Register at: https://mcusa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JKz_I1rpS76YxM8QwSvRzq