



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

March 17, 2021

From Pastor Tom

A Spring (Break) to Remember

What's your most memorable spring break? A trip to Florida or the Texas coast? Southern California? Anywhere warm? Of course, some of us don't get a spring break—farmers, business owners, and pastors among them. This annual tradition is driven by the academic calendar, and the wisdom of giving both students and teachers a bit of a vacation somewhere in the middle of the long spring semester. But most of us can surely at least remember counting the days until that glorious break from the busy routine of school. Since it usually lasts a full week, it has become traditional for many families to take a trip together. Our daughter Madeline and her husband Eric are planning a trip to Disney World—their favorite place on the planet. (Unfortunately, they're taking our granddaughter Rosie with them, while we get their dog ☺).

Whether you take a trip or simply stay home, whether you yourself get a vacation or keep working while others do (like farmers, business owners, and pastors ☺) perhaps spring break can still be an opportunity to pause, breathe deeply, and (figuratively or literally) smell the flowers. Granted, as with last year, this year is somewhat limited by the coronavirus. But we're generally blessed by spring-like weather (although today isn't so great), and so spending time outside, even an hour sitting in the warm sunshine, can provide a needed break. (Farmers may prefer to take their break inside!) It's always good to see plants starting to grow again, whether the rich, green winter wheat, or the daffodils.

Then of course, we all have Easter to look forward to! And the new growth of spring certainly provides a ready and fitting illustration for this sacred season. This year, as always, we have a number of meaningful worship-related activities planned for the week leading up to Easter (see the box below). Celebrating the joy of the Resurrection—Jesus', nature's, and ours—after a period of darkness and gloom (including the winter season itself) never grows old. One way or another, may this be a spring (break) to remember—for its opportunity to pause, its restfulness, and especially its joy.

New Website!

Our new website is ready for you! Special thanks to Derek Hamm for building this beautiful, functional site! Click the following link to visit: fmchillsboro.com

Upcoming Events

Holy Week Events March 28- April 4	
Palm Sunday <i>March 28</i>	10 a.m. Come and See! Hosted by Kids in Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Processional and Worship in Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday <i>April 1</i>	7 p.m. In-person and Virtual Service in Sanctuary
Easter Morning <i>April 4</i>	6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at Mark and Sandy Hiebert's home. <i>Bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets!</i> Directions (931 140th): From Indigo, go west on 140 th about 0.7 mile. There is the first farm on the left. Look for the solar panels north of the house (and their name on the mailbox)! 10 a.m. Taste and See! in the Fellowship Hall <i>and Kids'</i> Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m. "Jesus is Risen!" Worship in the Sanctuary

- ☞ Easter lilies and flowering plants are beautiful expressions of new life! Please consider sharing flowers or lilies with our church as we look forward to Holy Week and Easter morning. Contact Cheryl Bartel for more information.
- ☞ **Hymn Sing:** Join in with fellow believers to sing praises to Christ in this Easter season on March 26 from 6-7 p.m. at Peabody Christian Church on the corner of Division and Sycamore in Peabody, KS. *Now, as ever, we Christians will sing!*
- ☞ **Lombard Mennonite Peace Center:** For those who have already taken our *Mediation Skills Training Institute (MSTI)*, we are pleased to offer a new one-day event: the **MSTI Refresher Course!** Sessions are available on Tuesday, May 11 and Saturday, June 12. The fee is \$99, and the event runs from 9:00am to 4:00pm Central Time. The full five-day version of *MSTI* is also available on May 3-7, June 21-25, August 2-6, October 11-15, and November 15-19, 2021. The session in August will include the option for in-person attendance in the Chicago area. Registration for all events being offered by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is open now at www.LMPeaceCenter.org/ticketspice/. Questions? Please consult the attached *MSTI* Brochure, call 630-627-0507, or send an email to Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **The Hillsboro Senior Center** is looking for two individuals to fill in as a dishwasher and a cook when they each need time off or is ill. Paid training is included. Please call the Senior Center at 620-947-2304 for more information about these two positions or stop by to pick up an application at 212 N. Main.
- ☞ **Save the date for the Sent Conference 2021!** Join us on Thursday, April 22 at 7-8:30 p.m. and Friday, April 23 at 2:30-4 p.m. ET for two webinars from peace church planters. They will share

stories of hope and resilience in birthing new communities of faith. Keep your eyes on [MennoniteMission.net/Sent](https://www.mennonitemission.net/Sent) for how to register!

- ☞ **Mennonite Mission:** Looking for a non-traditional pastoral role? Become a unit leader for Service Adventure, a gap-year program for ages 17-20 from Mennonite Mission Network. Unit leaders, who are at least 24 years of age, serve as mentors to the young adults in the Service Adventure household. Leaders are needed in Colorado Springs, CO and Johnstown, PA. Learn more by contacting SusanN@MennoniteMission.net.

Verse of the Week

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12 (NRSV)