



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

March 3, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Lost in the Woods

I sure enjoyed Wendell Loewen's sermon this past Sunday! And I was immediately drawn in by his opening question: Has anyone ever been lost in the woods? Because I have. At least once. It was last summer in fact. We were in Colorado, vacationing at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Lois and I went for a hike to "Pig Rock." Or so we thought. I was sure I knew the way. The problem is, this is the mountains, and one tree-lined ridge can look like another but can lead . . . well . . . most anywhere.

When it was clear we were lost, I told Lois to "wait here," and I would go on ahead up the ridge to see what I could see. Turned out I could see a lot—just not Pig Rock. Well, rats. I better get back to Lois. So I turned around and went back down the ridge. Except, now it didn't look familiar. At all! "Lois!" I shouted. No sound but the wind in the Pines. I kept going. And going. "Lois!" And eventually I came to a well-trodden trail. Which way do I go now? I went left. And eventually I came to a small sign: "Ring the Peak Trail." Okay, now at least I knew where I was. Well, sort of. Guessing I was much further along on that trail than I wanted to be, I turned around and went the other way. Eventually, it joined another trail. And then I really did know where I was. Well, more or less. I guessed "right" (literally), and before long I heard a distant voice. "Tom!"

We never did find Pig Rock. But we found each other! And we found our way back home.

There are all kinds of ways to be lost (I've experienced a number of them so far in my 63 years!). The good news is, the Holy Spirit is like a GPS that no terrain or dense forest can fool. She not only knows where we are, but walks beside us, guiding our thoughts and decisions. With the Holy Spirit, we may not always reach the destination we had been originally seeking. But we will always get, as Wendell's sermon title promised, "through the woods." And with God's grace as a guide, we will always find each other!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **March 3, 7 p.m.** – Bethel College's two small a cappella ensembles, Open Road (men) and Woven (women) will be featured in the monthly concert series at Plymouth Congregational Church in Wichita, via livestream. To view, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NjlrPGFuTM> (Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, on YouTube).
- ☞ **March 6**— First Mennonite Church, 1161 E Ave A, McPherson is having a drive-thru verenika (with ham gravy and sausage) dinner on March 6 from 1-7pm or until the food runs out. This will be a free-will donation event with the proceeds going to the McPherson Housing Coalition. Phone: 620-241-4040.

- ☞ **Bohne Berrogi Sales**– As with many things related to the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, the usual order of business will not be possible due to Covid-19. To make sure that people may purchase and take home some bohne berrogi, the Bohne Berrogi Committee will be making and selling this ethnic delight April 3 at Moundridge High School. The Bohne Berrogi will be sold, by the dozen, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The cost will be \$20 a dozen, NO sauce will be provided. No advance orders will be taken. This will be the only opportunity to purchase Bohne Berrogi unless some are not sold. Leftovers will be frozen and sold at a later date or at the Relief Sale in July.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **MCC Alumni Gathering, July 9-11 at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp!** All MCC alumni are invited to Colorado to relax in the cool mountain air this summer. We realize there is still uncertainty about summer activities due to COVID-19. At this point, we are planning to have this gathering, all registrations will be refunded if the event gets cancelled. We ask that you still go ahead and register if you plan to attend. Find all the details, including COVID-19 protocols that the camp is following and REGISTER at mcc.org/alumni-gathering
- ☞ **MDS** will be using an alternative single team model for the spring season (March and April) to minimize COVID-19 risks. This involves a group of leadership and long-term crew volunteers working together for four weeks or more at a project after isolating for 10 days prior to serving. There will not be weekly volunteer groups coming and going each week. Anyone who agrees to serve within this model will need to complete the Long-Term Volunteer application and interview process. All interested volunteers should contact Deanna Frey at dfrey@mds.mennonite.net, for further conversation and scheduling.

Weekly Encouraging Bible Verse

“My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” – Proverbs 2:1-5 (NRSV)