



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

November 4, 2020

From Pastor Tom

Here's to Compassionate People!

So yesterday, in case I needed help in remembering Election Day 2020, I had a little mishap. I was walking to church with my dog Bruno and my cup of coffee and happened upon Keith Harder close to his house. We chatted a bit and were walking up his driveway when my left ankle buckled sideways and I fell, seemingly in slow motion, on my right elbow and right hip. In the process I dropped both Bruno's leash and my coffee. I gathered myself together, but not before my rear end got soaked by the coffee I was now sitting in.

The first compassionate person I encountered was Keith. It took him a moment to realize what had happened, but once he did, he was ready to do anything for me! Thanks Keith. Here's to you! I turned down his offer for a ride back home and walked the short distance, put on some fresh clothes (since by then my jeans, underwear, and shirt were all soaked with coffee), and walked back to church, still feeling relatively "normal." But along the way, I discovered that my right elbow had a HUGE bump on it. I also met Lester and Donna Funk, with whom I had previously scheduled appointment. When we all arrived at church, I showed them my elbow, and they oohed and ahed with sincere surprise and concern. Thanks Lester and Donna; here's to you! Judy Harder and Cheryl Bartel soon arrived to talk with me about some upcoming worship plans. But first, they both set that discussion aside and made my by now grotesque elbow their first concern, Judy offering spiritual support and Cheryl valuable medical advice from her perspective as a retired nurse. Thanks Judy and Cheryl; here's to you! Following her advice, I called my doctor in Wichita. Problem was, I was told, Dr. Logan was out. However, his physician wife (also Dr. Logan) was in. Her nurse Rachel called me back in an hour or so, amidst her busy schedule, and told me, hope against hope, that Dr. Logan had an opening at 3:00 that afternoon. Thanks for being there and being available to help, Rachel; here's to you!

On the advice of Cheryl, I also called the Hillsboro Clinic, in case I could get in any sooner. Guess who answered? Mieka Bartel! Someone I already knew! ☺ As it happened, one of the PA's, Mieka told me, had an opening at 1:20, so I decided to go that route. When I arrived, I went through the usual paperwork for becoming a new patient, and as I waited for my appointment, I looked around, and felt impressed by this small but "good quality" hospital we have here. All the people I met (including a brief but jovial conversation with Dan Schaefer) made me confident that I would be well cared for. Thanks Hillsboro Hospital and Clinic; here's to you!

When I was called back into an examining room guess who met me to get me checked in—Mieka Bartel! She's as good a nurse as I suspected she would be, with such a calm and friendly demeanor. Thanks so much, Mieka; here's to you! Then I met "Dr." Jessica (or whatever one is supposed to call a PA). She was just flat out top notch in the attention she gave me and my grotesque right elbow. She recommended x-rays to be certain there was no fracture. And in the meantime, listened carefully to my medical history in order to recommend the best treatment for my elbow. And when we were finished, she urged me to call again if I had any questions. Thanks Jessica; here's to you! The x-ray technician was friendly and efficient, and although putting my elbow on the x-ray table was quite painful, she made it the best it can be. Thank you—and I'm sorry I don't know your name. But here's to you! On my way home I stopped at the Hillsboro Hometown Pharmacy to pick up the anti-inflammatory ointment and Ace bandage Jessica had recommended. The pharmacist was very helpful; and while I waited for my supplies, I had a lovely conversation with Colleen Miller. What an awesome "hometown" pharmacy we have here in Hillsboro! Here's to you! I finally made it back to the office, where I was met by our "temporary" secretary Maura Wiebe. I put that in scare quotes because I would love her to stay! Not only is she highly capable, she is so bright, warm, and energetic (just like Becky was)! Thank you, Maura, here's to you!

I could easily keep going. I could definitely include my daughter Madeline, her husband Eric, and granddaughter Rosie, at whose home Lois and I found both supper and comfort during the early post-poll hours of the election last evening. But I want to close by thanking my wife Lois, who as soon as she heard about my little mishap, asked me what I needed, with complete readiness to offer it. She is truly my rock. Especially during these uncertain times. Thank you, Lois; here's to you! And may we all offer the compassion of Christ to others whenever we have the opportunity!

Ways to Help

- ☞ **Change the world with one dollar a day challenge.** Marion County Core Community is looking for 140 brave and generous people who will pledge \$1 a day or \$30 a month for one year. \$1 a day can solve poverty by inviting families experiencing poverty to a safe place where their voices are heard, they are treated with honor and dignity as they unpack their lives, gain new relationships and build resources. Text or call Mark Rogers @ 620-877-0899. All gifts are tax deductible.

- ☞ **Mask ask!** MCC is responding to a request from people on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeastern Montana for cloth face masks to help stop the spread of COVID-19. If you would like to sew masks, please use the following guidelines:
 - Adult sized
 - Use at least 2 layers of good quality cotton fabric (solid colors preferred)
 - Elastic ear loops
 - Nose wire/filter pockets optionalPlease ship purchased or completed masks to the MCC Central States Material Resources Center (Attn: Kate Mast) at 121 East 30th Street, North Newton, KS 67117, or drop off in the 24-hour donation room at MCC by **November 15th**. They will all be collected and transported to Montana in time for the winter season. Questions? Please contact katemast@mcc.org.

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **MEDA Convention 2020 is November 6-7, 2020.** Mennonite Economic Development Associates is inviting anyone interested to attend this event virtually. Engaging keynote speakers, exciting seminars, panel discussion, lightning rounds, business tours and LOTS of opportunity to network with friends new and old! When you register, you can have access to the content online for a year following the event.

- ☞ **The Tabor Church Mennonite Men** would like to invite everyone to the **annual chicken barbeque** on Nov. 5 from 5-7 p.m. or until the food runs out. This year it will be a to-go pick up meal. The menu is BBQ chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll and ice cream and the food will taste great as usual. From the south end of the east parking lot please drive around the south side of the church under the overhang to place your donation and pick up your meal(s). The funds raised will go to Mennonite Central Committee and Bethesda Home in Goessel. The church is located 8 miles north of Newton to 90th then 1 mile east or 3 miles south and 1 east of Goessel.

Weekly Inspirational/Encouraging Bible Verse(s)

And let the PEACE that comes from CHRIST rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in PEACE. And always be THANKFUL. -Colossians 3:15 NLT