



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

May 26, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Let's Have a Picnic!

Sure, it takes a little extra effort. You have to make the sandwiches, go to Dale's for a bag of chips, get some potato salad from the deli (or pull out a can of baked beans from the cupboard), and put everything in a basket. You have to remember a tablecloth, and depending on the destination, a blanket to sit on. You have to put everything in the car. Including the kids. When you arrive at your destination, everything must be taken out of the car (it helps if everyone grabs "at least one thing") and carried to the picnic site (whether a table or a patch of grass). But as soon as you start distributing the food (hopefully sooner), the fun begins!

Growing up, my mom used to pack a picnic lunch when we would go on family trips. My brother and I couldn't wait until it was lunch time. My dad would pull off at the next exit, and we'd all look for a nice picnic area (we'd drive all the way into the nearest town if we had to). John and I would bring along our ball gloves, and while mom set the food out we would play pitch and catch. He would always do the full "major league" windup before throwing; I would do my best not to close my eyes in terror, and would try—honest!—to catch his wild pitches. Finally, mom (or sometimes dad) would call us, and we'd settle in to a yummy lunch of sandwiches or cold fried chicken, potato salad, chips, and iced tea. And while we ate, we would talk and tell stories and laugh. It was the best part of the trip!

This evening FMC is having a picnic! The destination is the Doug and Pam Bartel place, just east of town. Rumor has it we're going to roast hot dogs (hot diggety-dog!) and eat coleslaw and baked beans (leftover from the Diener graduation reception). Sounds like a feast! They say there is plenty of grass for games of pitch and catch, bean bag toss, frisbee throwing, and pick-up soccer. There also promises to be plenty of comfortable conversation, storytelling, laughing, attentive listening, and honest sharing. It's one of the best, if not the best, ways of having church together. Actually, of being church together! Hope everyone can make it!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **PICNIC AT DOUG & PAM BARTEL'S FARM** is TONIGHT at 6p.m.! Please gather with us for a time of fellowship, a wonderful dinner of hot dogs, cole slaw and baked beans, and fun outdoor activities. ***Please bring lawn chairs or blankets and any roasting sticks you may have to help roast hot dogs!***
- ☞ **The summer day camp program at Kauffman Museum, Uncle Carl's Camps, starts June 1 and runs through July 16. All camps still have some spaces available.** Most camps will be in-person with reduced enrollment, masks required while indoors, and many activities held outdoors where campers will not be required to wear masks. Camps are: "Trash and Treasure" (9-12/completed 3rd-6th), archaeology with Monty Graber; "Watercolor My World" 1 (6-8/completed K-2nd) and 2 (9-12/3rd-6th) with LaDonna Unruh Voth; "The Prairie is ALIVE!" (6-8/K-2nd) with Kendall Smith; "Little Houses on the Prairie" (ages 4-5, not yet in kindergarten) with

Kristin Neufeld Epp; "Pedal Power" (9/3rd through adult), biking camp with Karen and Stephen Kreider Yoder. See <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/uncle-carls-camp/> for dates, cost and online registration.

- ☞ **Sat., June 5 – The public is invited to Walk Sand Creek Trail Day**, part of National Trails Day®. Water will be available for people and dogs at the trailhead at Memorial Grove on the Bethel College campus, dawn to dusk (**6 a.m.-8 p.m.**), courtesy of the Sand Creek Trail Committee.
- ☞ **Sat., June 5, 7 a.m. – Kauffman Museum first-Saturday bird walk.** Meet in the museum parking lot (corner of Main and 27th streets in North Newton) to join experienced birders for a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail. Trails are mostly unpaved and sometimes steep or sloping.
- ☞ **Everence to hold *Basics of Investing* webinar:**
Everence will host a free, online webinar, *Basics of investing*, on Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. Register for this webinar to learn about:
 - The fundamentals of investing.
 - Different types of investments available.
 - How faith values can play a role in your investment decisions.

To register, or learn more about this webinar event, please visit our webpage at everence.com/kansas.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **Vacation Bible School!** Nurture Committee is exploring whether we will have Vacation Bible School this summer. We are partnering this year with the Hillsboro United Methodist church. Do you feel a sense of interest and excitement about providing children with a VBS experience this summer? If so, please contact Doug Miller or Pastor Hank and let them know! dougmillier4@outlook.com youthpastor@fmchillsboro.com
- ☞ **The sewing group is making Dignity kits for MCC.** We are sewing the basic kits but need help collecting the other items to fill them. We will need ladies' cotton briefs (sm, med, lg), hand towels, washcloths, bars of bath soap, bars of laundry soap, wide tooth combs, nail clippers, wooden or plastic clothespins. Please put any of the above donations in the storage cart in the narthex. Thank you for your help!
- ☞ **Summer Food 4 Kids is back this summer!** Starting June 1, Grab-n-Go meals will be served from 12:00-12:30 every weekday. You know what that means: we need cookies! Start your ovens!! Volunteers are still needed for Thursdays. Call 620-947-3824 if you can help. Thanks for your part in making summer a safe and healthy one for children.
- ☞ **CORE is now up and running. Hallelujah!** We need Sunday school classes or groups within our community to take on the ministry of feeding the 30 people who come! Please let your organizations know we need help cooking a meal and serving it on Thursdays at 5:30 at Trinity Mennonite Church (211 Elm). You can use the Trinity kitchen to cook and serve. Please call Norma Duerksen at 620-381-0949 to sign up for a Thursday that suits you. (BTW: CORE is the new name for the Circles program. It helps people facing poverty to find resources and learn skills to survive and thrive.)
- ☞ **Camp Mennoscah campers and parents!** If your camper is fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the final shot) for COVID-19 before they come to camp, they will not have to quarantine (go home) if they are a close contact unless they have symptoms. Preventative measures are being taken, but that virus can be sneaky. Completed vaccination cards can be uploaded to the camper's account.
- ☞ **Kitchen staff needed!** Camp Mennoscah is still looking for kitchen staff for June 6-12 and July 18-24. No professional cooking skills needed--just an ability to follow directions and some happiness to share! Contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290.
- ☞ **The Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR)** at Bethel College is offering its core mediation training (Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict) via Zoom

June 14-18. There is a fee discount if you register before May 28. Visit kipcor.org for more information.

Verse of the Week

“You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.” – James 1:19-20 (NRSV)