



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

May 5, 2021

### From Pastor Tom

#### Happy Mothers' Day!

First of all, here's a grammatical question (or quite simply one about proper spelling): is it "Mothers Day," "Mothers' Day," or "Mother's Day?" "Don't look it up (yet)! Just ponder.

"Mothers Day" would imply a day about mothers—including what it means to be a mother, or even what it means to have a mother. "Mothers' Day" would seem to imply a day for mothers, all mothers. A day set aside for mothers, all mothers!—to appreciate them, to thank them, to thank God for them. And "Mother's Day" might specifically be a day both about our mother, and for our mother—to appreciate, to thank, and to thank God for her.

I miss my mom. There never was and never will be again a woman quite like her. (After all, as I sometimes say to those who are grieving the death of their mother, "You only have one mother.") She cared for me like no one else could. She held me, comforted me. She fed me. Nurtured me. Supported me. She understood me. Even when she was sometimes flummoxed by me!

She could also, of course, get under my skin while she was alive. Invade my sense of autonomy and independence. Try to impose her will and wishes on me. When I was a child, certainly, but even when I was an adult. No one could cause me to revert to childish ways quite like mom! ☹ Even so, I miss her. I think of her often. And I feel her presence eternally with me.

On my Google calendar, Sunday May 9, 2021 is marked as "Mother's Day." Which I choose to interpret as a day to appreciate, to thank, and to thank God for our mothers, singular. Each of them, individually. It's never too late!

### Upcoming Events

- ☞ Sunday's worship service will start at 10:30. Gathering music by Debbie Ewert begins at 10:20. Pastor Tom's sermon, tentatively titled "Abiding in Perfect Love," will be based on 1 John 4:12-21.
- ☞ After a year of virtual and on-campus concerts, **Hesston College's Bel Canto Singers** are hitting the road to perform a program entitled "Lift Every Voice" at locations across Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and South Dakota. All performances will be held outdoors, and concert attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs for socially distanced seating. The concert will be broadcasted over FM radio for those choosing drive-in parking. Up-to-date concert information—including locations—can be found at [www.hesston.edu/everyvoice](http://www.hesston.edu/everyvoice). The itinerary and host churches are:
  - Thursday, May 6, 7 pm – Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church, Harper, Kan.

- Friday, May 7, 7 pm – Heartland Community High School, Henderson, Neb.
- Sunday, May 9, 4 pm – Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman S.D.
- Monday, May 10, 7 pm – Bethel Mennonite Church, Mountain Lake, Minn.
- Thursday, May 13, 7 pm – Banman Residence, 8538 Mette Street, Lenexa, Kan.
- Friday, May 14, 7 pm – Tabor Mennonite Church, Goessel, Kan.

☞ **PICNIC AT DOUG & PAM BARTEL'S FARM!** Reserve the date of Sunday, May 16, immediately after our worship service. We will meet at Bartel's farm, 1223 US Hwy 56, about two miles east of Hillsboro, for a picnic lunch and relaxed recreation. Children especially welcome! Food will likely all be provided. More details to follow.

☞ Please enjoy an outdoor country gospel show at 6 p.m. May 22 by artist **Rusty Rierson. Rusty will perform through the evening in City Park in Burns, Kan.** Bring along a lawn chair or blanket. A freewill offering will be taken at the show. Read below for more information about Rusty.

Rusty plays each year at the Kansas State Fair and has won numerous awards for his singing and guitar talents, leading to his signing a record label. Rusty has toured all over the U.S. as well as abroad and worked alongside artists including Dustin Lynch, Love & Theft, Walker Montgomery, Craig Campbell, and many more. Please visit <https://rustyrierson.com> to learn more about Rusty.

☞ **You are invited to an evening of gospel music at the Parkview Church Sunday, May 23 at 7 p.m.** Eduard Klassen is a Paraguayan folk harpist now living in Canada who has presented over 4500 music concerts in 42 countries since making a personal commitment to Christ. Eduard's natural sense of humor helps him to develop an excellent rapport with audiences wherever he goes. His wife Christine joins him on the keyboard.

☞ **From Lombard Mennonite Peace Center** - Registration is now open for several events in June and beyond, take advantage of these opportunities for spiritual and professional growth:

*Conflict Transformation Skills* (June 3) helps church leaders deal more effectively with potentially destructive conflict. For details consult this [CTS Brochure](#).

*Leadership and Anxiety in the Church* (June 9) helps church leaders examine their role as self-differentiated leaders and their ability to help calm the chronic anxiety that affects their congregations. For details consult this [LAC Brochure](#).

*Healthy Congregations* (June 15) helps church leaders deal with the chronic anxiety that threatens to distract congregants from their God-given mission and purpose. For details consult this [HC Brochure](#).

*MSTI Refresher Course* (June 12) is a one-day review for graduates of our *Mediation Skills Training Institute*.

*Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* (June 21-25) helps participants deal more effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. For details consult this [MSTI Brochure](#).

Groups rates are available for all of the above one-day workshops. Restrictions apply. Group organizers may wish to use this [Registration Form](#) to compile names and contact information for members of their group. For more information please visit <https://lmpeacecenter.org/> or contact the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (630-627-0507 or [Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org)).

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Get your MCC Relief Sale gear** online at <https://wearatomic.com/product-category/mcc/>. The proceeds from the sale of these products go to support MCC.
- ☞ **Serve with MDS!** Throughout the summer there will be multiple opportunities in Pine Ridge, SD to complete the Volunteer Center. Tasks are 1 to 2 weeks long and include: drywall, painting, hanging doors, trimming, floor epoxy coating, kitchen cabinet install, mini-split A/C units. Each of the tasks could take 2 or more people. The tasks being scheduled right now are drywall, painting and door hanging. **Contact:** Jeff Koller – (717) 823-7415 – [jkoller@mds.org](mailto:jkoller@mds.org)
- ☞ **Camp Mennoscah is seeking to fill a part-time custodian/housekeeper position.** Hours average 10 per week and are flexible, dependent upon the camp schedule. For more information, contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org)
- ☞ **Nurses needed for summer youth camps!** Camp Mennoscah needs nurses for June 17-19 (First Camp), June 20-26 (Junior I) and July 25-30 (Senior High). Nurses receive a stipend or a discount up to full camp fees for their camper (camper does not have to attend the same camp week). Contact us at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) for more information.
- ☞ **Seeking a Chaplain:** Bethesda Home, in Goessel, KS, is looking for a part-time chaplain. Interested parties may apply on the Bethesda website: [www.bethesdahome.org](http://www.bethesdahome.org). Please contact Marci Heidebrecht in Human Resources for additional information at 620-367-2291 x 229 or [mheidebrecht@bethesdahome.org](mailto:mheidebrecht@bethesdahome.org).

## Verse of the Week

“We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” – 1 John 2:3-6 (NRSV)