



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

June 16, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Brothers, Sisters, Family in Christ,

One of the most important and powerful biblical metaphors for the church is that of family. While it is literally true in a church like ours, which has a number of extended family units in it, it is also true in a figurative sense that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. In his letters, the Apostle Paul often addressed the members of the churches to whom he was writing as “brothers” in the Greek language (and from what we know about these churches and Paul’s relationship with them, this address also clearly included women). In Colossians 1:2 he writes, “To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father” (from the NRSV). And in Galatians he addresses his letter as coming not just from himself but “all the members of God’s family who are with me” (Galatians 1:1-2). As if to say, “We are all in this together.”

Of course that sense of relatedness and common bond only deepens the longer we know each other. But it is true from the moment someone first walks through our doors. Christ Jesus has gathered us together. Christ Jesus has adopted us as his spiritual family. Christ Jesus has called us to be sisters and brothers to one another, united by our common relationship to Christ himself.

That bond is especially important within individual congregations, for part of what it means to be the “church” is to care for one another as brothers and sisters. But it is not limited to those just in our own congregation. In Christ, all believers are brothers and sisters. And so it is that this Sunday we will spend the morning at Veterans Memorial Park with our brothers and sisters from Trinity Mennonite Church. To be sure, we each have our own histories and stories. But some of us are friends and neighbors. And we all share an important bond as being affiliated both with the Western District Conference and with Mennonite Church USA. Through that affiliation, we have a common sense of mission and ministry, and we often cooperate on ministry initiatives, whether local or regional.

And so, let us come together this Sunday as brothers and sisters! Let us worship together. Let us explore our common hymnal together. And then, let us eat and fellowship together!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Mennonite Heritage and Ag Museum in Goessel is having the 2021 Antique, Classic Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show** at 200 N. Poplar in Goessel, KS Saturday, June 19 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission to the museum all day, Museum "Garage" sale, Hot dog meal deal starts at 11 a.m. Free ice cream bars 1-2 p.m. sponsored by Goessel Recreation Commission. \$10 Exhibitor's entry fee. Come "Fill Your Tank with Memories".
- ☞ **Enjoy Tabor College's Summer Musical Theatre Camp Show this Saturday, June 19 at 4 p.m. in the Richert Auditorium.** After a full week of learning musical theatre skills, students are ready to share their talents with you at this free performance! We hope to see you there!

- ☞ **Our annual Sunday School picnic with Trinity Mennonite is THIS SUNDAY, June 20!** Get ready to enjoy a morning of praising and singing, fun and fellowship with our fellow Trinity friends at the southwest end of Memorial Park at 10:30 a.m. Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets, insect repellent, and a picnic lunch for fellowship time following the service. Please note that there will be a special time for kids' activities!
- ☞ **The MCC Alumni Gathering is July 9-11**, and all MCC alumni and their families are invited to join us at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. [Please sign up by June 25!](#)

Other Announcements

- ☞ **The FMC Nurture Committee has decided we just do not have the resources to do VBS this summer.** This is disappointing! We have some other ideas for both fun and nurturing events this summer on a lesser scale. We or someone else may be contacting you about whether you might help make those events possible. In the meantime, as FMC emerges out of our COVID protocols, we are trusting to be able to love and serve one another more fully once again!
- ☞ **Summer Food 4 Kids is back this summer!** Grab-n-Go meals are served from 12-12:30 every weekday, but **we need cookies** for the near 80 kids we feed! Please consider how you can contribute, whether through cookies or other simple sweet treats. Call 620-947-3824 if you can help. Thanks for your part in making summer a sweet one for these children.
- ☞ **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!
- ☞ **Join Jerusalem Seminar this winter!** Bethel College and Tabor College are again sponsoring a trip to Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, from December 26, 2021, to January 15, 2022. The four emphases of the trip are to (1) understand the Bible in its context, (2) learn about the three major religions of the area (Judaism, Islam, Eastern Christianity), (3) understand the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and (4) take time for reflection, worship, and prayer together. There is currently room for additional persons to participate. If interested, contact Peter Goerzen (pgoerzen@bethelks.edu) immediately. Cost is estimated at \$4700-\$4900 per person.

Verse of the Week

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" -Micah 6:8 (NRSV)