

First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

June 30, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Bang, Boom, Sizzle, and Fizzle!

Okay, I have always loved the Fourth of July because I have always loved fireworks. Let me be clear: the only kind of “fireworks” that were legal in Elkhart, Indiana where I grew up were sparklers and snakes. But like every other kid in Elkhart County, I made the most of it. Whoopee!

I vividly remember visiting my cousins in Kansas one summer over the Fourth. They had firecrackers! And Roman candles! And bottle rockets! (As I recall, cherry bombs and M-80s were also available, but I don't remember that my cousins were allowed those.) We all sat in their front yard on lawn chairs, and they initiated my brother and me into the excitement and pleasure of setting off firecrackers, until my cousin David Kaufman (the one who just died a couple of weeks ago) had one explode while he was still holding it. Fortunately, he only received a burn (his dad—my uncle—was a physician), but his mom immediately confiscated all of the fireworks. Oh well.

I also remember going on summer vacations in the family car and passing through states where fireworks were both legal and available. John and I would beg and beg. And one time—one time!—my parents stopped so we could buy some! I think I hung onto that string of 400 firecrackers for years as my private treasure. (I didn't know that as they aged, they would tend to fizzle rather than bang! Oh well.)

I still have a stash of firecrackers and bottle rockets I stopped and bought on one of my immediate family's summer trips some years ago. (I think I also bought some from my neighbor Robert Rempel last year.) Don't have any definite plans to set them off. But I'm guessing Robert will set off some big-time fireworks in the old Tabor College Welcome Center parking lot across from us (like he did last year). That will be fun. And I may go climb the bleachers of Tabor's football stadium (like I did last year), giving me a 360-degree view of all the fireworks Hillsboro-ites like to set off. Some of them bang! Some of them boom! Some sizzle! And yes, there are always some that simply fizzle. Oh well.

Happy July 4th! Be safe out there! Or to be even more blunt, don't be stupid! ☺

Upcoming Events

- ☞ ****WORSHIP IN THE PARK THIS SUNDAY!!** Get ready to worship together again in Memorial Park. Watch your emails for more information to follow shortly.
- ☞ **Ministries Council will meet tomorrow, Thursday July 1 at 7 p.m. in the church.**
- ☞ **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.
- ☞ **Everence will host its popular workshop, *Make Medicare an easy step*, as a webinar on Tuesday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m.** Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. This webinar

is free. Please register by contacting our office at 877-467-7294, 316-283-3800 or central.kansas@everence.com. *Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare.

- ☞ **Family Weekend at Camp Mennoscah on July 17-18!** If you're looking for a weekend to escape, this retreat offers a smorgasbord of camp activities for you to choose from and plenty of time to be with your family and friends. Register at campmennoscah.org and contact 620-297-3290 with questions!
- ☞ **Join in this special Annual Assembly storytelling opportunity!** WDC's Assembly theme July 30-August 1 is "Woven into God's Story." StoryCorps has invited WDC to partner with their storytelling project, *One Small Step*, to share and record our own stories within WDC. *One Small Step* is an initiative to facilitate conversations across differences. (Facilitators are bilingual in Spanish and English.) It's a chance to spend time virtually with someone different than you and discover the stories behind each other's beliefs. To join another WDC member for an online conversation, sign up at <https://onesmallstep.storycorps.org/wdc/>.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **Stay connected and don't miss a thing at this year's MCC Relief Sale!** Get live updates and other up-to-the-minute information via Facebook, Instagram & Twitter. Go to @kansas.mccsale on Facebook and @ksmccsale on both Instagram and Twitter to like and follow.
- ☞ **Extra help needed for summer youth camps!** Camp Mennoscah has paid and volunteer positions for grounds, maintenance and custodial positions. Volunteer kitchen staff is needed for July 18-24; willing hands and the ability to follow directions is all that is needed. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for details. You will make camp an amazing experience for everyone!
- ☞ **Have you noticed WDC's website has a new look?** Check it out at <https://mennowdc.org>. While it is still a work in progress, the refreshed website is now THE place to go for all things WDC! Beginning in July, the *WDC Sprouts* weekly newsletter email will be discontinued. WDC articles, announcements, and other information will be posted exclusively on the website. Email alerts will be sent to let you know when new content has been posted.
- ☞ **Join us in saying thanks to WDC Administrative Assistant Nancy Funk!** If you would like to share an expression of appreciation for Nancy in anticipation of her retirement at the end of August, you are invited to stop by to visit with Nancy at the WDC office (2517 North Main Street, N. Newton, KS) over the next several weeks, or to send a note to her at WDC, PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117, or wdc@mennowdc.org.
- ☞ **Current openings at MCC** can be found at mcc.org. Current open positions include Canning & Trucking Manager, Multimedia Producer, Meat Canner and many international service opportunities.
- ☞ **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

“The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.” –Psalm 138:8 (NRSV)