



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

July 21, 2021

From Pastor Tom

“We do not want you to be uninformed”

These are the Apostle Paul’s words to his “brothers and sisters” in the church he planted in the Greco-Roman city of Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 4:13). He was talking about “those who have died.” Death is hard for all of us. It’s scary to think about. And when someone we love dies, there is a big, dark, gaping hole where that someone used to be. Someone like Chuck Abrahams, who died this past Sunday, leaving an empty hole in the lives of his children Marci and Brad, and many, many others.

There’s no denying or avoiding that hole, that sense of loss and absence. But the thing is, Paul says to his beloved readers, death is not the end. Because Jesus the Christ died and rose again, in the same way we will all die, yes. But then we will rise to new life.

If you like vivid, dramatic language, Paul gives it to us. “For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.” (4:16-17)

Anybody hear the sound of a trumpet recently? **Hope to see you at Chuck’s funeral, Thursday at 2 p.m. Visitation is at 1 with the graveside service to follow the funeral.** (The family asks that everyone wear masks.)

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Remember to register for the WDC Annual Assembly at: mennowdc.org/2021.** Friday worship, July 30 at 7 p.m. followed by snocones outside at 8 p.m. Enjoy storytelling under the tent with fresh popcorn Saturday, July 31 from 7-8 p.m. Invite your friends to Faith Mennonite Church, 2100 N Anderson Ave, Newton, KS, for some summer fun. Storytelling also inside and online!
- ☞ **IMPORTANT: Our church needs delegates to represent us at the Western District Conference Annual Assembly Saturday, July 31 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.** The delegate session is only by Zoom, so you can join in at home! We need 3-4 delegates to attend this virtual session on behalf of First Mennonite Church. If interested, please email Doug Miller at dougmilller4@outlook.com as soon as possible.
- ☞ **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/>.

☞ **Next Care Meeting is August 4 at 7 p.m.**

☞ **Central Kansas Community Foundation (CKCF), host to 19 affiliate foundations across central Kansas, is holding an online charity auction July 21-27.** A theme of 'The Sky's the Limit', sets the stage for us all to consider the boundless possibilities for enriching our communities. The auction is an effort for CKCF to promote and solicit financial support for this not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization and the affiliates under their organizational umbrella. CKCF as a host foundation offers back-office accounting, operational and programmatic support across central Kansas to their affiliates and the communities they serve. Like us on [Facebook](#) so you can follow as we promote items and opportunities for giving. Also [Click Here](#) to find more pre-launch information including how to preregister and a sneak peek at items that will be up for bid. Your support is making our communities stronger and more vibrant! The possibilities are limitless when we come together!

☞ **Parkview Church invites you to Worship & Watermelon Friday, July 30 on the church lawn!** Watermelon, crullers, and fellowship begins at 7 p.m. with worship at 7:30. Please bring your own lawn chairs or blankets!

☞ **The Hillsboro Senior Center is holding a fundraiser Friday, August 6 from 6:30-8 p.m.** Stop by for homemade pie and ice cream plus music by Bob and the Boys! Donations are welcomed and appreciated.

Other Announcements

☞ **Peppernuts at FMC!** Derek Hamm and Tim Frye have indicated their willingness to give us a hand with our peppernuts project this summer! But as usual, we need many people to make this happen. We are proposing three days this year: Thurs., Aug. 5; Fri., Aug. 6; and Sat., Aug. 7. We'd like to know how many could help us on any or all of those days. If you can help, please notify Kara at secretary@fmchillsboro.com or call her at the church office: (620) 947-5662. If you'd like to help, but those days don't work and/or you'd also be free other days, please let Kara know that as well. It would be helpful to know what times of day as well as which days would fit your schedule. Thanks!

☞ **REQUESTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.** FMC desires to support FMC members and members' children who attend a Mennonite college or who choose to receive a seminary education. If you are interested in applying for such financial support (tuition) for the 2021-2022 academic year, contact Doug Miller.

☞ **Western District Conference invites you to visit our website at <https://mennowdc.org/>** to read the latest news, stories and announcements!

☞ **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!

☞ **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 trip will be led by Dr. Doug Miller and will include two dozen biblical sites, such as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, ancient ruins, Dead Sea and Dead Sea Scrolls, Masada, Mt. Nebo, Petra, museums, and much more. There is currently room for additional persons to participate. If interested, contact Dr. Miller immediately at 620.947.2439 or dougml@tabor.edu. Cost is estimated at \$4700 per person.

Verse of the Week

“but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” –1 John 1:7 (NRSV)