



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

September 1, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Hello September!

Can it really be September 1 already? My Google calendar says it is (and Google doesn't lie—at least usually!). What this means is that summer really, truly is over (although technically Google says the first day of fall isn't until September 22, and Google is usually right!). And I'm frankly not sure where it has gone. In some ways I feel as if I am still gearing up for summer!

Nevertheless, it is indeed time to turn to the next page of our calendars. And when we do, we see that September promises to be a busy and important month in the life of our church. On Wednesday September 8, beginning at 6 p.m., we will gather in our fellowship hall for a pizza supper. As always, it will be good to eat and have fellowship together (and anyway, I always like pizza). This will be followed by a congregational meeting in the sanctuary at 6:30. This meeting will be facilitated by KIPCOR and will respond to and reflect on the pastoral review begun in the spring. It is hoped that this will be an opportunity to share honestly with and listen well to one another, toward the goal of rebuilding and strengthening trust between us all. Needless to say, this promises to be a very important evening in the life of First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro!

The following week it will be time to set up for the 2021 Arts and Crafts Fair, to be held on Saturday, September 18. As in the past, the involvement of FMC in the fair will be largely toward the goal of raising funds for our youth group and its activities for the coming year. Another important day in the life of our church!

And then the following weekend (Saturday, September 25 – Sunday, September 26) is our biennial Church Retreat out at Camp Mennoscah. This is always an important, memorable time together as a church. Stay tuned for more details, but the weekend will include an overnight at the camp (and the fun activities that such an overnight makes possible), and a Sunday morning worship service in the beautiful, safely sheltered Kansas outdoors. Once again, this service will include the baptism of some of our FMC youth, a culmination of a rich time of catechism led by youth pastor Hank Unruh. As always, this presents a great opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment to the life and ministry of this church.

So hello, September! We look forward to all that you have in store for us!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Care Meeting is tonight, September 1 at 7 p.m.**
- ☞ **Congregational Meeting Announcement:** After deliberations by the Ministries and Vision Councils, and consulting with KIPCOR, **the date for our facilitated congregational meeting** (concerning our current pastoral review) **has been set for Wednesday, September 8.** All FMC members and those who attend regularly are welcome and encouraged to attend. More information about the structure and process of the meeting will be forthcoming. Currently we are planning a pizza meal to begin at 6 p.m. that evening in the fellowship hall, with seating also on the patio (weather permitting). We want to make childcare available for anyone who needs it. If that is you, please communicate this to Kara at the church office or someone on Ministries Council so that this can be arranged. If you have any questions about the meeting, you may contact Doug Miller or Nadine Friesen.
- ☞ **Saturday, Sept. 4** – Kauffman Museum’s monthly bird walk will be a special event in cooperation with the Kansas Humanities Council: **a book and poetry walk with Megan Kaminski and Molly Zahn from the University of Kansas. Start time: 9:30 a.m.** at the museum’s front door. For more information, call 316-283-1612 or e-mail kauffman@bethelks.edu.
- ☞ **Sunday, Sept. 12** – **KIPCOR Film Series** resumes *live*, with *The Prison Within*, **2 p.m.**, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Individuals incarcerated in San Quentin Prison and charged with murder take a journey of redemption through participation in a restorative justice program. Talk-back to follow. *Bethel’s COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors regardless of vaccination status.*
- ☞ **Everence will host a Social Security and retirement income planning webinar** on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. This online workshop is free. Register soon by contacting our office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.
- ☞ **Central Kansas Community Foundation is holding their “Rural Matters” CKCF Summit 2021 Thursday, Sept. 23 from 4-6 p.m. at the Wild Prairie Event Center**, 1610 SE 3rd St, Newton, KS 67114. This free event is hosted by CKCF Board of Directors. Annually we gather to bring like-minded individuals together to share experiences, contemplate opportunities and celebrate local and regional successes. Marci Penner, Kansas Sampler Foundation, will be our keynote speaker. Also hear from Carol Duerksen about her and Donley’s reasonings behind a planned gift to their community through Goessel Community Foundation. We will have individually wrapped snacks and be in a facility that will allow for social distancing. Table talks will be also be facilitated throughout our time together. Plus for those in attendance, there are two chances for a \$100 Operating Fund grant and two drawings for the Kansas Guidebook.
- ☞ **Bakers and Crafters Needed!** Help support Bethel College Women’s Association by donating pies for BCWA’s Pie-By-The-Slice booth or any baked item or craft item for the Market in the Round at Fall Fest 2021. Peppernuts, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, and coffee cakes are popular items! Bring your pies (no refrigerated or custard pies please) to Seminar A in Schultz Student Center 4-6:30 p.m. Friday, October 1 or 8-11a.m. on Saturday, October 2. Baked goods and craft items can be dropped off at the Luyken Fine Arts Center Rm 140 on Friday 1:30-4:30pm or Saturday 7-8 a.m. All proceed go to support Bethel College.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **If you would like to receive the Anabaptist World magazine at home**, please notify Kara at secretary@fmchillsboro.com. Yearly subscriptions are \$39 on the church subscription plan.
- ☞ **COVID-19 protocols:** The FMC Covid response team is urging the following regarding the Covid virus: 1. Masks are required when we gather indoors, 2. FMC should reduce capacity in the

sanctuary and fellowship hall to 50% 3. Inside dining & public restroom use is tentatively cancelled for Arts & Crafts Fair.

- ☞ **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 dougm@tabor.edu. Cost is estimated at \$4700 per person.
- ☞ **Kansas MDS Unit is sponsoring two Learning and Service Trips to McAllen, Texas October 30–November 6 and February 19–26.** Participants will leave Kansas Saturday morning traveling to San Antonio, TX to stay overnight. They will visit San Antonio Mennonite Church on Sunday morning and later travel to McAllen, TX for the MDS project. **Costs:** Lodging and meals on the two traveling weekends. MDS will cover the remainder of the expenses. **Reservations: To make your reservations or for more information contact Cleo Koop at cleohkoop@gmail.com or call 316-282-0797.** If you are interested in volunteering at McAllen, TX on different weeks than what is in this announcement, please call the volunteer coordinator at 800-241-8111.

Verse of the Week

“O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!”
–Psalm 95:6-7 (NRSV)