



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

September 8, 2021

From Pastor Tom

A Fitting Prayer for FMC

While I chose the following as our opening hymn for this past Sunday, I missed out on singing it with you! And I am struck again at how appropriate and timely it is. Please sing or read with me now.

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power.
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.*

We are indeed part of "The Church" (capital C). And it is an ancient church. We are one precious bud on a much larger flower. And it is our job to bloom as beautifully as we can. But we need your help, God. Help us face the hour and the age before us.

*Lo! The hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.*

We probably don't talk about evil enough. But there is a power in the world that wants to destroy us. Or at least, distract us from our primary purpose, namely, faith in and praise of you. We need your protection, God. We need your courage. We need your wisdom.

*Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

Without a doubt these are our greatest sins: pride, and selfishness, and attachment to things. Jesus taught us we cannot serve both God and mammon. Help us God, every day, to choose you.

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore.*

We do adore you, God. And we wish to serve you. Save us from anything and everything that gets in our way. Amen.

Among Our Friends/In Our Prayers

- ☞ Let us pray, fervently and frequently, for First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro. Let us pray for tonight's meeting. And let us pray for the will to enact our mission statement: "Making disciples through loving relationships."
- ☞ Let us pray for all those who struggle with health-related issues. Which, if we're honest, is all of us. May God grant each one of us the healing we need.
- ☞ Let us pray for all those impacted by Covid 19. Which again, if we're honest, is all of us. May we live out God's will, and not our own—on earth as in heaven.
- ☞ Finally, let us pray for peace. Peace among us, peace in our community, peace in our country, peace in our world.

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Our facilitated congregational meeting** (concerning our current pastoral review) **is tonight, September 8**. All FMC members and those who attend regularly are welcome and encouraged to attend. A pizza meal will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall, with seating also on the patio (weather permitting). The meeting will follow at 6:30 in the sanctuary.
- ☞ **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

- ☞ **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.
- ☞ **School kits for MCC!!** Now is the time to get school kids for MCC since many of the items are on sale now. Here are the items that you can put in the box in the church foyer. Thanks for supporting MCC!
 - 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
 - 8 new unsharpened pencils
 - 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
 - 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
 - 1 large eraser
 - 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
 - 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes.
- ☞ **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

“Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”—Mark 9:7 (NRSV)