



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

October 20, 2021

### From Pastor Tom

#### Summoned by the God Who Made Us

One of them had to be given pride of place. In this new collection of hymns and songs, only one could be “number one.” And this seems like a great choice! (That decision, by the way, did not come to the full committee, so I was as surprised as anyone.) “Summoned by the God Who Made Us” should seem both new and familiar as the opening hymn in our new hymnal *Voices Together*. Musically it uses the same tune as one of our most beloved hymns, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (number 563 in *Voices Together*). Known as “NETTLETON,” the tune is credited to the nineteenth-century evangelist Asahel Nettleton (although there is no evidence that he wrote any hymn tunes, let alone this one). Its first appearance was in an 1813 collection of sacred songs (John Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*) intended to cater especially to Methodists and Baptists “who were influenced by the folk-style music used in camp meetings so popular at that time” (*Hymnal Companion*, p. 70). No surprise that NETTLETON is a bouncy, joyful tune that sounds as good accompanied by guitar as by organ or piano!

It is the text of VT #1 that is new. At least, to Mennonite Church USA and Canada. “Summoned by the God Who Made Us” was written in 1993 (which actually makes it ancient by Contemporary Christian Music standards) by Delores Dufner, a member of St. Benedict’s Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota, and a writer of “scripturally based hymn and song texts which have a broad ecumenical appeal and are contracted or licensed by 34 publishers in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and China” (Hymnary.org, “Summoned by the God Who Made Us”). What? The first hymn text in our new Mennonite hymnal was written by a Catholic?! (News flash: so was #1 in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, “What is this place!”) As it happens, the text highlights themes that are both fresh, and very Anabaptist. Here is verse 1:

Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity,  
Gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity:  
Let us bring the gifts that differ and, in splendid, varied ways,  
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

If you like that verse, you ought to see the other four, which touch on such themes as baptism, creation, the Holy Spirit, peace and justice, and even communion! All in all, a wonderful way to begin our new Anabaptist-Mennonite hymnal! I encourage you to check it out, next time you’re at home with your copy, or sitting in a pew at church.

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **FMC Wednesday Night TONIGHT!** Come at 6:15 p.m. to enjoy sloppy joes, seven-layer salad, chips and cream puff dessert! Pastor Tom will be leading a study of Mark 10:46-52 at 7 p.m. in the chapel, and youth will meet.
- ☞ **First Mennonite Church of Halstead, KS will be hosting a Hog Roast** Sunday, October 24 from 5-7 p.m at the South Park Gazebo on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Locust St. in Halstead. This pulled pork meal will be by donation with proceeds going toward the WDC Hope Fund. This fund provides financial support for WDC congregations affected by Covid-19 and other disasters. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and enjoy music by the Smokey Valley Bluegrass Band.
- ☞ **Tabor College presents Dr. David S. Janzen, Oct. 25, 2021:** President Janzen is the fifth speaker in the vocation and service lecture series “Exaudio: Listen and Live.” Janzen, a 1990 graduate of Tabor, was named the college’s 14th president in May 2021. He will be giving the following presentations in the Richert Auditorium:
  - Monday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m.: “Career or Calling– Asking the Right Questions”
  - Monday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.: “The Paradox of Christian Entrepreneurship”

*The Tabor Lectureship in Vocation and Service is an annual academic lectureship in which a scholar is invited to present on a meaningful expression of Christian discipleship that arises from his or her professional discipline. The purpose of the lectureship is to challenge and encourage believers in their individual and collective calling of work and service for Christ and his kingdom. The term exaudio is a Latin word that means to listen, comprehend, and respond faithfully.*
- ☞ **Hillsboro’s annual Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat is October 27 from 7-8 p.m.** You are invited to leave canned goods on your porch to donate to Main Street Ministries, which will be picked up by youth groups of Hillsboro. All First Mennonite youth are invited to participate!
- ☞ **Thurs., Oct. 28 – Bethel College Chamber Orchestra Halloween concert, 7:30 p.m.,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Bethel’s current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.
- ☞ **Jordan Feliz “Next to Me” tour is coming to Tabor College October 29 at 7 p.m. in the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts!** [Tickets are on sale now:](#) VIP tickets \$45 (early entry and Q&A with Jordan), Main Floor \$20, Gallery \$15. Follow the link above or call the box office at 620-947-3121 ext.1402 to get tickets. For group purchases of 10 or more, use coupon code TaborArtsJF to receive a \$5 per ticket discount.
- ☞ **Sun., Oct. 31 – Bethel College fall choral showcase, “Bethel Sings,” featuring small and large groups, 4 p.m.** NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION to the Ad Building steps, or Memorial Hall in case of rain.
- ☞ **MDS Region 3 Annual Meeting** is November 12-13, 2021 at Hesston Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. Registration table opens at 4 p.m. on Friday, November 12. **RSVP** by completing the online registration form at <https://tinyurl.com/2xa9bys9> or by contacting Steve Hochstetler at (919) 825-0354 or [shochstetler@mds.org](mailto:shochstetler@mds.org).  
**Additional Details:** On Friday come and enjoy the fellowship, the meal, special music and our keynote speaker Kevin King. On Saturday we will hear more about what is happening in Region 3 and to have a chance to dive in a bit deeper with some table activities. This will be followed by lunch and then a Region 3 business meeting. Throughout the weekend you will have opportunities to meet/greet some of the binational staff. We also plan to make this a hybrid meeting with the meeting connected to a Zoom meeting for those that could not travel to Hesston.

The Zoom meeting link is <https://tinyurl.com/2e4v6ups>. For more details about the meeting, visit <https://mds.mennonite.net/region-3-annual-meeting-2021/>.

## 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%.

☞ **Christmas is just around the corner, and Heartland Pregnancy Care's *The Gift of Christmas*** intends to put Christ's love into action for their clients' kiddos. For four weeks leading to Christmas, clients are given an opportunity to "Christmas shop" for their children ages 12 & under at their in-center store. Clients earn virtual dollars by attending classes, which they can redeem for one new toy per child each week. For some clients, these may be the only gifts they can provide for their children this Christmas.

**Here's How to Help:** Generous donors make this possible by providing NEW gifts (with a value of \$20-25) for kids newborn-12 years. Gift ideas include learning toys, building kits, crafts and games. Gifts can be purchased through [the Amazon gift registry](#) and sent directly to Heartland Pregnancy Care. If purchased elsewhere, please bring *unwrapped* gifts to Heartland by November 24. For further information, contact Vanessa at 620.200.8428 or [vanessa@heartlandpcc.com](mailto:vanessa@heartlandpcc.com).

☞ There are **Weekly Volunteer opportunities to serve with MDS** in Jennings, LA; McAllen, TX; and Paradise, CA through the end of 2021. Contact Deanna Frey ([dfrey@mds.org](mailto:dfrey@mds.org) or 800-241-8111) with any questions or to schedule a week of service!

☞ **Mennonite Central Committee has a variety of positions open** for those called to be the hands and feet of God in a global context. We hope you will prayerfully consider the following service opportunities.

**Seek Discipleship Program – Jordan, Palestine and Israel** - Seek is a new six-month intentional discipleship program from MCC which encourages young adults (18-20 years of age) to deeply learn what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus. The program will include multiple discipleship and service opportunities with MCC partners. To learn more and apply for the Seek program, visit [mcc.org/seek](http://mcc.org/seek).

**International Program Safety and Security HR Specialist** - MCC seeks an International Program Safety and Security HR Specialist with experience in safety and security management, and at least 1 year experience in insecure environments. Should be committed to the Biblical call to be a peacemaker by seeking and promoting nonviolent solutions to conflict and oppression.

**External Grants Coordinator – Lebanon, Syria & Iraq** - MCC seeks an External Grants Coordinator who will provide support for humanitarian assistance and other externally funded projects in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq that MCC is undertaking as a result of the ongoing needs in the region.

**Program Coordinator – Lebanon, Syria & Iraq** - MCC seeks a Program Coordinator. This role, based in Beirut, is tasked with managing the program's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) for projects in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.

For more information about our current openings, including those listed here, please visit [mcc.org/serve](http://mcc.org/serve).

## **Verse of the Week**

“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” –Psalm 37:4 (NRSV)