



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

November 10, 2021

### From Pastor Tom

#### Mission is What We Do

“Mission” is one of those “churchy” words that is easily misunderstood. It is often assumed to be a synonym of the word “evangelism,” which refers to the task of spreading the Christian gospel, bringing people to a faith in Christ (or more crassly, converting the heathen). And, it is often assumed to be something that happens “out there,” far away, in foreign lands. “Missionaries,” for example, are people that a church (or The Church) sends overseas to help spread Christianity to all corners of the world. Mission thus is used to refer to just one part of a church’s activities, concerns, and annual budget. And so many churches have a “Mission Committee” whose task it is to keep its congregation informed of projects and priorities overseas.

The word mission comes from the Latin word *missio*, which means “to send,” thus conveying an outward movement and focus. One of the classic Scripture texts often used to define the mission of the Church is Matthew 28:18-20, where after his Resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” And as we can see from this text, making disciples means more than converting unbelievers to a belief in Christ. It means encouraging all people to live lives of faithful obedience to the will of God, as expressed in the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ. And it means more than traveling to far-away lands. Mission simply involves “going,” beyond the four walls of a church building, out into its surrounding community and world. I like our church’s Mission Statement: “Making disciples through loving relationships,” which is as important and needed right here in Hillsboro as it is in distant countries. Mission, in other words, most broadly speaking, is the church’s reason for being. It is what we do. It is everything we do.

Here at First Mennonite Church we have a “Mission Committee,” whose stated task it is to “give leadership to the congregation’s ministry of mission, peace and service. Mission concerns bring the life, teachings, and call of Jesus Christ, in both word and deed, through the church members, beyond the church and into the world” (from the *First Mennonite Church Manual of Policies and Practices*). And we have an annual “Mission Sunday” on which some aspect of our congregation’s commitment to mission is highlighted. This Sunday (November 14) happens to be our 2021 “Mission Sunday.” Bethany Amstutz, daughter of Deryll and Jan, will share about her “Come and See” trip to the country of Nepal, with the purpose of learning about the Mennonite Central Committee’s projects and commitments in that country. I’m personally excited to learn more about the country of Nepal and how our Mennonite understanding of mission is carried out there by MCC. And ultimately, I’m excited to learn more about “what God is up to” in the world, then translating that into understanding how God might be calling and sending us at FMC beyond the four walls of our church, whether to a far-away country or out into our community of Hillsboro.

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **FMC Wednesday Night TONIGHT!** Come at 6:15 p.m. to enjoy taco soup, chips, grapes and a pumpkin or cherry dessert! Pastor Tom will be leading a study of John 15:1-9 at 7 p.m. in the chapel, and youth will meet.
- ☞ **First Mennonite Church of Halstead, KS, is hosting a drive-thru Mission Supper** Nov. 13 from 5-7 p.m. outside the church building at 427 W. 4th in Halstead. Donations from this meal benefit the Neighbors Store and missionaries: Dave and Rebekka Stutzman of Germany and Rachel Givens of France. The menu includes smoked sausage, chicken borscht, zweiback, green beans and a cookie. Be sure to join us!
- ☞ **Tabor College is delighted to welcome famed pianist Andreas Klein** to the 2021-2022 Concert Series Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts. Klein will perform pieces from Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and more. Please come enjoy a fantastic presentation of the classics!
- ☞ **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/>.
- ☞ **KIPCOR Film Series: *A Home Called Nebraska* is screening Sunday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m.** at *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College*. Emily Haverkamp, an immigration and asylum lawyer from Wichita, will lead the discussion following the screening. Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.
- ☞ **Tabor College is pleased to present Handel's Messiah** Sunday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts. The Tabor College Concert Choir, conducted by Dr. Greg Zielke, is joined by alumni and the Tabor Messiah Orchestra to offer this free performance. Reserved seating is required, and tickets are now available at [tabor.edu/tickets](http://tabor.edu/tickets). An offering will be received, and food donations are encouraged to benefit the Hillsboro Area Ministerial Association.

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Mission Sunday is THIS SUNDAY!** Bethany (Amstutz) Schrag will be sharing on her MCC Learning trip to Nepal. Lunch will be served after church and will include Chicken Lo Mein and Pork Dumplings from Panda Kitchen and cake. Bring a salad to share. Invite your friends! Offering will go to Mennonite Mission Network.

- ☞ **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).
- ☞ **Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks a visitor services coordinator:** an organized, detail-oriented, social media-savvy, curious, friendly individual to work 75-100% FTE with visitors, school groups, volunteers and student staffers, and to do scheduling and internal office management. The VSC will be a part of a multitasking team of five. For the job description and to apply, visit <http://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/vsc>. For more information, contact Andi Andres at [asa@bethelks.edu](mailto:asa@bethelks.edu) or 316-283-1612.
- ☞ **Conference Minister Heidi Regier Kreider plans to be out of the office November 15 – December 31**, for a sabbatical leave approved by the WDC Executive Board. In Heidi's absence, ministry responsibilities will be covered by other WDC staff and board, commission or committee leaders. Further details will be communicated directly to pastors, congregations and leadership groups. For more information, contact WDC at [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or 316-283-6300.
- ☞ **Shalom Mennonite Church** (800 East 1st Street, Newton Kansas), **will host a presentation and discussion with Leonard & Antoinette Kiswangi from the Congo DRC along with Charles Buller of AIMM on Friday, November 19 at 7 p.m.** Fresh from their recent retreat with the Africa Leadership Coaching Network along the banks of the Kwilu River, they seek to re-imagine leadership among Anabaptist communities in Africa. Also planning to join us by zoom will be Bruce Yoder, Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission's new co-director who will share an update on AIMM's recent gathering of its international partners in Kikwit, Congo. Questions about this event can be directed to Charles Buller at 574.238.9659 or Shalom Mennonite Church at 316.283.7395.

## Verse of the Week

"God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend. For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth'; and the shower of rain, his heavy shower of rain," –Job 37:5-6 (NRSV)