



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

February 9, 2022

From Pastor Tom

Two Ways of Wisdom

As we've been seeing so far in his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul talks a lot about wisdom. And he says there are two kinds of wisdom: the wisdom of the world, and the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:20-21). I said in this past Sunday's sermon that I have started a list which contrasts or distinguishes between these two types. And I invite you to add to it! Email me your thoughts and ideas. I will keep the list updated and posted on my office door. Here we go:

The Wisdom of the World, and the Wisdom of the Cross:

There is wisdom that will be cheered by the crowds; and wisdom that will be booed in derision.
There is wisdom acquired through years of study; and wisdom that comes with no letters after your name
There is wisdom based on strength; and wisdom based on weakness.
There is wisdom that leads to great success; and wisdom that looks like abject failure.
There is wisdom that sounds eloquent; and wisdom that sounds like gibberish.
There is wisdom that comes with pride; and wisdom that comes from humility.
There is wisdom that seeks to win arguments; and wisdom that lets others win.
There is wisdom that earns lots of money; and wisdom that earns very little.
There is wisdom that lasts for centuries; and wisdom that lasts forever.
There is wisdom that leads only to death; and a wisdom that leads to life.
There is the wisdom of the strong; and there is the wisdom of the weak.
There is wisdom based on certainty; and wisdom based only on a trembling faith.
There is the wisdom that climbs; and the wisdom that descends.
There is wisdom you go to school for; and wisdom you go to church for.
There is a wisdom that wears a crown of gold; and a wisdom that wears a crown of thorns.

I look forward to receiving your additional contributions!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **There is no sermon discussion tonight.** Watch for updates about next week's discussion!
- ☞ **Explore FMC!** Sometime during the upcoming season of Lent Pastor Tom will once again offer an opportunity to "explore FMC"—what we believe, where we come from, how we do things, and what it means to be a member. If you are interested, please let him know. The time and day will be determined in part by the schedules of the participants.
- ☞ **Please join us for the grand opening of Kauffman Museum's 125th-anniversary exhibit, "The Magic of Things." Saturday, Feb. 19 come-and-go from 2:30-4:30 p.m.,** with remarks by lead curator Reinhild K. Janzen at **3 p.m.** *Current Bethel COVID protocols require masking indoors regardless of vaccination status.*
- ☞ **Have a heart for refugees!** The WDC Immigration Task Force encourages your congregation to offer a "love gift" of cleaning supplies between now and February 14 for arriving families. International Rescue Committee Wichita resettled 350 families last month alone! They come with so little. Let's remember our own immigrant history and be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing good news to our neighbors. You may drop off donations of supplies at the WDC Office (2517 N Main, North Newton) 8 am-4:30 pm Mon-Fri or at Shalom Mennonite Church (800 E First, Newton) from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Mon-Thurs & Sunday mornings. Email office@shalomnewton.org if you cannot drop off supplies during daytime hours. For more information, click IRC Donations List for the Cleaning Supply Kit List and other needed items. To make a monetary donation, go to: rescue.org/united-states/wichita-ks. Thank you!
- ☞ **Everence® February webinar:** Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income webinar on Tuesday, Feb. 15, starting at 6:30 p.m. Specifics will include Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com. Advisory services offered through Concourse Financial Group Advisors, a division of Concourse Financial Group Securities, a Registered Investment Advisor. Securities offered through Concourse Financial Group Securities, a registered broker-dealer and member of FINRA and SIPC. Investments and other products are not NCUA or otherwise federally insured, may involve loss of principal, and have no credit union guarantee. Products and services offered through Everence Trust Company and other Everence entities are independent of and are not guaranteed or endorsed by Concourse Financial Group Securities, or its affiliates.
- ☞ **MCC Central States Annual Meeting** will take place virtually on Saturday, February 26 from 1-2:30 CST. Please email tinaschrag@mcc.org for a link to the Zoom meeting.
- ☞ **First Mennonite Church of Halstead, KS will be hosting their annual Verenike Supper Feb. 26 from 4-7 p.m.** This will be a drive-thru supper at the church. Verenike, ham gravy, sausage, a pickle, and a cookie will be served. The donation proceeds will benefit Safe Hope, New Hope Shelter, and the Kansas MCC Relief Sale. Safe Hope provides domestic and sexual violence advocacy services to Harvey and surrounding counties. New Hope Shelter serves homeless men, women, and children in Harvey and surrounding counties. They look forward to seeing you there! First Mennonite Church is located at 427 W 4th St, Halstead, KS 67056
- ☞ **The WDC Executive Board will host a zoom gathering on Thursday, March 10 at 7:00-8:30 pm for congregational delegates, pastors, and other congregational leaders, to share information and conversation to help prepare for the upcoming Special Session of Mennonite Church USA Assembly in May 2022.** Glen Guyton, Executive Director of MC USA,

will be present to engage with questions from participants, and Spanish/English interpretation will be provided. Register for the zoom forum by March 8 by completing this online registration form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesxcq5d9-o_xG65j-2d97ShewcHielQ9jD6fmLjmg07RJELw/viewform?usp=sf_link or contact WDC at wdc@mennowdc.org or 316-283-6300. The Zoom link for the gathering will be sent in advance. *NOTE: The Special Session of MC USA Delegate Assembly is May 27-30, 2022. Congregations are encouraged to appoint delegates as soon as possible. Registration for the assembly is open February 1 - May 16. For more information see <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate-session-22/>*

- ☞ **The WDC Israel-Palestine Task Force** is sponsoring a Zoom book discussion of Jonathan Kuttab's book, *Beyond the Two-State Solution*. This event will take place on Tuesday April 5, 2022 from 7-8 pm CT. The first 20 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. To register email wdc@mennowdc.org or call (316) 283-6300 and provide your name, mailing address, and email address. Specific questions about the event may be referred to Bob Atchison, 785-313-2292 or by e-mail to robertleeatchison@gmail.com. Below you will find a flyer with more information about the event.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **MDS currently has several opportunities to join our team in the U.S. and in Canada.** We have opportunities within our volunteer team, our communications team, field operations and support of our units and regions. One of our positions is the Communications Administrative Assistant which includes oversight of communications projects, working with churches, conferences and partners and media relations. **[Click here to see all of the employment opportunities.](#)**

Verse of the Week

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.”— Matthew 5:43-45 (NRSV)