



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

March 16, 2022

### From Pastor Tom

#### Have a Good Spring Break!

I don't often miss being in school; I've had enough schooling to last a lifetime (22 years, by my reckoning!). But when I do occasionally miss it, the first thing I miss is the academic calendar, with its generous offering of vacation days, including of course the 3-month summer break in between school years, but also those breaks that recur during the school year. One of those being spring break. Growing up, I don't remember that my family did much with spring break, particularly in the way of family vacations or family trips (maybe because my parents taught at the Mennonite seminary in Elkhart, IN, and they probably didn't get the same spring break we got in public school). Our family trips were generally reserved for the summer months. But I'm pretty sure my school friends and I took full advantage of a full week off of school! Bicycle riding, sleepovers, neighborhood football, basketball, and baseball games, cavorting at our two local shopping malls, treating ourselves at the local steakhouse, the works! In college, the proverbial "spring break road trip" became a bigger deal (although going to Bethel College in the very heart of America made going to the beach for spring break not very feasible). At the very least, it meant going home for a week, which is always extra special when you're in college. And occasionally it meant fun adventures with college friends (particularly memorable were trips to rural Kentucky one year, and rural Arkansas another). What memorable spring break trips have you taken with friends or family?

For those of us unlucky enough to still live according to the academic calendar, there is no such thing as "Spring Break"—even if we still have kids in school, we have to work, right? But that doesn't mean we can't still have a "spring break" of sorts. This morning, for example, I had coffee with Aleen Ratzlaff at the Starbucks on the Tabor campus, which is on spring break, and I enjoyed vicariously Aleen's sense of relaxation. Even the entire town of Hillsboro seems somehow quieter this week (which is undoubtedly due in part to the significant decrease in traffic on D Street right by our house). And this week we are hosting our Wichita kids' two large, loud dogs while they are on a Spring Break trip to Disney World, a daily reminder that something at least is very different this week! (And frankly, there are times each day when I ask myself, when is Spring Break going to be over??!!)

The point of all this being that there is something to be said for changes of routine brought on by Spring Break, even for those of us no longer blessed by the academic calendar! There is something to be said for changing things up every once in a while. Here at FMC even the fact that we don't have Wednesday evening activities due to official Spring Break feels like a break of sorts—a Wednesday evening in the middle of March that I can spend completely at home. Or maybe go out to eat. Or . . . ?

Even when we can't exactly call it "vacation," periodic changes in routine are good for the soul. Especially since it is coinciding with spring-like weather this week. So let me wish all of you a "good spring break!" Do something different. Take a long drive. Go out to eat. Watch a movie. Go for an evening walk (now that we've set our clocks forward, evenings are one hour longer!). If you need permission or justification, think of it as a Sabbath of sorts. Which—remember?!—God says we need on a fairly regular basis! ☺ See you all next Sunday! (Unless of course you're gone on Spring Break!)

## Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- ☞ **A Note from Aleen, MTL for Worship Committee:** The offering is an important aspect of our worship together.

**Psalm 96:8 –“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.”**

This Sunday, the offering plates will be again at the rear of the sanctuary. As the offertory plays, our gifts will be carried up and placed on the altar and dedicated to the Lord.

- ☞ **Glenn Goertz** has moved back to The Center at Waterfront (in Wichita) to receive some additional medical treatment and physical therapy. Daughter Dyan Thornton says he will probably remain there for another week or two. Cards may be sent to Glenn at: c/o Dyan Thornton; 10611 East Mosaic; Wichita, KS 67206
- ☞ On the recommendation of Care Committee and Ministries Council, DeVerne and Sue Buchholz will have her church membership transferred to FMC this coming Sunday as part of the worship service. **Welcome DeVerne and Sue!**
- ☞ **Doug Miller and Holly Swartzendruber** are en route from Kingman Arizona to North Newton, Kansas, helping Holly's parents, John and Gloria Swartzendruber, move into a duplex in Campus Woods. They plan to arrive tomorrow afternoon.

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **The Tabor College choir is coming to FMC!** Specifically, in two and a half weeks, on Sunday morning, April 3. Officially it will be the fifth Sunday of Lent, which we will still observe by using some of the components suggested in the denominational worship curriculum. But the bulk of the hour will be handed over to director Greg Zielke and his singers, to present us with a program of inspirational music composed for choir. Given our acoustically beautiful sanctuary, it promises to be a good morning to invite friends and family to join you!
- ☞ **Summer Camp and Retreat information** is up on the bulletin board in the hall for both Camp Mennoscah and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.
- ☞ **The Annual Marion County Storm Fury Presentation** is coming to The Shari Flaming Center for the Arts on Tabor College, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please see the attached document.
- ☞ **Tabor College Events:**
  - GRAMMY-nominated artist, **Jan Kraybill, organist** to perform March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

- **\*The Triumphant Quartet** – Friday, April 1 @7:00 pm. An evening of worship and gospel music! Call or go online to purchase tickets which range from \$15-30.

☞ **Bethel College Events:**

- Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College, Susan and David Harmon, “Painterly Aesthetics: An Expressive Duet,” through April 7
- Sun., March 20 – Bethel College’s Staley Lecture Series presents Karen González, 7 p.m.
- Spring musical, *Bright Star*, Fri.-Sun., March 25-27

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **A signup sheet for preparing Wednesday night meals is posted on the white board in the hall.** Please consider volunteering to prepare one of the only three meal slots open.
- ☞ The recording of the 3/10 WDC Zoom Forum in preparation for the Special Session of the MC USA Delegate Assembly is available to congregational leaders, pastors and delegates upon request. Please email the WDC office for the link, [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) Thanks!

### **Verse of the Week - Mark 12:30**

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”***