



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

March 30, 2022

## From Pastor Tom

### When in Our Music God is Glorified

This is the opening line of the hymn in *Voices Together* (#83) having the same title (it was also in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, #44). The hymn text goes on to assert the importance of music in Christian worship. Here is the first stanza:

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried "alleluia!"*

Music is a significant part of worship here at First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro. This is evidenced in no small way by the investment made in a fine pipe organ, which continues to be used at least two times a month (whenever Shirley Baltzer is accompanist - we are also blessed to have at least two substitute accompanists who are accomplished on the organ: Will Friesen, and Marcia Brubaker). And the church's piano is used quite often as well (our gifted pianists include Jenny Epp, Deanne Duerksen, and Debbie Ewert).

*How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,  
as worship moved us to a more profound "alleluia!"*

Perhaps even more important than the organ and piano (as important as they are) are the wonderful acoustics in our sanctuary. This too was a deliberate choice when the current church building was built. These live acoustics literally "invite" and welcome singing as a part of worship. Even a smaller congregation such as ours sounds full and vibrant when we sing!

*So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
born witness to the truth in every tongue, "alleluia!"*

If we ever have the invitation or opportunity to explain to a friend, relative, or neighbor what we believe, and what our understanding of the Christian faith is, a wonderful way to do that would be to hand them our hymnal. Our hymn texts are not just rich but bursting with theological meaning. Hymn texts are literally poems that express beautifully the greatness and majesty of God, the glorious gift of God's Son Jesus Christ, and the life of faith and faithfulness to which we are called.

*And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the Light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: "alleluia!"*

We are so fortunate and blessed to have the Tabor College Choir coming to present a musical program this upcoming Sunday morning, directed by Dr. Greg Zielke and accompanied by Jenny Epp! Their beautiful music and texts are sure to reverberate gloriously throughout our sanctuary, to bring glory to God, and to “move us all to a more profound ‘alleluia.’”

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!*

*And may God give us faith to sing always “alleluia!”*

Bring a friend, invite a neighbor, and we'll see you all this Sunday!

## Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- ☞ Ruth Ann Penner was discharged from Hillsboro Hospital and returned home this past Monday. She is doing much better, particularly in regard to the pain she was having in her knee.
- ☞ Julie Anderson had her periodic scans yesterday in Kansas City, and received the welcome news that her cancer continues to be “stable” (thanks be to God!). Which means in part that she can continue to receive her current chemo treatment. She goes back to KC tomorrow to receive the next treatment; Lloyd will be taking her.
- ☞ Glenn Goertz continues to receive rehabilitation at The Center at Waterfront in Wichita. He enjoyed a weekend visit with son John and a couple of his grandkids, and daughter Dyan comes to visit virtually every day after work. Cards may be sent to him % Dyan Thornton at 2948 N. Penstemon, Wichita, KS 67226.

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Invite your friends this Sunday** when Tabor College concert choir, chamber voices and instrumental music will complete their spring tour here at FMC at our 10:30 worship service with music on the theme of “**Faith, Hope and Love**...and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13)
- ☞ **54<sup>th</sup> Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale April 8 & 9** at Kansas state Fairgrounds, Hutchinson - “*May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and peace...*” *Romans 15:13a* Offering hope by joyfully giving. Prepare donations for the General, Kids’, Quilt or Silent auctions, bake goods, Kansas Crafts; Participate by volunteering-- hundreds of volunteers needed (visit sale website) & Plan to attend!
- ☞ **Everence® April webinar: Social Security and retirement income**  
Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income webinar on Tuesday, April 12, 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](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).

☞ **Tabor College:**

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

**Friday, April 22 – Switchgrass String Quartet** – From Mozart to Modern, 7:00 pm

☞ **Bethel college:**

**Sun., April 3 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program, John M. Janzen, “Drums or Organ: Contesting Musical Styles in African Christianity,” 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium.** This program is associated with the current special exhibit marking 125 years of Kauffman Museum, and Janzen will be talking about items included in the exhibit. ***Due to the impracticality of social distancing, face coverings will be required indoors regardless of vaccination status.***

**Sun., April 3 – Senior recital by Bethel College student Emma Beachy, piano, 4 p.m.,** Administration Building chapel.

**Tues., April 5 –Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble, featuring guest artist Aaron Linscheid, trumpet, 7 p.m.,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

**Thurs., April 7 – Closing reception for Susan and David Harmon and “Painterly Aesthetics: An Expressive Duet,” 6-8 p.m.,** Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.

**Sun., April 10 –Women’s Chorus concert, 4 p.m.,** Administration Building chapel (may be different from some previously printed calendars)

**Mon., April 11 – Bethel College presents *Suffering Church*, an original play by Karen Robu, D.Min.,** director of theater at Bethel and associate minister at Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, **7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. The play contains mature subject matter and is not intended for young audiences.** This performance is supported by the Greer Endowment at Bethel College.

**Weds., April 13 – Bethel College faculty jazz recital: Joel Boettger, saxophone, 7 p.m.,** with William Flynn, guitar, Steve Hatfield, drums, and Chris Shaw, upright bass; *Administration Building chapel*

## Other Announcements

☞ **Sign up for preparing the final Wednesday night meal of the season on the white board in the hall.**

☞ **Summer Camp and Retreat information** is up on the bulletin board in the hall for both Camp Mennoscah and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.

### ☞ **Cottonwood Complex Fire**

The Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) has been responding to the Cottonwood Complex Fire in Reno County Kansas. We have completed 17 jobs of clearing debris from homes that were a total loss in the fire and have 5 more sites we are working on. We will be concluding the clean up phase of the disaster response soon. Thanks to all of the volunteers who responded with equipment and labor in this project, Cleo Koop Kansas MDS Chair person.

☞ **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** is **celebrating 50 years of thrifting** with the anniversary of the opening of the first MCC Thrift shop in 1972. The MCC Thrift network provides financial support for the work of MCC around the world. To date, MCC Thrift shops have contributed over \$250 million in the last 50 years to help people in need.

To encourage people to develop eco-friendly practices and to celebrate this anniversary milestone, MCC Thrift is launching its “Thrifty 50 Challenge” on March 14, 2022. Participants will receive a weekly sustainability challenge in their inbox every week for 50 weeks, plus a chance to win weekly MCC Thrift gift cards. For more information about this challenge and to sign up, go to [thrifty50challenge.org](http://thrifty50challenge.org).

### **Verse of the Week:**

### **Psalm 136**

***“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.***