



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

April 13, 2022

From Pastor Tom

Holy Wednesday

In the *Revised Common Lectionary* (used by many, many congregations in the U.S. and Canada—including many Mennonite congregations), there is actually a separate entry for each day of Holy Week! Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday—each has its own set of Scripture texts, each of these drawing out unique themes. Here then are the texts and themes for today, Holy Wednesday.

Isaiah 50:4-9a. The prophet is here using the voice of the “Suffering Servant,” claiming his call despite the mistreatment he has faced. Many have seen in these words a premonition of the suffering Jesus would face, as well as the ultimate vindication granted him by God.

Psalms 70. The psalmist cries out a heart-felt plea for deliverance for his enemies, those “who desire to hurt me,” who even “seek my life.” The second to last line is ebullient with confidence and joy, proclaiming that “God is great!” But the final line returns to his opening honesty and directness: “You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!”

Hebrews 12:1-3. One of the most famous passages in Scripture, the writer reminds us we are all surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses,” those who have gone before us who now “cheer us on” in the “race” of a life of faith. And meanwhile, Jesus is “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

John 13:21-32. While sitting with his disciples in the Upper Room, Jesus predicts his betrayal, leading his disciples to wonder in anguish about whom Jesus was speaking. Jesus hands Judas a piece of bread he has dipped in a dish, Satan enters him, and he “immediately went out.” After which Jesus declares “Now the Son of Man has been glorified.”

May we ponder the gravity of these words, even as we find in them the hope and strength we all need to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Amen!

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- ☞ **Pray for our youth group!** They are beginning a **study of I John** for the coming 3 months of summer. They will each read on their own and gather once a month to share. You are all invited to pray more effectively by reading along with us! Contact the church office or nurture committee for a reading guide and/or the devotional book that we will be using.

Upcoming Events

- ☛ **Summer Food 4 Kids** is starting on May 31 at Trinity Mennonite Church at 211 South Elm. It will be in-person dining this year, feeding children who face food scarcity during the summer. We need your help to sit with kids at the table and take an interest in their lives. These kids need good male role models. So, men, if you have the noon-hour free, please sign up for one day during the week. You even get a good hot meal free! We need 5 people per day. Call Trinity at 620-947-3824 and reserve your day of the week.
- ☛ **Western District Women in Mission** invites all women to a virtual “Meet-up” on Tuesday, April 26th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita will share about their Knit4Peace project. Then Sarah Augustine will discuss her personal life journey and book she authored called *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* (Herald Press, 2021). Email westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com by Monday, April 25 and you will be sent the Zoom link.
- ☛ Save the Date - Saturday, April 30 there will be a **book sale** outside the WDC Offices in North Newton, KS with donations and old library books looking for new homes.
- ☛ **The McPherson Community Brass Choir** under the Direction of Jerry Toews will give a Sunday afternoon Concert in The Church of the Brethren, 201 N. Carrie, McPherson, KS on Apr. 24 at 4pm. FREE and FUN. Everyone is invited.
- ☛ **Tabor College:**
 - *Friday, April 22 – Switchgrass String Quartet – From Mozart to Modern, 7:00 pm
- ☛ **Bethel college:**
 - *Tues., April 19 – Orchestra concert under the direction of Kristopher Hilding, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall.
 - *Fri., April 22 - student Bryce Wilson, junior saxophone recital, 7 p.m., Ad Building chapel

Other Announcements

- ☛ **Planning to update the bulletin board with our family photos!** They will be arranged as -those in Hillsboro, -those scattered abroad, and -those “among the great cloud of witnesses”. If you have a newer photo of yourself or your family that you would like to use, please bring it by or email it.
- ☛ **Summer Camp and Retreat information** is up on the bulletin board in the hall for both Camp Mennoscah and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.
- ☛ **Main Street Ministries:** Looking for a way to help your community? Consider volunteering at Main Street Ministries! We have many ways you can help.
 1. Transportation
 - appointments
 - elementary school drop off and pick up
 - Walmart donation pick up
 - Church
 2. Child Care
 - Sundays (4:15pm-6pm)
 - Tuesday Bible Study (5pm-7pm)

-Friday Celebrate Recovery (4:15pm-6pm)

-Overnight while mom works (6pm-8am)

3. Maintenance

-light fixtures

-replacing ceiling tiles

-bathroom repairs

Please email volunteersm@gmail.com for more information or to offer assistance. The leadership at Main Street Ministries is working on putting together a list of willing volunteers for occasional help. Let them know if you would like to be a part of this ministry. Thank you!

☛ You are invited to write a **blog for MC USA!** Menno Snapshots are blogs from diverse voices across Mennonite Church USA. They are stories of peacemaking, finding God's presence and how to live out faith. Check out their website to join in! [Menno Snapshots page](#)

Verse of the Week:

Psalm 118:22/Luke 20:17

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone."