



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

May 11, 2022

From Pastor Tom

What are our strengths?

At Vision Council this month, our MTL (Ministry Team Leader) Nadine Friesen gave us some questions to think about ahead of time, and then share about in our meeting. Her questions were, 1) What are the strengths of FMC? 2) What are our weaknesses and needs? And 3) What are our opportunities? What are your thoughts and dreams about what you would like to see happen?

As I sat down to ponder these questions, it seemed as if the Holy Spirit gave me the answers! Here are some of the strengths the Holy Spirit revealed to me.

-Spacious, flexible facilities. There is so much we could and can do with our facilities. Host all kinds of groups, provide meals, invite people from the community to spend time in our sanctuary, to name just three!

-A core group of committed, humble people. We may be smaller than we were. But the people who continue to come are committed! To one another, to their faith, to the ministries of our church. The newly formulated Vision Council is just one example!

-Our desire to bear one another's burdens. One thing in particular we are committed to is caring for one another, both when life is good and when life is hard. The Sharing and Prayer time of the service is the time when people are most attentive! And then they (you!) reach out personally after the service (or during the week) to offer congratulations, condolences, and care.

-A visible, ideal location. Lots of people drive by our church each day—perhaps more than any other church in Hillsboro (save for maybe Grace, right on Highway 56). How can we be more visible, more inviting, more welcoming? Is it time to renew the discussion of purchasing a new, LED sign for the corner of Grand and Ash?

-A beautiful sanctuary, visually and aurally. I don't know if I've ever been in a more beautiful sanctuary! The vaulted ceiling lifts my eyes heavenward; the cross focuses my heart on Christ. And the music—glorious, praise-filled, worshipful. Everyone in our community should see our sanctuary, and experience a service of worship there.

-Our Anabaptist-Mennonite faith. We have an understanding of God's Kingdom that our community and the world needs to hear! I'm not saying it's the only one, or better than others. But it's one God has given us to share with the world.

-Friendliness. This was one of the strengths shared during our meeting by another member of the committee, but I agree wholeheartedly. We love to visit! Whether it's with people we already know, or those we have just

met! Whether it's in the sanctuary, the foyer, the fellowship hall, or the hallway. We are a genuinely friendly congregation—and believe me, that is rare!

What strengths would you like to add to this list? Let's hear from you! (Send them either to Pastor Tom or Sue.)

Thanks for Asking!

I was gone on Sunday (having a lovely visit with my sister in Florida!), but as I read Pastor Tom's sermon that I missed, I was struck by the fact that he asked some good questions again! What I've heard on Sunday, is often rather blurry in my memory by mid-week. I thought it might help us "set our minds on things above..." (Col. 3:2) if we keep ideas to be pondering as a church in front of us mid-week. Sue

- ☞ **What do you think is most important about this verse: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name"?**
John 20:31
- ☞ **What is the difference between what we believe and how we believe?**
- ☞ **What is the difference between believing what the Church tells us to believe, and believing what Jesus invites us to believe?**

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- ☞ Praying through our directory: continue to pray for those we focused on Sunday.
- ☞ Pray for our **teachers** as they finish the school year. May God fill them with His strength, wisdom and peace.

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Western District meeting here at FMC, on May 15 @ 12:30pm.** All are welcome to join in as we meet with Kathy Newfeld-Dunn and Heidi Regier-Kreider from the Western District office. This will be a time of listening and sharing regarding trust concerns voiced at the KIPCOR meeting last Fall. If you had not signed up earlier and wish to attend, please let Doug Bartel know. There will be a light lunch provided after the worship for those attending.
- ☞ **Tabor College:**
 - ***Spring Instrumental concert** at 7 pm this Saturday.
 - * **Summer Musical Theatre Camp** will be June 5 – 11 for students in grades 7 – 12. Check Tabor college website for more information.
- ☞ **Bethel college:**
 - ***Spring Choral Concert** this Saturday at 4 pm in Memorial Hall.
- ☞ The joint "**Sunday School Picnic**" we share each summer with Trinity Mennonite Church will be **August 14** (not the first Sunday of June, as it has often been in the past). The musical group "Hopeful Blues (from Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita) will provide the program. The worship will start at 10:30 in Trinity Mennonite's building, and a lunch together will follow outside if weather permits.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **June 25th** we are hosting two events and need **help with serving meals!** Please consider a dinner for the Hagan/Jantz family at 11:30 and the Ediger Memorial at 4:00 followed by supper at 5:00pm.. A sign-up sheet is up on the entrance white board! Please join in this important ministry to families who are grieving.
- ☞ Don't forget to **pick up your 2022 Directory** in you mail slot if you haven't done so already.
- ☞ **Creativity Camp!** Students completing grades 1 – 6 are invited to come and learn to paint, sew, and cook here at FMC on June 7, 9, 14, and 16 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Verse of the Week: **John 10:27**

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”