



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

June 29, 2022

From Pastor Tom

Hooray for Summer Camp!

Yesterday morning on my walk to work I passed a driveway where a boy was energetically hefting a suitcase into the back of a van, his mother watching with a smile on her face. “Are you going to summer camp?” I ventured. “Yeah!” replied the boy, his mom now beaming. “Have a great time!” I said. “I used to love summer camp when I was your age!” And did I ever! Beside the fact that my older brother had gone several times already (and I wanted to do everything he did), I had no qualms about being away from home for six days and couldn’t wait until I was old enough. Already my first summer, I decided that it was a “kid’s paradise,” and wrote as much to my mom and dad. First of all, you couldn’t beat the variety of activities: swimming and boating in southwest Michigan’s Lake Shavehead, making cool stuff in arts and crafts, lots of outdoor games, and a wiener roast over an open fire, activities literally piled on top of one another. Nightly campfires in Mosquito Hollow, encircled by kerosene torches, singing fun songs and listening to stories, was a great way to end each day. Being with a bunch of kids my own age was of course great. But I think what I liked best (although I may not have realized it until later) was that unlike the other students at my school, these kids were just like me! They were from General Conference Mennonite families in the Central District, and I think I somehow sensed the chemistry of that commonality and importance of that bond from the get-go.

Of course, being between fourth and fifth grade, and between seventh and eighth grade, is quite different in certain respects. I was by then hyper-aware of kids of the opposite gender (and boy were those girls from Berne, Indiana cute!). But the sense of adventure, independence, and community remained the same year after year. Inspired by the song leaders at campfire, I soon began learning to play the guitar back at home. Because of which, the summer after my junior year in high school I was actually hired to be on the summer staff, and all of a sudden, instead of having one week of summer camp, I had a whole summer! One amazing benefit was the development of leadership skills (I’ve been leading singing and other kinds of activities ever since), most notably and significantly in the areas of worship and biblical story-telling. I shouldn’t really be surprised that even after starting a career in teaching guitar, and earning a doctorate in classical guitar performance, I still ended up changing careers, first to the Christian camping ministry (as program director at the very same camp!), and then eventually to the pastoral ministry.

All of which is to say, summer camp is one of the best things Mennonites have going for us! Sure, not every kid will have such a uniformly great time away from home. But when it comes to nurture in the Christian faith throughout one’s childhood and adolescence, and into one’s adulthood, summer camp can’t be beat. Whether it’s on a lake in Michigan, in the mountains of Colorado, or in the plains of Kansas—whether it’s Camp Friedenswald, Camp Mennoscah, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, or any other—Christian camping is, to state

the obvious, not just well worth participating in, but well worth supporting. Everybody sing: “Kum by yah, my Lord, kum by yah!” 😊

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

☞ This week continue to pray through **our directory!**

☞ Pray for **those who have Covid.**

☞ Continue to pray for **the farmers.**

Upcoming Events

☞ **Time of Prayer:** Meet in the sanctuary on Wednesday, July 6th at 7:00pm for a time of meeting with God for praise, sharing our needs, and seeking direction.

☞ There will be a **fellowship meal** after worship on Sunday, July 10th. It is just to get together to eat and fellowship, no meeting or agenda.

☞ **Youth Group Meeting:** also, on July 10th after church. We will eat with the rest of “the family” and then gather to discuss our Bible study.

☞ **Service opportunity:** We are organizing rides for a member to come to worship on Sunday mornings. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please let the office know. Individuals are either pick up before worship or take home afterwards. Email your preference and if you have a particular date you would like to serve to secretary@fmchillsboro.com

Other Announcements

☞ **Five Favorite Hymns!** It is fun to see the variety and similarities of our favorite hymns posted on the wall in the foyer. It is not too late to get yours added to our Sunday worship plans as well. You can send an email or use the paper which is still available on the table for this also. Do include your name so we can know whose favorites they are! (There was one list started on Sunday, unfinished and unsigned. If that is yours, please let me know how to complete it)
Thanks!

☞ **Adult Sunday School Class:** Everyone is invited. Drop in on Sunday at 9:30am for a short video clip followed by discussion. No advance preparation necessary. The topic this week will be “God won't give you more than you can handle”, a “Half Truth” that the Bible doesn't say!

☞ **Celebrating Entrepreneurship: MEDA's Technolinks+ Project in Nicaragua.** Jorge Luis Gonzalez, coordinator of the project, will be joining us from Nicaragua on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:00pm at Dyck Arboretum in Hesston. Dinner will be provided at no cost, but donations will be accepted. RSVP by July 8 at <https://www.meda.org/events/>

Verse of the Week:

Psalm 100:3

“Know that the Lord is God.

It is He who made us, and we are His;

we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.”