



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

May 25, 2022

### From Pastor Tom

#### God of Pentecost

Sunday, June 5 is considered the Day of Pentecost in the Christian calendar, and it is one of my favorite holidays of the Church. (Since I won't be here to provide an opening piece for next week's e-newsletter, I thought I would write about Pentecost now.) It is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples, as told in Acts 2:1-13. And it is appropriately considered the final Sunday of the Easter season.

There is a wonderful hymn in *Voices Together* (and it was also in *Hymnal: a Worship Book*) called "Wind Who Makes All Winds" (VT 372). Here is the first verse:

*Wind who makes all winds that blow—gusts that bend the saplings low,  
Gales that heave the sea in waves, stirrings in the mind's deep caves—  
Aim your breath with steady power on your church, this day, this hour.  
Raise, renew the life we've lost, Spirit God of Pentecost*

We get a lot of wind in Kansas—and we sometimes get tired of it (at least I do). But the wind always makes me think about God. In Genesis 1:2 we are told that "a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." After which, God began creating the heavens and the earth. Both the Hebrew and Greek words for spirit also mean breath. Conveying that to talk about the Holy Spirit is to talk about God's breath, God's "wind."

*Fire who fuels all fires that burn—suns around which planets turn,  
Beacons marking reefs and shoals, shining truth to guide our souls—  
Come to us as once you came; burst in tongues of sacred flame!  
Light and Power, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length*

Like wind, fire is also one of the images used in the story of Pentecost as told in Acts 2. Fire is light. Fire is energy. And often in the Bible, fire purifies. We desperately need these three things, don't we? As individual believers and would-be followers of Christ, and as Christ's church.

*Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, move within our mortal frame.  
Make our hearts an altar pyre. Kindle them with your own fire.  
Breathe and blow upon that blaze till our lives, our deeds, and ways  
Speak that tongue which every land by your grace shall understand.*

Yes, Lord. Send us your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- ✚ **John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Thank Jesus for his amazing gift of peace.

## Upcoming Events

- ✚ **Baking Party** today at 1:30pm! Join Jan Amstutz in the church kitchen to bake cookies for the Food 4 Kids program at Trinity.
- ✚ **This coming Memorial Sunday, June 29**, we will have opportunity to light a candle in memory of a family member or friend who has passed away. We will also think together about the significance of remembering as a way to continue to love those who are no longer physically present with us.
- ✚ **Next Sunday – June 5<sup>th</sup>**: our Worship Committee has planned a special Pentecost Sunday where all are invited to share their personal Holy Spirit led choices of a meaningful scripture or song during our worship time together. If you prefer having someone else read your thoughts from the front for you, there are those who are willing to do that.
- ✚ **Carry-in Meal - June 5<sup>th</sup>** - Farewell for Doug Miller and Holly Swartzendruber! We will fellowship after worship with your delicious home cooking! Please bring whatever food you like. Drinks will be provided here. This Sunday we will have a card for all to sign and share messages of encouragement with Doug and Holly. It will be in the church office next week if that is more convenient for signing.
- ✚ **Creativity Camp!** We are excited to have 7 kids registered for our creativity camp on June 7, 9, 14, and 16. We could still use a bit of help just as support staff. Let Jan or Sue know if you are available.
- ✚ **June 25<sup>th</sup>** 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.
- ✚ **Sun., June 26—7:00 pm**—Come hear the story of how Mennonite Central Committee worker, Peter Dyck, moved 1,200 Ukrainian Mennonite refugees located in Berlin to a waiting ship in West Germany bound for Paraguay in 1947 (75 years ago). **The Berlin Exodus (also known as the Great Escape)** is the theme of an evening presentation at Trinity Mennonite Church (211 Elm Street, Hillsboro) led by Calvin Buller.

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- ☞ **2022 WDC Annual Assembly** - “United in Purpose, Together in Love” is our WDC Annual Assembly theme for our July 29-31, 2022 gathering at Camp Copass, Denton, TX. There will be time to pray, serve, discern the ministry of the church, and play together.
- ☞ 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 carry in lunch together will follow outside if weather permits.
- ☞ **Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> in Salina**, Tony’s Pizza Events Center, will host a concert with **Zach Williams** and special guest Ben Fuller. A Grammy award winner Zach Williams and his signature blend of southern rock, country and faith-filled songwriting are truly unlike anything else in Contemporary Christian music today. Call for tickets or information to Brenda, Box Office Manager 785-826-7200.

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Western District Conference** sent a formal notice of a proposed action to be brought to delegates at the Assembly in July to release Turpin (Oklahoma) Mennonite Church from membership in WDC. Pray for God’s blessing and guidance for both the Turpin Church and WDC as they seek a faithful way forward. The letter is posted on our “church life” bulletin board.
- ☞ **Mennonite Church USA (MC USA)**, in partnership with Anabaptist Disabilities Network, has launched “**Learn, Pray, Join: Welcoming EveryBODY,**” an initiative that celebrates the many gifts that people with disabilities bring to our church communities. In June, MC USA will seek to engage people in this initiative by offering resources, prayers and ways to care for one another and to address issues of accessibility in the church. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/welcoming-everybody>
- ☞ Bryan Miller from Beth-El Mennonite Church, Colorado Springs, Col., and RAWtools, Inc. are auctioning **Miller’s sculpture, “Never Forgets Peace,” to benefit Mennonite Church USA’s Justice Fund**. The sculpture is made from gun parts and is being auctioned from June 1-30, 2022, during Gun Violence Prevention Month. Learn more at [rawtools.org/rawshop](http://rawtools.org/rawshop)
- ☞ Mennonite Church USA invited members from across the denomination to share their **hopes, thoughts and spiritual reflections ahead of the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly** (May 27-30). Read through their blogs here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/tag/delegate-assembly/>

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**Verse of the Week: Romans 15:5-6**

***“May the god who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

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