



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

August 17, 2022

### From Pastor Tom

#### Here's to Normalcy!

School has started back up after the summer break, and everything is “back to normal.” Of course, one could question if that is a good thing. I imagine most students and many teachers were not quite ready to give up their summer vacation. Whether you're a student or a teacher, school means work! Homework, lesson plans, fixed schedules (including early—or earlier—mornings) aren't necessarily fun. But, whether you're a student or a teacher, they are a fact of life. They are part of what we do, in this stage of our lives. In the same way, I wasn't necessarily ready to leave the cooler temperatures of Colorado for the heat of Hillsboro, Kansas, nor the unstructured schedule of our vacation for the structure of my job as pastor. But I was ready for routine. My responsibilities and commitments are facts of my life right now. They are part of what gives my life meaning. They are my “normal.”

Which is not to say that life is all sunshine and flowers—we know full well it never is. Life is sometimes hard work. It always requires something of us. And it offers no promises. But life is nevertheless a gift—a gift given us by our Creator God. A gift to be savored rather than squandered, with its ups as well as its downs, with full awareness of and attentiveness to God's presence in our lives.

What is your “normal?” What are your ups and downs? What rhythms and routines give your life meaning?

May we know God's nearness throughout every one of them!

#### Verse of the Week:

John 7: 37 - 38 (NRSV)

Jesus said,

***“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,  
and let the one who believes in me drink.***

***As the scripture has said,***

***‘Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”***

## Among Our Friends and in Our Prayers

- ✿ Continue praying through the directory.
- ✿ Let us pray for all **teachers and students** as they return to school, that God will grant them the energy and enthusiasm they need, each and every day. Let us pray especially for the teachers in FMC.
- ✿ Remember those in the hospital and in treatment.

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ **ATTENTION WOMEN: this Saturday** we will have breakfast and sharing together at 9:00 a.m. at Waters Edge – Hesston.
- ✿ **Sunday's Offering:** Come prepared to give to Mennonite Church USA this Sunday for our special offering for the month.
- ✿ **Sunday School is back this week.** *The Lord's Prayer* study led by Nadine will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel. Come fellowship and learn with us!
- ✿ **Youth meeting:** This Sunday after church youth will stay for lunch and final discussion of our study of I John. We will also make homemade ice cream as an outreach activity and discuss plans for the coming year.
- ✿ **Arts & Crafts Fair Opportunity!** FMC will use our building for ministry on September 17<sup>th</sup>, offering a place of physical and spiritual rest. The sanctuary will be open for silent meditation and prayer, restrooms available for a donation, and à la carte items for sale for a taste of the Mennonite heritage of Hillsboro - verenika, sausage and cherry moos. Please pray for this ministry and let Doug or Sue know you would like to participate. A sign-up sheet is also up on the white board. THANKS!
- ✿ **Exaudio: Listen and Live – Tabor College.** Monday, September 12, 2022. The theme for the lectures this year is: **Health for Human Flourishing** by Cynthia Toms, PH.D, Professor of Global Studies and Kinesiology at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California. *"Faith and the Global Food System: Eating as an Act of Worship"* at 10:00 a.m. and *"Health for the Nations"* at 7:00 p.m. Both will be at the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts in Richert Auditorium.
- ✿ **Summer Food 4 Kids is now over** and it is time to thank all of you for your help. Thanks to the men who sat at tables. Your conversations with the children

were priceless! Thanks to the women who helped prepare the food and served the children. Thanks to everyone who baked an ample supply of cookies. Thanks to all who sent in money to keep this program going. With your help we served 2,196 meals! Thanks so much. --Norma Duerksen, Coordinator

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Vision Council** met last night and reviewed the priorities for Pastor Tom's second Term here at FMC. The document will be presented to the ministry council at their next meeting.
- ☞ **We appreciate your favorite hymns!** It is great to continue to receive these. There is no deadline so you can continue to share with one another. Paper and pen are on a foyer table or call in the office and let us know!
- ☞ **Western District Women in Mission** Retreat Committee is putting together the annual **Women and Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah** on September 10 & 11, and all women are invited to attend! The theme is: Women's Voices. Girls in Grade 5 and up are also invited to come, although there will not be any separate programming for them. Help yourself to a brochure and registration form on the hall white board.
- ☞ **Life Enrichment returns to Bethel College with the start of the fall semester** – but it will be ***on a different day***. Life Enrichment resumes ***Thursday***, Aug. 25, and will be on Thursdays thereafter. Place and time remain the same: Krehbiel Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.  
See <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/convocation-lectures/life-enrichment> for more information. Brochures are on the bulletin board in the hallway.
- ☞ **Anabaptist Disabilities Network**, a ministry partner of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), has created a study guide to help congregations understand and implement ideas from the recently passed "Mennonite Church USA Accessibility Resolution." It includes study materials, reflection questions and information for instructional use intended for use over four weeks. Learn more here: <https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/Resources/Pages/Accessibility-Resolution-Study-Guide.aspx> The study guide has an interesting article called "Stop Trying to 'Heal' Me" by Damon Rose (BBC, April 28, 2019). Check it out! It will stretch your thinking!
- ☞ Be sure to check out the highlights of last month's **Mennonite World Conference 2022 Assembly in Indonesia** on this highlight video: <https://mwc-cmm.org/resources/mwc-indonesia-2022-highlight-video> Other recap videos are also available at this link.