



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

August 3, 2022

From Pastor Tom

Hot Dog Days of Summer

It's hot! Again (after a wonderful reprieve last week)!! And this time seems somehow hotter!!! Probably the humidity. Or it may simply be that we're smack dab in the middle of the "dog days of summer," defined by Webster as: 1—the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere." And check out definition #2—"a period of stagnation and inactivity"(!). Yep.

I learned something new today. The expression "dog days of summer" comes from the ancient belief that the star named Sirius—known as the "dog star," partly because it's in the constellation Canis Major (or "Greater Dog"), and also the closest to us and therefore the biggest, and is in the southern, daytime sky during the summer (even though we can't see it)—is partly responsible for the extra high daytime temps this time of year, due to its size. Who knew?

All I know is that, for better and for worse, summer is almost over. Our teachers are trying hard not to think about going back to school. (Except in Wichita, where they're already back in school. At least some of them, including my daughter Madeline.) I imagine the same goes for all of our school-aged children. The "Slushy Joint" (or whatever it's called; we've never been there; I know—horrible!) is going great guns, as is the city pool. (And am I imagining things, or are they building a splash pad at the corner of A and Washington? Might be a little late for this year.) Long story short, these next days are our final opportunity to enjoy summer activities, like slushies and swimming (and I was going to include having a hot-dog roast in your back year, but somehow that just doesn't seem like fun in the midst of these "hot, dog days").

For Lois' and my last gasp effort at summer vacation, we're heading to 10,000 ft in the Colorado Rockies (or more specifically, to the Sky-Hi View cabin up at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp). So while all of you in Hillsboro are suffering through more triple-digit days, we'll be enjoying highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s. Hot dog! ☺

May all of you nevertheless find ways to enjoy your final days of summer, before the dreaded "fall routine" returns. Oh well. At least it means we can look forward to cooler temps. Eventually!

Among Our Friends and in Our Prayers

- ✿ Continue praying through the directory this week.
- ✿ Reports from our members living at Parkside Homes are all doing very well.
- ✿ Pray for safe travel for those on vacations.

Upcoming Events

- ✿ **August 12 and 13th - PEPPERNUT Baking!** Don't miss out on being a part of our wonderful tradition of making peppernuts. Our goal this year is to just make 10 batches on each of two days. Doug Bartel and Sue Buchholz are heading this up. Please be sure that you signed the survey sheet in the foyer to let us know we can count on you. Just find your name and mark the days, times and jobs that you would be willing to do. We will then plan a schedule and let you know what we need.
- ✿ We are invited to join **Trinity Mennonite Church for Sunday morning worship and a carry-in meal on August 14** at 10:30 am. (the service has been moved inside due to the expected hot temperatures). "Hopeful Blues" will be providing the musical program for the morning. They are a musical group from Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita. Please **bring food to share and lawn chairs**. Join us as we celebrate the end of summer as school starts that week.
- ✿ **ATTENTION WOMEN!** All are invited to a time of sharing and breakfast together, Saturday, August 20 - 9:00 a.m. at Waters Edge – Hesston. Meet at 8:15 at the church to share rides. Please sign up on bulletin board or contact Judy Jantz by August 15 so we know how much room to reserve.
- ✿ **Arts & Crafts Fair Opportunity!** FMC will make our building available for ministry on September 17th, offering a place of physical and spiritual rest. The sanctuary will be open for silent meditation and prayer, restrooms available for a donation, and á la carte items for sale for a taste of the Mennonite heritage of Hillsboro - venenika, sausage and cherry moos, Please pray for this ministry and let Doug or Sue know if you would like to participate. THANKS!

- ☞ **Bethel College Life Enrichment program** sent out information for Fall semester which begins August 25 and ends November 17. Look for the bright pink brochures on the “Bethel” bulletin board.

Other Announcements

- ☞ If a **pastoral care need** occur and you are unable to reach our Pastor, remember that you can contact your assigned “Careperson.”
- ☞ **Favorite hymns!** Yes, we are still hoping you will share with one another. Jot your favorites down or call in the office and let us know! (Paper and pen on the foyer table).
- ☞ **The Lord’s Prayer in Slow Motion** study in the adult Sunday School class (9:30 a.m. in the chapel) will be postponed this Sunday. Participants are instead invited to come and share their experiences with prayer. No Sunday School the following week due to the outdoor worship and picnic with Trinity. The Lord’s Prayer class will resume the following week.
- ☞ **From the Mennonite Disaster Service monthly newsletter:**
This month we'll try something different. MDS has a history of nearly 73 years of responding to disasters. How well do you know MDS?

True or false...

1. MDS was a part of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).
2. MDS responds to disasters all around the world.
3. MDS is first on the scene as an early response agency.
4. All MDS work is coordinated out of Lititz, Pennsylvania.
5. MDS does not receive government grants for staff salaries.
6. MDS responds only to floods, fires, tornados, earthquakes, and hurricane disasters.
7. MDS is only for men, except for cooks.
8. Leadership volunteers are required to stay for a minimum of one year.
9. About half of MDS volunteers are 35 or younger..
10. All MDS projects close down during hot weather so there is no need for volunteers during the summer.
11. Our support cost in the last five years has averaged under 20%.

Answers

1. True. However, in 1993 MDS was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the U.S. and amiably separated from MCC. Now on its own, MDS relies on some 4,000 volunteers from Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches to annually carry out its ministry.

- 2. False.** MDS takes the lead in responding to disasters in Canada, US, Puerto Rico, and the protectorate states and territories i.e. Micronesia, etc.
- 3. False.** MDS is primarily a long-term response agency that repairs and rebuilds houses by providing free construction labor. It is true that MDS workers often arrive on the scene soon after the disaster to assess and clean up. MDS does chainsaw work and covers roofs to prevent secondary damage—but we are there for the long haul.
- 4. False.** We are based on a grassroots structure of nearly 50 units and four regions throughout Canada and the U.S. Work in Canada is coordinated by MDS Canada, which is separately incorporated in that country.
- 5. True.** Our primary support comes from donations from our constituency to support staff, fund travel, provide stipends for long-term volunteers, and keep our vehicles, tool trailers, and RVs in safe condition.
- 6. False.** MDS has also responded to drought-stricken farmers in both Canada and the U.S., the 9/11 terrorist attack, and the African-American church fires in the U.S., and COVID-19 to name a few “nontraditional” disasters.
- 7. False.** Women are not only found in the office and kitchen, but serve as project directors, crew leaders, construction workers and crisis support workers.
- 8. False.** Many leadership volunteers stay for as little as four weeks.
- 9. True.** On average, over the last five years, 49% of our volunteers are 35 or younger. 20% are 66 and older.
- 10. False.** At the time of this writing there are nearly a dozen locations with volunteer responses.
- 11. True.** If we were to add the value of volunteer labor to our balance sheet, support cost would average 8%.

Verse of the Week: 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NRSV)

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test!”

(keep pondering - last week this was in the NIV translation)