



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

August 24, 2022

### From Pastor Tom

#### What's for Breakfast?

Breakfast is my favorite meal to eat out. I'm not entirely sure why. Breakfast hardly boasts the same variety of options as lunch or supper do. You've basically got eggs, and you've got pancakes, right? But somehow those eggs and/or pancakes taste better at a restaurant (and the "greasier" that restaurant is, the better!). And of course, the coffee! Having my cup kept perpetually full and hot—I'll have mine with half-and-half, please!

But it's as much about the company and conversation as it is about the food. This morning Norma Duerksen and I went out for breakfast, as we try to do at least every couple of months. We have often gone to the Main Street Café in Durham, but today we tried a new place: the "Family Restaurant" in Canton, right on 56. I ordered, you guessed it, eggs and pancakes, which included two strips of extra greasy bacon. It and the coffee were quite good! But the conversation was at least as warming and nurturing as the food. As you might imagine, Norma and I always have a lot to talk about. (And that's beside the fact that we overlapped as students at Bethel College.) We talk about our mutual vocation as pastors. We talk about our churches and congregations. We talk about Hillsboro. We talk about Western District Conference and Mennonite Church USA. And, of course, we talk about what's going on in our personal lives (which always includes all of the above.)

Trinity and First have so much in common. Not the least of which is our particular and unique Anabaptist faith tradition, the former General Conference and current MC-USA. That shared identity matters a lot, in a town that is predominantly Mennonite Brethren. We care about many of the same things. (Including both peace and peppernuts!) We also share some of the same struggles, including especially shrinking numbers. And to think we both used to be such large, vibrant churches!

Today, thanks be to God, we are both small, vibrant churches, albeit ones with different short-term trajectories. Trinity has sold its beautiful building to a local foundation that plans to use it as a child-care facility. We at First are in the midst of discerning how best to use our beautiful building. And in the meantime, both of our congregations love

to come together, to eat together, to travel their faith journeys together. Both are “family.”

For years already, Norma and I have been brainstorming together about what it might mean, what it might look like, for Trinity and First to come together, as one congregation rather than two. (For the record, we both think it would be great! But we’re not naïve about the challenges, difficulties, and hurdles involved.) And after today’s breakfast, we both want to encourage members of our congregations to do some of your own Holy Spirit-led brainstorming. If you go to the Family Restaurant, I definitely recommend the pancakes, with their caramel syrup. The scrambled eggs were great too!

**Verse of the Week:** Hebrews 13:6 (NRSV)

***“So we can say with confidence,  
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?”***

## **Among Our Friends and in Our Prayers**

- ☞ Continue praying through the directory this week.
- ☞ Let us continue to 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.

## **Upcoming Events**

- ☞ **Breakfast This Sunday!!!** The Sunday school class decided to meet at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship before class discussion continues on *The Lord’s Prayer*. Breakfast will include toasted English muffins, scrambled eggs and fruit along with coffee and tea. Bring your appetite and come fellowship and learn with us!
- ☞ **Consider your Arts & Crafts Fair involvement!** What area of ministry do you most enjoy? Selling peppernuts at a booth table, serving food, greeting people and making them feel welcome, calculating costs and taking money, praying and being available to pray with others that might inquire, replenishing supplies, pouring drinks, wiping tables, directing cars for parking, setting up or cleaning up, or something else you can think of? A sign-up sheet is in the hall and will be in the foyer Sunday to let us know if you available.

☞ **State Fair shuttle drivers** are needed for September 9<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Doug Bartel if you are interested and willing.

☞ **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.

## Other Announcements

☞ **Vision Council’s Invitation to all:**

*Now that Pastor Tom is back from his week of vacation in Colorado, he is looking ahead to the final weeks of summer and the coming months of fall. What are some topics you would like to hear a sermon about? How about faith questions? Please feel free to contact the FMC office with your ideas and suggestions.*

☞ **Have you been humming a hymn this week?** Pastor Tom would love to know what these are so they can be incorporated in our worship together. Even if you lack time to thoroughly ponder your top 5, any top favorites are welcome! We want everyone to feel included in Paper and pen are on a foyer table or call in the office and let us know!

☞ **MCC School Kits:** Ruth Ann Penner has sewn some more school kits! Bring supplies to fill them! The container for them is in the foyer.

### **Contents (NEW items only)**

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. **All metal** sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com). or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners** please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.

☞ **Women’s ministry:** Last Saturday, 12 women had a lovely time of fellowship at Water’s Edge in Hesston for breakfast. We even got to “pass Deanne Duerksen

around the table” to each chat on the iPad with her! Keep watching as more events together are being planned.

- ☞ **Youth news:** Ask our youth about homemade fresh mint ice cream. It was delicious!
  
- ☞ **Women and Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah**, September 10 & 11. The theme is: Women’s Voices. Girls in Grade 5 and up are also invited to join the women. Help yourself to a brochure and registration form on the hall white board.
  
- ☞ **Tomorrow Life Enrichment returns to Bethel College with the start of the fall semester** Aug. 25, 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 church hallway.
  
- ☞ The Appalachian communities received a foot of rain in less than 10 hours, resulting in floods that killed at least 37 people. The **Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)** Early Response Teams arrived in eastern Kentucky on Aug. 15, ready to muck out homes and clear debris in flood-ravaged communities. “In these deeply impoverished nooks and crannies, hardly anyone has flood insurance,” said Kevin King. “And hardly anyone has a choice about where to go, other than back into the same deluged mobile home once it’s mucked out. The Executive Director sent out the following message: “As we roll out our response to flood survivors in Kentucky, I want to express my deep gratitude for volunteers and donors who are making this possible. I also want to assure you that we are at the table thinking creatively about how to respond in ways that leave the people of Kentucky more disaster resilient than ever before.