



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

August 31, 2022

### From Pastor Tom

#### All Who Labor

Who knew that there is an entry in the thematic index at the back of our hymnal for “Labor Day?” Actually, nothing is listed! It simply directs the seeker to “see: Work.” At which place one indeed finds no fewer than eight hymns and six worship resources that mention or honor human labors, as well as the further suggestion to “see also: Rest; Vocation”; and the subheading “Vocation, Work, and Rest” in the section called “Sharing our Stories,” #s 526-535).

One of the hymns listed is “For those with Whom Our Lives Are Bound” (VT 734), and at that page, immediately below the hymn title, one finds that the tune title is: ALL WHO LABOR. Which of course would be all of us! ☺ The song is a lovely, musical, heartfelt prayer for one another in the community, including “all who grieve and all who fear . . . all who wait as death draws near” (verse 2); “all who search for righteousness . . . and live the faith that they confess” (verse 3); and “all who labor without end . . . for all who lonely seek a friend” (verse 4). Thus, we are reminded that labor—like grief, fear, death, righteous living, and human loneliness—is a fact of the life God has granted us. Thus, we learn that our work and labor is one of the holy parts of our lives, and worthy to be lifted up in worship and in prayer.

Another hymn it titled “God, Bless the Work Your People Do” (VT 528). It too is a prayer, asking for God’s blessing. Here is Verse 1:

*God, bless the work your people do throughout each working day,  
The contributions that they make, the talents they display.  
God, bless the work your people do, with minds and hands and hearts,  
To benefit the common good, the sciences and arts.*

Other verses pray for “those who have no respite . . . from labor without ease”; “those for whom their work is filled with danger or disease”; “those who cannot work, or seek for work in vain . . . the underpaid, underemployed, who fill a vital role.” And then the hymn concludes with the following verse:

*As you achieved creation's work, then rested from your task,  
God, bless the work your people do, and call it good, we ask!  
Grant unto each a day designed for worship, joy, and rest;  
A Sabbath time of holiness, in which they may be blessed.*

Finally, one of the worship resources in the back of the hymnal (VT 956) is called "Prayer for Work," and it deserves to be quoted in full:

*God of work and rest,  
you have linked our lives one with another;  
all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives.  
Guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone,  
but for the common good,  
And as we seek a proper return for our own labor,  
make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers,  
and arouse our concern for all who are out of work;  
Through Jesus Christ, carpenter, teacher, healer, beloved child of God.  
Amen.*

May we all have a good and restful Labor Day!

**Verse of the Week:** Hebrews 13:1 (TNIV)

***"Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters."***

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

- ☞ Continue praying through the directory this week.
- ☞ Those who went and sang hymns outside a sister's door on Sunday evening had a sweet time of worship with her.
- ☞ Pray for God's strength, wisdom, peace and hope for those going through difficulties.
- ☞ Pray for **all those preparing for the Arts and Crafts Fair**, and that the event will be a success for the community of Hillsboro, and our part at FMC will bring glory to God.

## **Upcoming Events**

- ☞ **No Sunday School this week only:** Taking a break with the Labor Day holiday.

☞ **Consider your Arts & Crafts Fair involvement!** Thank you to the many who have willingly joined in on this ministry. There are still a few slots available for participation. A sign-up sheet is in the hall and will be in the foyer Sunday to let us know where you would like to plug in.

☞ **New Class Begins September 11! Simply Enough:** straight talk from Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne on **Simple, Just Living**. Features a conversation between Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne, plus pertinent songs on prophetic themes of peace, justice and simplicity. Six sessions on these topics: Lifestyle, Food, Celebrations, Stuff, Money, Justice. Adults gather in the chapel at 9:30.

☞ **Next Week:**

- Tuesday, September 6: **Vision Council** – 7pm
- Thursday, September 8: **Ministry Council** – 7pm

☞ **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:**

*Welcoming your input! 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.*

☞ **You are a valuable part of FMC!** In fact, we are nothing without you, because the church is people. As we seek to know God and worship Him together, Pastor Tom desires to know how to make our worship meaningful for all. With this in mind, we are still collecting your favorite hymns. In fact, we welcome your sharing in whatever way it makes sense to you- whether it is the “top five”, the first couple that come to mind, or something else. (Please don’t send your top 100. That would be a bit much!) Thank you! We love you brothers and sisters! Paper still in the foyer or email the office.

☞ **MCC School Kits:** Still collecting items in the container in our 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 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.