



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

September 21, 2022

Summary from the Secretary

Arts & Crafts Fair 2022

When the call came from a fair board member with an invitation to serve the ethnic German food that so many associate with Hillsboro, Doug Bartel and I felt like this was a ministry we should embrace. Now that it's over, we have seen God faithfully provide for us in many ways.

- Many willing people stepped forward to help.
- Joyful fellowship in the kitchen making peppernuts!
- Top notch cooks baking sausage and making cherry moos!
- Youth and adults working together to paint signs for the event.
- Cars welcomed filling our parking lot full with the added fun of a special four-legged friend. (thanks for bringing Wyatt, Neil!)
- Verenika & gravy arriving in hot boxes all ready to serve! (Thank you, Breadbasket, for making this doable for us!)
- Each one doing their part, made things go very smoothly. (The Body of Christ in action!)
- Continuous prayer in the sanctuary from 10 – 1.
- Lots of positive comments and appreciation for the yummy peppernuts and food we had!
- All extended a welcome and shared their positive care for each person who came.
- Selling out of peppernuts, verenika and cherry moos with only 4 pounds of sausage left over by the end of the day.
- Totally cleaned up and out of the building by 2:30pm 😊

We can now pray that the seeds of love that were sown will grow! Glory to God!

Blessings!

Sue

Verse of the Week:

I John 4: 20-21 (NRSV)

“Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

Among Our Friends and in Our Prayers

- ✚ Continue praying through the directory:
- ✚ **Several have tested positive for Covid.** Please pray for their health as well as the need to now rearrange schedules!
- ✚ **We mourn with the families who have lost loved ones.**
- ✚ **Continue prayer for those having cancer treatment.**
- ✚ Remember **Hope Mennonite Church** as they grieve the loss of their pastor and search for God's guidance for their future.
- ✚ Remember **Trinity Mennonite Church** as they take their journey toward closure.

Upcoming Events

- ✚ Sunday School – 9:30 am adult class continues on **Simple, Just Living**. Our topic this week will be on celebrations.
- ✚ **World Communion Sunday** celebration coming on October 2nd. Plan to join in!
- ✚ **Theater Presentation** – We are one of the sponsors for the presentation of “Home,” Wednesday, November 2, 10 am, Shari Flaming Center for the Arts, Tabor College, 400 S Jefferson St, Hillsboro, KS 67063. Theatre artists Ted Swartz & Michelle Milne weave biblical story and personal stories in a unique blend of humor and insight. They will explore the lasting, relevant power of story, both ancient and current, around themes of justice, belonging and home.
- ✚ **Invitation to Join Anabaptist Bible Project** - Work has officially begun on the first-ever Anabaptist Bible. During August 26–28, a group of 45 “Bible ambassadors,” diverse people from various Anabaptist communities, met at the Casa Iskali retreat center in Des Plaines, Illinois, to kick off the historic project. Five hundred Bible study groups are invited to participate in the project and to consider what other components might be included in the Bible. Study groups in Anabaptist faith communities will be assigned portions of scripture and asked to share their insights with the project. Shall we form a Bible Study group and register?
- ✚ Registration is now open for Bethel College's **Worship and the Arts Symposium**, Saturday, Nov. 12, on campus. This event features resource people Bradley Kauffman, Rachel Epp Buller, Katie Graber, SaeJin Lee, Cynthia Neufeld Smith, Adam Tice and Isaac Villegas.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **I hope this newsletter finds you still singing!** Don't forget to share your favorites with your church family if you haven't done that yet.
- ☞ **Ministries council** approved the Vision Council's Priority Plan for Pastor Tom's second term based on the results and feedback from the pastoral review in spring of 2021. Copies are in your mailboxes now.
- ☞ **WDC budget information** for 2023 as well as a congregational giving chart for the past three years has been shared and is posted on the bulletin board across from the office. **Here is an excerpt from the letter:**
We hope your congregation is utilizing the many benefits of being part of WDC: • WDC Resource Library's large collection of resources for Bible study, spiritual growth, theology, current issues and faith formation for all ages • Resources for safe-church policies, healthy communication and congregational discernment processes. • Credentialing for ministers, with grants for continuing education and sabbaticals, pastor peer groups, healthy boundary training, and assistance with pastoral transitions and reviews • Partnerships that revitalize congregational witness through supporting a new church plant or working for justice and peace. • Opportunities to grow in faith and love by building relationships with other congregations in diverse contexts. • ...And much more! See news and announcements from WDC at <https://mennowdc.org/>
- ☞ The fall 2022 issue of *Intersections: MCC Theory and Practice Quarterly* is available now on-line [here](#) and [here](#). Compiled by Paul Shetler Fast, the issue is centered on the theme of "Community-led maternal and child health care groups in Africa." MCC staff and partner representatives write about their experiences with using the care groups model to improve maternal and child health outcomes, with articles examining projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Somaliland, Burundi, and Nigeria.
- ☞ **First Mennonite Church of McPherson, KS** is celebrating 75 years of church life on Sunday morning, September 25, at 9:30 at the church. From building a church by 38 charter members in 1945 and after a fire building another in 1963, God has been leading these people. These Mennonites are known for helping others through mission projects like school kits, building an Oak Harbor Cottage for homeless, establishing the ReUse It Center, and more.
- ☞ **Hog Roast Fundraiser** - Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS invites you to their 6th Annual Community Hog Roast on Sunday, September 25 at the church, 10218 SE 12th St, Whitewater. Free will donations will be accepted for area food banks. Food will be served from 5-7pm and there will be entertainment until 8pm. Contact Pastor Weldon Martens with questions at 402-202-9276.
- ☞ **The Gospel Echoes Teams** will be holding their annual prison ministry banquet on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, at 6:30 pm at the Journey @Yoder Activity Center, one mile North of Yoder at 3605 E. Long View Rd, Haven, KS. The evening will include a Home-

style Dinner, Music, and a Prison ministry presentation. For tickets contact: Dale & Miriam Lehman at 620-694-9823. (poster on the bulletin board)

☞ **Debbie Oelke**, mom to one of our creativity camp participants sent an email about her nonfiction book which just came out on Amazon. She wrote, "You may or may not know that I now use a wheelchair due to a disability from multiple sclerosis. Because of this four-year progression into disability, I have written a memoir chronicling the experience, including many lessons the Lord has taught me." Debbie will be at the Arts & Crafts Fair with her book or it is now available at the link below, paperback or kindle, if you are interested. [Still Standing: Hope Beyond Disability: Oelke, Debbie: 9798986367606: Amazon.com: Books](#)

☞ **Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War**, a traveling exhibit developed and toured by Kauffman Museum at Bethel College, is on display at the McPherson Museum and Arts Foundation, 111 E. Kansas Ave, McPherson, through November 19. This exhibit lifts up the prophetic insights and the personal courage of peace protesters during World War I and suggests parallels to the culture of war and violence in our world today. Church groups, Sunday school classes, youth and their mentors are encouraged to visit the exhibit for conversation and learning together.