



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

October 5, 2022

From the Pastor

“The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.” (Psalm 90:10, NRSV)

It’s My Party and I’ll Cry if I Want To!

Yep. That song title dates me. (Although to be accurate, I was already six years old when this song came out. Not that I remember it.) Granted, I’ve had big birthdays before. Thirty was big (we were living in Arizona at the time, and Lois planned a surprise birthday party at a restaurant). Fifty was big (we were in Wichita; Lois planned a surprise birthday party at the parsonage; I have a picture in my office of my mom smiling at me, wearing a homemade birthday hat and holding a piece of cake). Sixty was apparently so big I don’t even remember it (although I do remember I was still in Wichita). And sixty-four was big (I sang a duet with Paul McCartney on his song “When I’m Sixty-Four”).

But I admit it—sixty-five is really big! I don’t want to be sixty-five! I don’t want to be eligible for Medicare. I don’t want to retire and have nothing to do but feed my goldfish. Can’t I just keep on being sixty-four?

But God says no. “To everything—turn, turn, turn—there is a season—turn, turn, turn,” God is singing (and that’s before He and She sing “Happy Birthday”).

Oh well. And if Holy Scripture is any gauge, God isn’t done with me yet. Think of all those duffers who made it to well above sixty-five. Noah . . . Moses . . . Abraham . . . Moses (did I say him yet?).

So as they say, it beats the alternative. I am now eligible for the 15% discount at Dale’s on Wednesdays. And probably lots of discounts I don’t even know about yet.

Tom

Verse of the Week:

James 1:21 (The Message)

“In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- ☞ Praying through our directory, lift to the Lord:
- ☞ **Praise God** from whom all blessings flow!
- ☞ **Thank God for Tom today on his birthday!** May God bless his leadership with us and show us how to be supportive.
- ☞ **WDC Request:** Pray for God’s wisdom and strength for WDC staff members as they work to sustain ministry leaders, resource congregations and nurture church-planting partnerships.

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **This coming Sunday:** Our offering will go to MCC Meat Canning. There is also a **sign up sheet** on the hall whiteboard for helping at the event on **Oct. 27**. (I just learned that it isn’t just for men – there are jobs for everyone!)
- ☞ **“Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat”** will be October 26. Bring pantry items to help our local food bank at Main Street Ministries to the fellowship hall between now and then. Help our youth group efforts! (You are invited to walk the streets on that evening with us too!)

☞ Women’s Event:



November 5 – 9:00am – 3:30pm at FMC

“Joy is More Than a Detergent” - led by Nadine Friesen

- Fun
- Fellowship
- Inspiration

- ☞ Hoffnungssau Mennonite Church, 43 13th Avenue, Inman, will hold its annual Sausage Mission Supper on Saturday, October 22, 5:00 – 6:30. This will be a curbside pick up meal featuring our traditional menu of German sausage, mashed potatoes with gravy, creamed peas, zwiebach, applesauce and pie. Cost will be a free will offering with all proceeds going to support The Mary Magdalene House, Hutchinson. This is a ministry to taste the goodness of God and specializes in pastoral counseling with families dealing with mental illness, working through addiction, adoption issues, marital problems, etc. Check out their website at www.marymagdalenehouse.com Call or text Barb (620-543-6863) or Teresa (620-242-2357) NOW to order meals.
- ☞ Save the Date - MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA’s largest faith formation gathering, will be held July 3-8, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. There will be programming for all ages, including a one-day Climate Summit for youth and young adults. See the tentative block schedule here: mennoniteusa.org/mennocon-schedule

Other Announcements

- 🐾 **Thanks** for the extra effort given to hem and hang new curtains in two of our classrooms!
- 🐾 **Sunday School:** Discussing the topic of MONEY this week as we continue the “Simply Enough” series. 9:30 am for adults.
- 🐾 This coming weekend: “Bethel College Women’s Association will appreciate donations of homemade baked goods for Market-in-the-Round and Pie-by-the-Slice at Fall Festival. Zwieback, cinnamon rolls, fruit pies, and poppyseed roll are especially needed. Please bring to Room 141 in Luyken Fine Arts Center 2-5pm on Friday Oct 7, or 7-9am on Saturday Oct 8. Pies may be delivered to Seminar A in Schultz Student Center. Email bcwa@bethelks.edu with questions. Thank you for your support of Bethel College!”
- 🐾 **Windows into Our Ministry - Resource Commission** By: WDC Resource Commission
Wondering how Western District Conference equips congregations and leaders for ministry and mission? This is the first in a series of monthly articles from the four WDC Commissions about the resources and support they offer. Contact WDC if you have more ideas or questions about what would be helpful for your congregation!

In our digital age, congregations have access to a wide range of resources to use for worship and faith formation. The WDC Resource Commission strives to aid congregations and leaders in sorting through those resources and connecting them to ones of which they might not be aware.

We encourage everyone to begin with the WDC website as a source of information (<https://mennowdc.org/>). Click on the resource tab to locate information for churches and pastors, youth, faith formation, church planting, stewardship and policies and procedures. Search the online catalog of the [Resource Library](#). Contact Jennie Wintermote, Library Director, with questions about resources on a particular topic, book bundles, the box of books program, book lists, and the music lending library.

- 🐾 **Quilter’s Corner** is gladly accepting donations for the MCC sale which is April 14 and 15, 2023. Bring your fabric, notions, quilts and quilting supplies to the MCC Center in North Newton clearly labeled for Quilter’s Corner. If questions, contact Ann Yoder Smith at 919-604-3282.