



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

April 26, 2023

### To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

#### Next Steps in our Journey

Latest leadership plans and decisions

- ✎ The **ministries council** meets tonight with Kathy Neufeld-Dunn from WDC to discuss transition leadership ideas. The council will also continue to work on the reorganization of Ministry committees to make our ministry and communication more effective and efficient.
- ✎ **Worship planners** met last Monday afternoon. As mentioned last week, they are planning a six-week block of services that will focus on the scripture in the lectionary and the season of “Eastertide.” They are excited about making each week unique to what the scriptures are saying.
- ✎ **This Sunday, bring your Bibles** or Bible apps or whatever source you prefer for reading scripture. During some quiet meditation time the worship planning team suggests you may find it helpful to refer to scriptures that will be read.
- ✎ **Also this Sunday, after worship time in the sanctuary, ALL are invited to move into the Fellowship Hall** where we will share Communion, followed by small group discussions which focus on what you are hearing from God’s Spirit about next steps at FMC. This time will conclude around 12:15 p.m. and does not include a meal.

(When your friends and neighbors ask what’s happening at FMC, tell them to come and see!)

#### Verse for Pondering:

Psalm 23:1 -“The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.” (CEB)

#### Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

*[Please send a text or email to the church secretary if you have something to share!]*

- Pray for one another through our church directory.

- Pray for our **teachers and students** at all levels as they complete the school year. Pray also for those graduating from high school and college that they can navigate the best path forward, remembering lessons learned and stay in contact with friends and mentors.
- Special blessings to our high school senior! He invites you to celebrate with him at a reception before and at commencement at 4:00 p.m. on May 13. You can check out his invitation on our hall bulletin board.
- “Dear Lord, we draw near to the throne of your grace, to give you glory, honor, and praise. And to ask you to hear the prayers of your children crying out to you. My prayer request is that you guide us, in our meetings, that we feel your peace, in every decision. Revive your work amid the times in which we are living, and may the world know you, and may the church take the initiative to be light, to give light, to remain in light and in the midst of darkness to shine like a burning torch. Amen” – **WDC Church Planting Commission**

## Upcoming Events

- **Communion this Sunday.**
- **Anabaptist Mennonite 500 Project** update and discussion at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston on April 29 at 7:00 p.m. The project is proud to announce that it has exceeded its goal of 500 study groups contributing to the Anabaptist Community Bible. The study groups registered from 16 countries and 58 Anabaptist-Mennonite denominations and church bodies.
- **Hillsboro Farmer’s Market** meals coming soon. The schedule is being made. Would anyone be interested in serving one of the meals this year? The schedule is in the church office if you are interested.
- **Monday, May 1: Food4Kids** meeting. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, even as an occasional substitute, come to the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. to learn all about this outreach.

## Other Announcements

- **FYI:** Pastor Tom is finishing up on emptying his office as he begins his retirement from ministry with us. Our agreed upon expectations are he will not officiate at events in the life of the congregation and not attend or participate for a year to give a new pastor time to settle in unless invited by current leadership.
- **Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)** is one of our many denominational service opportunities. With volunteer labor and strong local partnerships, MDS helps disaster

survivors build back with resiliency. Volunteers also help communities build a resilient spirit that stays long after news of the disaster has left the headlines.

For example, this May, in Dulac, Louisiana, MDS will have built 26 new homes and repaired 40 more, all of which were elevated to meet or exceed local code requirements so that homeowners could feel more able to cope when the next hurricane hits.

Here are some events and service opportunities for your consideration:

#### **Kansas MDS Celebration Event**

**Date/Time:** Sunday, March 19 @ 7pm

**Location:** First Mennonite Church in Newton, KS

**Additional Details:** On March 19, at 7:00 p.m. there will be an in person MDS Celebration Event highlighting the work and ministry of the Kansas MDS Unit. The event at First Mennonite Church in Newton, KS will feature Kilometer 81, a family musical group. There will also be sharing from persons who assisted in various disaster responses during 2022. Hear short reports from the Cottonwood Complex fire, Andover tornado, The Cabinet Shop, and a Learning and Service trip to Louisiana.

#### **Gossel, KS**

**Type of work:** The Cabinet Shop, a Kansas MDS project, has been building kitchen cabinets for Binational MDS since June of 2022. By the end of February 2023, we will have shipped 41 sets of kitchen cabinets. They have been delivered to Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas, and California. We have approximately 25 volunteers who assist in the various phases of construction, packaging, and delivery. Contact Cleo Koop if you have interest in volunteering at The Cabinet Shop. We work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Cleo Koop - [cleohkoop@gmail.com](mailto:cleohkoop@gmail.com) - 316-282-0797

There are **Weekly Volunteer opportunities** in Eastern KY; Southwest FL; Paradise, CA; Red Lake, MN; Dawson Springs, KY; Crisfield, MD; and Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia through July 31. A Family Project will be located at Camp Palisades in Idaho. For Canadian projects, contact Clara Flores ([cflores@mds.org](mailto:cflores@mds.org) or 866-261-1274) and for U.S. projects, contact Alicia Hurst ([ahurst@mds.org](mailto:ahurst@mds.org) or 800-241-8111) with any questions or to schedule a week of service!

- It has been our tradition to have an **all-church retreat** in the fall every other year at Camp Mennoscah. We have been requested to book a date soon. Is anyone interested? Let the church secretary know.
- **WDC Resource Library:** Book sale to make room for new resources on Saturday, May 6 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The website has a new updated system for accessing the catalog which you can find at [mennowdc.org/library](http://mennowdc.org/library)
- **Save the Date!** Western district Conference Annual Assembly will be August 11-13, 2023 at Tabor Mennonite Church in Newton. This annual event is for all ages. Come for intergenerational fun faith formation, music, worship, work of the broader church, good food, time with old and new friends and more! The topic is holy listening.