



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

April 5, 2023

A Thought for Holy Week

John writes in I John 1:3, “We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may share the fellowship and the joys we have with the Father and with Jesus Christ his Son.” (TLB)

May we at FMC actually see and hear Jesus this Holy Week as we walk through this difficult time with him, sharing the fellowship and the joys. See you Thursday evening and Sunday morning!

Verse of the Week:

John 10:11 – “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- **Continue to seek God’s leading for FMC and Pastor Tom** – Pray for present peace and future direction.
- Pray for **Trinity Mennonite Church** as they end time as a congregation with a closing service this Sunday. Give thanks to God for Trinity’s faithful witness and ministry over many years. Pray for peace and direction for each member as they seek God’s new direction in their lives. May God prepare our hearts to welcome those who would come and join us.
- Pray for all **congregations in our community** and beyond as they embody the good news of new life in Christ this coming Sunday for Easter celebrations.
- **Thanks** to the many of you who hosted and contributed to the faspas fellowship and appreciation for Nadine Friesen’s ministry last Sunday evening. It was great to have 25 people present to celebrate and wish Nadine well in the next chapter of her life in Hesston.

- **Many thanks to all** of you friends for helping at the funeral luncheon for Lois Goening and for the abundant food and help serving and cleaning up from our hosting the SNC choir on the 26th. Thanks also for our fearless leaders!!! 😊
- **Missing in action:** If you missed our photo taking for the bulletin board, stop in T – Fri mornings when Sue is in the office with your smile so you can join in on our “vine”, or let her know on a Sunday morning. There is plenty of room for more “branches”!

Upcoming Events

- This coming Sunday’s **Special Offering** will go to the Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary.
- **Tonight** will be the last session of the **Bible Study for our “Anabaptist at 500”** contribution, led by Doug Miller. The study will be on Psalm 20:1-9. Come prepared at 7:00pm in the chapel.
- **Easter Lilies:** You are encouraged to bring an Easter lily for the Easter morning worship service. They can be put in the Fellowship Hall the week prior. If you would like to dedicate the lily in memory of someone, let Sue know by Thursday, April 6th, at noon so we can share this on the screen during worship.
- **Holy Week:**
 - **Maundy Thursday Worship** - 7:00pm on April 6th. The first part of our celebration will be in the Fellowship Hall as we honor Jesus washing His disciples feet by washing one another’s hands (for those who wish) after which we will all share communion together. Then we will move to the sanctuary for the Tenebrae service of scripture and song. The word Tenebrae means darkening).
 - **Sunrise Service @ Hiebert’s** - 6:30am April 9th.
 - **Easter Brunch @ FMC Fellowship Hall** - 9:00am, April 9th. Egg casserole will be provided. If you would like to bring something to share, please consider fruit or a breakfast bread/coffee cake item. See you then!
 - **Easter Worship** - 10:30am in the sanctuary, April 9th.
- Salina, Manhattan, Southern Hills, and Peace (Lawrence) Mennonite churches in Kansas will host a **Good Friday worship service on April 7 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**. All are welcome to join us. Contact the Southern Hills office for the Zoom link: church@southernhillsmc.org .

- **Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS)** is coming soon! April 14 & 15. Be sure to check out the many ways you can volunteer to help or donate things to be sold. Details are on the poster on the bulletin board or the website – www.kansas.mccsale.org
 - Pies: tins are still available if you are willing to bake a pie or two. Have your fresh baked pies at the church by 7:30 am on Saturday, April 15.
 - Zwiebach: 15 dozen are needed to donate. Join Doug Bartel in baking here at the church on Wednesday at 1:00 pm or bake some at home. Either way, your contributions are appreciated! These should be to the church by noon on Friday the 14th.
- **Special Celebration on Sunday, April 16**: This will be **Pastor Tom's last Sunday** with us. Our joy and sorrow will mix during this day as he blesses us with his preaching and music in morning worship and we bless him with a time of thanks and fellowship at **5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall to say goodbye and impart God's grace and peace.
- **Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus**: Two concerts are coming! April 16 - 7pm at Tabor College and April 23 - 7pm at Bethel College. See the flyer on the bulletin board.
- The Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Tabor College is leading a **Mennonite Heritage Tour** Sat. Apr.22, 11:45 to 5, beginning at the Historic Church on campus with faspas, including multiple historic sites at Brunk cemetery, Gnadenau village and orphanage sites, Ebenfeld MB church and Cornelsen marker, Peabody train station and P.O.W. building and Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. Cost \$35.

Sun. Apr.23, 6:30 **Annual CMBS dinner** in Franz Family Heritage Lobby, Shari Flaming Center for the Arts with **Dr. Christopher Dick**, Tabor College professor of English, speaking on "**(In)active Activist: The Remarkable Life of J.G. Ewert**". Ewert was Tabor College faculty member, writer, editor, and active relief worker for South Russia despite crippling disabilities. Cost \$20. RSV April 14.

Contact Peggy Goertzen at peggyg@tabor.edu or 620-947-3121 (ext. 1211/1212)

Other Announcements

- **Registration is now open for MennoCon23 coming to Kansas City, MO July 3 – 6.** This is our leading faith formation event! Let Jan Amstutz or Sue Buchholz know if you are interested in going. We are working on plans to take our youth group to this gathering as well as other adults.
- **Everence® April workshop: Social Security and retirement income**

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, April 20, starting at 6:30 p.m. Specifics will include, Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions. The in-person workshop will take place at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton.

Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas.

To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

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- **Main Street Ministries:**

Please join us for a Main Street Ministries Come and Go Open House. We would love to share with you what God has done through your faithfulness to prayer and giving. Come see our new renovations, enjoy some fellowship, refreshments and a time of prayer and worship. The open house is Sunday, April 16, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 PM with the time of worship and prayer at 4:00 PM. MSM is located at 415 S. Main in Hillsboro. We hope you can join us!

Looking for a way to help your community? Consider volunteering at Main Street Ministries! We have many ways you can help.

1. Transportation: appointments -elementary school drop off and pick up -Walmart donation pick up -Church
2. Child Care: -Sundays (4:15pm-6pm) -Tuesday Bible Study (5pm-7pm) -Friday Celebrate Recovery (4:15pm-6pm) -Overnight while mom works (6pm-8am)
3. Maintenance: -light fixtures -replacing ceiling tiles -bathroom repairs

Please email volunteersm@gmail.com for more information or to offer assistance. Thank you!

- **Hesston College Events:**

- **April 20 to 21 - Flora Kansas Spring Native Plant Days**

Come find plants at affordable prices and enjoy supporting the mission of Dyck Arboretum. Hundreds of varieties of plants will be available, many locally grown. Knowledgeable staff

and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and give suggestions. April 20 will be open to members only and the 21st will be open to everyone. Learn more at dyckarboretum.org/events/

□ **April 27 to 30 - Theatre for Young Audiences: Tomato Plant Girl**

Theatre lovers of all ages will love Tomato Plant Girl. It is a powerful exploration of friendship between Little Girl, Bossy Best Friend and the messy Tomato Plant Girl. This production will delight young audiences with its physical action and playful, high-energy conflict. Highlighting the issues of bullying and acceptance of others, this play challenges the character of Little Girl to bravely discover the power of making up her own rules and leading with kindness. Learn more at hesston.edu/theatre.

• **Bethel College Events:**

□ **Mon., April 17** – Rachel Stroer, president of The Land Institute, Salina, speaks at Bethel College on “**Leading a Global Movement for Diverse Perennial Grain Futures,**” 7 p.m., *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts*

□ Now in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College – “**Printing the Plains: Relief Prints by Ian Huebert,**” through Fri., April 14. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

□ **SAVE THE DATE: Sun., April 30 – Masterworks concert at Bethel College**, featuring the Bethel College Oratorio Chorus, orchestra and soloists.

- The spring 2023 issue of ***Intersections: MCC Theory and Practice Quarterly*** is available now on-line [here](#) and [here](#). Compiled by Emma Smith Cain, the issue features explorations from Bolivia, Rwanda, southern Africa, DR Congo, and Ukraine about how MCC’s decades-long commitment to working through local partnerships with churches and community-based organizations anticipated contemporary discussions around the “localization” of humanitarian relief, development, and peacebuilding work.

As always, we welcome any feedback you have about this or other issues of *Intersections*! Send any thoughts, affirmations, critiques, and counsel you might have to intersections@mcc.org. Thanks for being a loyal reader!

- **WDC Mustard Seed Grant** - Spring is here! Now is an ideal time to plan for ways to connect with your community through fellowship, food, service, or some other creative idea. Remember that the WDC Resource Commission is offering Mustard Seed Grants for up to \$500 to WDC congregations who are seeking to share the good news of Jesus in their communities. This is seed money for connecting with neighbors, so relationships can be strengthened, and the reconciling love of God can be shared. The grants are available through January 31, 2024.