



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

May 17, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

Next Steps in our Journey

Latest leadership plans and decisions

- Worship plans:
 - This coming Sunday, we will celebrate Ascension Day which is actually Thursday, May 18. What to expect:
 - We are excited to have several participants this week reading scripture among the congregation!
 - Have you read the book, “Where’s Waldo?” Well, we will be considering the mystery of “Where’s Jesus?”
 - We will revisit the hymn “Gracious Spirit” that we sang last Sunday, so check out the song on YouTube. There are several interesting versions you might enjoy meditating on in through the week.
 - Pentecost celebration May 28. Come Holy Spirit! Sue will be sharing her personal “Holy Spirit Story” during worship.

Verse for Pondering:

Acts 1:8 -”But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our church directory.
- Pray for those needing strength and healing on their journeys.
- Praise God for answered prayers!
- Pray for the last day of school for our USD 410 **teachers and students** tomorrow.
- Blessings and grace on all the final preparations and needs for **Food4Kids**.
- **Trip to Connecticut?** We need to pick up a peppernut machine in Connecticut. Is anyone interested in taking a trip for us, or know of someone coming from there? Perhaps God might provide this for us. He even cares about the details!
- Pray for FMC leadership as we search for **interim and transitional pastors** along with other WDC congregations with this same need. Pray also as we all are seeking creative ways to meet and serve our neighbors. “

Upcoming Events

- **Welcome guys!** Tonight, the Fellowship Hall will be used by the high school boys basketball team. We are glad they can enjoy our facilities as they celebrate the end of their season.
- **Comforter Ministry:** All are welcome to come tie quilts on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall from 1-4 p.m. each week.
- **Summer Food 4 Kids** is starting on May 30 at First Mennonite Church at 102 S. Ash. It will be a drive-by and walk-up this year. We need volunteers who will help cut up fruit and vegetables and pack the lunch sacks on **Monday** (starting June 5) from 10:45 to 1:00. Please call Norma Duerksen at 620-381-0949 if you are willing to help.

Summer Food 4 Kids needs **cookies!** Start your ovens! Get out those cookie recipes! We will need approximately 150 every day! Choose your favorite variety. Deliver them to First Mennonite Church, 102 S. Ash, Monday thru Friday from 10-1. Thanks again for your help.

Your **financial donations** can be sent to Summer Food 4 Kids, 102 S. Ash, Hillsboro, KS 67063.

- **Thurs.-Sat., May 18-20 – Pop-up exhibit, “Mennonites in East Germany,”** Kauffman Museum (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117); hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. weekends. Sat., May 20 – Pastor Bernhard Thiessen (exhibit creator) from the University of Hamburg will speak on “Mennonite Peace Efforts Under Communist Observation,” 4 p.m. in the museum auditorium.

Other Announcements

- **Connect and communicate at FMC!** To go with the important thoughts Aleen shared with us last Sunday, we have put some information on a table in the foyer so you can take action. (take your vitamin Cs!) Sign up for any of the following:
 - Get a mailbox at church.
 - Get a church directory.
 - Visit others.
 - Make phone calls of encouragement.
 - Participate in prayer time.
 - Interested in Bible Study
 - Share your favorite hymns. (to help us plan our worship services)
 - Conversation for leadership on what you are hearing from the Holy Spirit on our next steps and your interest in participation.

Please call the church office to share your new ideas. Our God is creative and has given that creativity to us all!

- **Sunday School** at 9:30 a.m. Here is what’s coming up!
 - This Sunday we will finish the last video in Season 2 of The Chosen.
 - The 28th there will be no Sunday School since it is Memorial Day weekend.
 - June 4 will be a special time of fellowship and food. All are invited to join in!
- In the latest **Mennonite Disaster Service newsletter**, the Executive Director shared this important quote from Palmer Becker on what it means to be a Christian through an Anabaptist perspective. “Jesus is the center of our faith, Community is the center of our life, and reconciliation is the center of our work.” It is good to **be church together!**
- Wondering about our connection to **Mennonite Church USA?** Here is a letter from the executive director to help you become more informed!

To: Congregations of Mennonite Church USA

I am writing to urge you to attend the upcoming 2023 Biennial Delegate Assembly and MennoCon23 in Kansas City, Missouri. These two events represent a unique opportunity for us to come together as Mennonites, connect, and make important decisions that will shape the future of our church. Here are some [frequently asked questions](#) about the Delegate Assembly.

The MennoCon23 gathering, which will take place from July 3-6, promises to be an exciting and inspiring event. It is a chance for us to worship together, learn from each other, and engage in meaningful conversations about the issues that matter most to us. Delegates are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Following MennoCon23, the 2023 Biennial Delegate Assembly will be held on July 7-8. The agenda can be found [here](#). Delegates will have the chance to process and vote on several [resolutions](#) and [proposed changes to the MC USA bylaws](#). The [delegate website](#) is a valuable resource that contains a wealth of information on the proposed bylaw changes and the resolutions that will be discussed and voted on during the assembly.

If you have any questions, contact Shelley Buller, Executive Assistant for Mennonite Church USA, at 316-281-4257 or: ShelleyB@MennoniteUSA.org

Please make every effort to attend, and stay informed by regularly checking the delegate website at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/2023-delegate-assembly-resources/>

Sincerely,

Glen Guyton
Executive Director
Mennonite Church USA