



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

May 24, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

Note from last Sunday: Are you looking for Jesus or has Waldo distracted you this week and has you looking for him? 🙄

Next Steps in our Journey

Latest leadership plans and decisions

- Worship/Nurture plans:
 - This Sunday will focus on Pentecost – The powerful coming of the Holy Spirit on the first followers of Jesus. Phil Duerksen will be leading our music to praise God with his violin. Sue will be sharing her personal “Holy Spirit Story.”
 - June 4 will begin with Food and Fellowship during the 9:30 Sunday School hour prior to our 10:30 worship time.
 - Worship during the month of June will focus on what it means to be the church. We are praying that many of you, church, will share your own personal moments or seasons when you have entered into God’s Story of love.

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

- Keep praying through our church directory.
- Blessings and grace on all the staff and final preparations for **Food4Kids**.
- 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

- **Summer Food 4 Kids** begins next Tuesday! **400 cookies will be needed for the first week!** Start your ovens!
- **Arts and Crafts Fair:** It is time to decide if we want to sell peppernuts or food at the Hillsboro Arts and Crafts Fair in September. There has been some talk of making peppernuts, but no mention of what would be done with them. Let the office know ASP if you are feeling God nudge you to lead any ministry for the Arts and Crafts Fair?
- **June 4 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School:** All are invited to a time of food and fellowship. Come and get better acquainted with your sisters and brothers.
- **Picture taking** for our active member bulletin board can happen any day when the secretary is in the office or on a Sunday. Please let Sue know when you are ready to smile and be among our “branches!”
- **Folk Musical Hosted by Newton Mennonite VBS** - You're invited to Selah's Song, Friday, June 2 at 6:00 pm at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS. Presented by Theatre of the Beat from Toronto and hosted by Newton Mennonite VBS. Admission by donation will support Camp Mennoscah.
- **Sat., June 3 – The public is invited to Walk Sand Creek Trail Day**, part of National Trails Day®. Water will be available for people and leashed dogs at the trailhead at Memorial Grove on the Bethel College campus, dawn to dusk (6 a.m.-8 p.m.), courtesy of the Sand Creek Trail Committee, with members there to answer any questions about the trail and its history. This is the 25th anniversary of Sand Creek Trail as an organized and maintained trail.
- **Sat., June 3 – Kauffman Museum bird walk, 7 a.m. start time** in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., N. Newton). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail (terrain is mostly wood-chip path and sometimes uneven/sloping).

Other Announcements

- Anyone interested in going to MennoCon just for the day on **Friday, July 7 for the delegate sessions**? One person from Alexanderwohl would like to go, but not drive alone. Let Sue know in the church office.
- **“Pastoral transitions** are a natural part of congregational life. At some point, your pastor will leave. They will leave for all sorts of reasons, and the majority of reasons have nothing to do with the congregation,” writes Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA, in her helpful blog about next steps: mennoniteusa.org/pastoral-transition-beauty
- MennoCon23 – There is still time to register online for MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA’s leading faith formation event, in Kansas City (Missouri) Convention Center, July 3-6, 2023. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/registration
- The **Mennonite Men** organization approved \$121,000 for eleven grants to support tree-planting projects.
 - Among those receiving grants are two congregations in the U.S.: Blooming Glen (PA) and Harrisonburg (VA) Mennonite Churches. Both projects will reforest areas of these congregational properties.
 - Nine grants were awarded to Mennonite community projects outside the US: Commune of Allada (Benin), Kalonda Mission (DR Congo), Kwilu Province (DR Congo), Mpukinsele Village (Angola), Muala Village (Angola), Sambo Commune (Angola), Tshilenge Territory (DR Congo), Quipindi Village (Angola), and Mukedi Community (DR Congo). Most of these international projects will provide seedlings both for long-term reforestation efforts and for short-term economic support of local communities that will learn sustainable forestry practices while earning income from the trees through fruit and charcoal-production (to reduce cutting trees in intact forests).
 - Once planted, trees from these 11 projects will bring the JoinTrees project to 301,373 trees planted in total, nearly 1/3 of its goal of one million trees by 2030.