



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

June 14, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

Next Steps in our Journey - *Latest leadership plans and decisions*

- **Ministries Council:** (Doug Bartel (moderator), Jan Amstutz, Sue Buchholz, Glen Diener, Sharon Diener, Bob Jantz, Aleen Ratzlaff, and Susan Schultz.)
 - Regarding our cemetery:
 - “Recommended that the two separate tracts of land comprising Haven of Rest Cemetery be combined as one tract housed under the 501c3 of Hillsboro First Mennonite Church.”
 - We will have a brief congregational meeting on June 25 following the worship service. A “yes” vote will be to combine the two tracts. A “no” vote will be to rescind the recommendation.
 - Upon affirmation, a management/policy board will create a unified policy/by-laws document to manage the cemetery activities. For an appropriate period of time, cemetery sextons representing both tracts will work together to carry out those duties guided by the new document.

Doug Bartel
Business Moderator
 - Reorganization of our committee structure:
 - During this transitional time, we have temporarily combined our Vision council and Worship and Nurture committees to become 1 team, with the 3 team leaders still remaining on the ministries council.
 - A Peppernut Project Team is being put together. A few have expressed interest, but more are needed to share the load and make it enjoyable for all. Please talk with Doug Bartel about your area of interest.

- **Worship/Nurture:** (Aleen Ratzlaff-MTL, Deryll Amstutz, Jan Amstutz, Sue Buchholz)
 - Worship this Sunday, June 18-
 - Shirley Baltzer will be playing the organ which was just tuned on Monday!!!
 - The Theme will be “Born of the Spirit – Believing IN God.”
 - Sunday School: We will introduce the gospel of Mark which we will begin studying together. Come at 9:30 to join in. No preparation necessary!
 - Next Sunday, June 25- Theme will be “Abiding in Jesus – Vine and Branches.”

Verse for Pondering: Psalm 43:3

***”Send forth your light and your truth,
let them guide me;
let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.”***

Upcoming Events

- Changing needs: If you know someone who is no longer using the internet and needs to receive the E-Newsletter differently, please let the church office know. Some are getting them in their church mailboxes or delivered to care homes.
- Hillsboro chamber is hosting the following events through the rest of the year. Pray and consider how God might lead you and us to share Christ’s love at any of these events.

July 8- Cruise
 July 21- Glow run
 August 12- Cruise/Movie night
 September 9- Cruise
 September 16- Arts & Crafts fundraiser meal
 October 31- Trick or Treat Main Street
 December 2- Down Home Christmas

- **Church Office Hours** will be M, W-F from 8:30 to noon through June 16.

- **Summer Food 4 Kids** is going well. They have plenty of help, but cookie donations are always needed. They are serving close to 100 children every day! Praise God for this vital ministry! (Remember, cookies must have no nuts, including peanut butter due to allergy issues.)
- **Are you eager to make peppernuts?** Let Doug Bartel or the office know of your interest. We need people willing to take part in the leadership of this project!

Other Announcements

- **FYI:** an email was sent out on Monday evening to alert you to the fact that Pastor Tom's information has been used for a scam. Please be aware of any unusual messages you might get claiming to be from him. He is NOT asking for favors and money.
- **2023 WDC Annual Assembly: Holy/Wholly Listening! This isn't just for delegates!** Plan to join us at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. There will be lots to do!
 - multigenerational fun faith formation
 - quiet recreational options
 - wonderful worship
 - Mennoglass concert
 - BBQ
 - comforter tying for MCC
 - workshops to enjoy, and more.

Join us! Registration will open soon!

- **MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: *new* infant onesies and sleepers (3-12 month sizes); notebooks (70 sheets) and black or blue ballpoint pens. Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: shampoo (20 oz or more), men's deodorant (min 2.25 oz) and toothpaste (min. 5 oz). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.

- **Camp Mennoscah** is moving forward on the **M&M Project**. As of now, we are close to one-third of the way to our goal of \$100,000. We have 30 plus giving units committed to being **Fire Keepers** and the list grows weekly.

Churches are invited to put together a **fundraising event** this year that would specifically benefit the M&M Project. Churches are planning events for the summer and the fall. If you would like camp representation at such an event at your church, we are more than happy to see what we can do! And we'll advertise for you on our website and Facebook page.

We know you will want to be in on this opportunity to continue our Mission at Camp. Now is the time to sign up - your family, your Sunday School class, your small group, yourself - to be a Fire Keeper! Or, get a plan together for an event at your church to "fan the flames." For more information, check out the Camp Mennoscah Website, or contact Tammy at the addresses below

Tammy Duvanel Unruh
Development Director, Camp Mennoscah
tammy.d.unruh@campmennoscah.org
316-207-3472

- **From Mennonite Men:**

Shame - *Excerpted from Living That Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith by Steve Thomas and Don Neufeld. Used by permission of Herald Press. All rights reserved.*

Brené Brown defines shame as "the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging." Living with or in shame goes deeper than dealing with behaviors, shortcomings, and errors. Shame strikes at the center of who we are, telling us we are flawed and unworthy at our very core and that this awful reality can never change, because it's just the way we are. Shame leaves us feeling that there is no way out other than medicating our pain or looking for someone or something to unload our self-loathing on.

Believing that masculinity must be proven and maintained through performance, men are especially prone to the effects of shame. As Brown writes, shame for men means failure, being wrong, defective, soft, weak, fearful. When we're ridiculed or called out for any of these things, it's like a strong punch to the gut. "Basically," Brown writes, "men live under the pressure of one unrelenting message: Do not be perceived as weak."

Shame is strong. It can undermine courage, connection, and vulnerability. But it cannot endure self-compassion and honesty, especially when practiced in the loving embrace of true relationship. When someone welcomes us with an open heart and affirms our worthiness, it unlocks a door to share honestly about the things that are most difficult to face about ourselves. When we speak our shame in the presence of that welcoming other, shame's power over our life withers.

Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith serves as a men's guide for conversation and reflection and includes 70 topics, like Sexuality, for use by individuals or groups. Order Living that matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith [HERE](#).

- **WDC Staff Announcement:** “Business manager Beth Yoder will conclude her role with WDC in mid-July, with plans to move with her family to Minnesota where her husband Caleb Yoder will become pastor at Faith Mennonite Church in Minneapolis. We give thanks for Beht’s faithful and generous service to WDC, and will deeply miss her presence on the WDC staff!”