



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

June 28, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Ministries Council News:**

- Our congregation unanimously voted to combine the two tracts of land for the Haven of Rest Cemetery at our meeting last Sunday. The next step will be to draft a unified policy/bylaws document to manage cemetery activities.
- A Peppernut Project Team has formed. Mark your calendars for August 23 – 26 for making peppernuts!

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team:**

- This Sunday, July 2- Our theme of “Living in God’s Presence” will be highlighted by a video sermon by Glen Guyton, the MC USA Executive Director. There will be no Sunday School this week since it is a holiday weekend.
- We will worship, learn and fellowship out in nature, gathering in the park on July 9 this year. We will have an introduction to the gospel of Mark during Sunday School, focus on trusting God during our worship time, and share food together at a picnic. Invite your friends and neighbors for this relaxed day of worship!
- Our youth group is going to the MennoCon23 convention in KC this coming Monday through Thursday. One will be attending adult sessions and three will take in the youth sessions. Pray that we might hear from God in fresh ways during the week of worship and learning. They will be eager to come back and share!

Verses for Pondering:

(More thoughts on abiding in Christ-) Romans 11:17-20

”¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted among the others to share the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember: you do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off on account of unbelief, but you stand on account of belief. So do not become arrogant, but be afraid. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen but God’s kindness toward you, if you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- **Birthday greetings** to Debbie Brandt this coming Saturday, July 1.
- Thanks to God for the wonderful fellowship at the “faspa” gathering last Sunday. What great conversation between 21 brothers and sisters and 1 friendly puppy!
- Please pray for all those attending the **MennoCon23** conference in Kansas City next week.
- Thanks to all who willingly participate in the life of FMC. Please pray for one another as we each do our part to function together as the body of Christ.

Upcoming Events

- **No Sunday School** this coming Sunday – July 2 –due to the holiday.
- **Meet in the park!** Sunday School, Worship and a Picnic will all be part of our plans for Sunday morning, July 9th. Drinks will be provided, so bring your own table service, food to share and a lawn chair.

- **Looking for a place to belong?** Consider becoming a part of the FMC family. An Inquiry Luncheon will be held on Sunday, August 20 after worship for those interested in church membership. Come to learn about our church, meet leadership and get your questions answered as you enjoy having lunch provided. September 24 is being planned as a special Sunday to receive new members into our fellowship.

Other Announcements

- When our **pipe organ tuner, David Rankin**, came recently, his beautiful music started a conversation. He is interested in coming again for a hymn sing if that is something we would be interested in. Would anyone like to help plan a faspas or ice cream social to go along with a hymn sing and hearing our beautiful instrument being played? Let the church office know if you would be interested.
- **150th Anniversary of Mennonites coming to USA:** 150 Years since our ancestors came to the USA. 1874-2024. Let's celebrate all year. Remembering the old days with agriculture – come see a Plowing with Horses event concluding with Vintage Tractor plowing demonstration [July 15, 2023](#). And then Planting Turkey Red Wheat in October. And maybe several other events in 2023. Then more in 2024 ending with the main celebration on [August 22-25, 2024](#) at Eden Mennonite Church in rural Moundridge Kansas.

Glen Goering and his Ag Committee have invited horse and plow owners to show us how plowing was done, on [Saturday, July 15](#), at a 22-acre field west of the Moundridge Museum, 8:30-2:00. Concessions will be available from Gospel Mennonite and a tent for shade. You might bring a lawn chair. The Museum will also be open. Some of you will remember the annual Plowing Bee and the one at the 125th celebration. Some of you have never seen horses working the field. Come out and see it on [Saturday, July 15](#).

-Kathy Goering for the 150th steering committee.

- **2023 Western District Conference (WDC) Annual Assembly:**

It's not just for church leaders! It's for everybody! August 11-13, 2023 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, we'll worship, work, eat great, local food, enjoy local music, connect with new and old friends, experience faith formation for all ages, and have many choices of great workshops. We hope you'll agree Annual Assembly is a great place to learn about and grow in faith in Christ, care for the broader church, and worship our God of love and justice with God's people in Western District Conference!

Assembly Theme: We will explore listening to God and to each other through our theme, "Holy (Wholly) Listening." We will stretch ourselves to listen carefully to one another as siblings in Christ who understand scripture differently and can widen our cultural, racial, and identity perspectives as we focus on faith in Christ together. As we hear the concerns and joys

of all of us in Western District Conference, we will explore what it means to respond to one another with God's mercy and justice. Our scripture texts that will guide us are Isaiah 51:1-8 and Numbers 27:1-11.

Two Tracks: This year we'll have two different "tracks" going on at the same time. The Delegate Track is for those who are sent to Assembly as church representatives to help make decisions on behalf of our conference. The Faith Formation Track is for everybody else (except kids 3 and under). MennoMedia representatives will lead adults, youth, and school aged kids in a fun, creative multigenerational faith formation experience. Yes, there will be games, art, drama, music, bible stories, conversation and more for all ages together! Don't want to join an active game? Are you wiggly and want more action? There will be fun options and choices available as we learn about following Jesus together. We hope that this experience will encourage you to bring "multigenerational faith formation" home to your congregation as a model to explore.

MennoGrass@Assembly! Saturday evening will be full of music and BBQ outside Tabor Mennonite Church! If you are local, invite your friends to hear some great local bands and enjoy a full BBQ meal. If you are an Assembly registrant, MennoGrass is included. Any friends you invite are asked to donate toward the cost of the food. Should be a great time for some tunes under the trees (or in the Tabor Hospitality Hall if it's inclement weather)!

Explore more on our Assembly 2023 landing page to learn more details about WDC Annual Assembly 2023: <https://mennowdc.org/2023-wdc-annual-assembly/>

Mark your calendar now for August 11 and 13! Registration is now open!

The assembly begins Friday, Aug 11 with Wroship at 7 pm. and concludes on Sunday the 13th at noon following the final workshop.

Delegate sessions will be on Saturday, August 12 from 10am-12pm, and 1-2:30pm. We have 4 delegates that can vote for decision making. Please let Doug or the church office know if you are interested in being a delegate.