



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

June 7, 2023

### To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

#### Next Steps in our Journey

Latest leadership plans and decisions

- **Ministries Council** meets tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. This involves Doug Bartel (moderator), Jan Amstutz, Sue Buchholz, Glen Diener, Sharon Diener, Bob Jantz, Aleen Ratzlaff, and Susan Schultz.
- **Worship/Nurture** plans:
  - Focusing on the following questions: 1. What does it mean to be the church?  
2. How do we meet and listen to God through His Scriptures?
  - This coming Sunday - June 11 – several will share a Bible verse that is meaningful to them. Please let Sue know in the church office if you would like to share a verse. Call 620-947-5662, text 620-947-3734 or email [secretary@fmchillsboro.com](mailto:secretary@fmchillsboro.com)
  - Share your input for worship and/or nurture for FMC with any of our team: Aleen Ratzlaff, Deryll Amstutz, Jan Amstutz or Sue Buchholz

**Verse for Pondering:** Ephesians 1: 17 - 19

***"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>17</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his***

***glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”***

## **Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers**

- **Praise God!**

- Food4Kids is meeting a huge need for food in our community.
- A joyful time of fellowship over muffins, cinnamon rolls and donuts last Sunday.
- Hearing reports of a fresh wind of God's Spirit in our worship services.
- Friends on the way to recovery and thankful for all the help given!
- For the enthusiasm of a 3 year old dancing to the opening hymn last Sunday!
- Outsiders coming from other places for the film crew with Emily Railsback being amazed at the wonderful hospitality found in our community!

- **Pray for one another.**

- FMC leadership and our next steps
- those you sat near in worship last week
- new visitors
- Sunday School time
- your neighbors
- families driving through for lunch pick-up
- the staff and volunteers for Food4Kids
- physical health needs
- loneliness and emotional needs
- in stressful situations

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Church Office Hours** will be M, W-F from 8:30 to noon through June 16
- **Summer Food 4 Kids** is going well. The cookie donations have been a wonderful variety. Keep your ovens going! (Remember, cookies must have no nuts, including peanut butter due to allergy issues.)
- Community support needed for Parkside Homes: Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. – **Parkside Surplus Auction** – east on Juniper off Ash St. in the Large Green Shed. Proceeds will be applied to the Wheel Chair Accessible Van Fund.

- **Are you eager to make peppernuts?** Let Doug Bartel or the office know of your interest.
- **Join us by having your picture included on our active member bulletin board** (in the hall across from the office). You can have your picture taken 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!”

## Other Announcements

- **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. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).



**2023 WDC Annual Assembly isn't just for delegates!** Not going to be a delegate, but plan to join us at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS? There will be lots to do! There will be multigenerational fun faith formation, quiet recreational options, wonderful worship, Mennograss concert and BBQ, as well as comforter tying for MCC, and more. There will be workshops to enjoy, too. Join us! Registration will open soon!

- **“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](http://mennoniteusa.org/pastoral-transition-beauty)
- **From In Touch, a monthly newsletter of Mennonite Central Committee:** check MCC website for details.

## Gaza: Beyond the headlines

If you scan for news stories about the Gaza Strip, you may read about bombardments or see that it's one of the most densely populated areas on Earth. But we invite you to take a closer look at what MCC's Alain Epp Weaver sees as a place of joy and challenge.

Discover welcoming homes, beautiful views, culinary delights and how MCC is equipping young people in Gaza for lives of leadership and creativity.

## When the church and MCC work together, peace grows

“Peace is a synonym of shalom. When we say shalom in Hebrew, it is the total salvation of mankind. What you [MCC] bring to us in the community as projects ... when it is married with the word of Christ, that brings peace to humankind.”

Discover how the Mennonite Brethren church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is living out Jesus' gospel of peace.