



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

May 31, 2023

### To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

#### Next Steps in our Journey

Latest leadership plans and decisions

- Ministries Council: Next meeting is Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. Our moderator, Doug Bartel, is still waiting on our WDC contact, Kathy Neufeld-Dunn, as she waits for responses from contacts for possible interim and transition pastors. The bottom line - there is no news yet about an interim and/or transition pastor.
- Worship/Nurture plans: (The team met on Monday morning and here are our latest steps)
  - This Sunday at 9:30 a.m. the Sunday School class will be hosting a fellowship time with coffee, donuts, and muffins. Everyone is invited to come and get acquainted! (No commitment to Sunday School needed!)
  - It is Trinity Sunday in worship this week, meeting with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - Our focus for the rest of the summer will be about what it means to be the church, or "In Christ" as our vision statement says.
    - June 11<sup>th</sup> we are inviting anyone who would like to share a meaningful Bible verse. We would like you to read them aloud from your location in the sanctuary, (we will bring the microphone around) or someone can read for you if you prefer. For our planning, please let Sue know in the church office if you would like to participate. (call 620-947-5662, text 620-947-3734 or email [secretary@fmchillsboro.com](mailto:secretary@fmchillsboro.com)) Hoping to have many voices heard that morning!!!
    - We want to continually encourage one another by sharing our stories. We invite you to share snippets of your experiences - encounters with God, times of walking with Jesus or times you heard whispers from the Holy Spirit. Here is an example from Sue Buchholz:

*The moths have been driving me crazy in my porch and in the house, as you may have been experiencing also. It took me about a week of frustration - feeling them dive-bombing at me, popping out of the refrigerator, and finding them in my water mug after drinking - before I finally asked God to show me how He wants me to think about this problem. By evening, as it was getting dark, I was struck by the idea that those moths are so relentless in their pursuit of the light. Wow! My prayer became, help me Lord, to be that determined to seek You like the moths, and thanks for the reminder of Your Word! – “But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deut. 4:29) God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)*

**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
  - new visitors
  - families driving through for lunch pick-up
  - traveling for vacations
  - with physical health needs
  - loneliness and emotional needs
  - in stressful situations
  - FMC leadership and our next steps
  - ...
- **Praise God for answered prayer.**
- **Give thanks for the Food4Kids** program we are hosting as well as other WDC congregations hosting vacation Bible school and other summer programs for children and youth in their communities!

## Upcoming Events

- **Church Office Hours** will be adjusted for the next three weeks to M, W-F from 8:30 to noon due to family needs.
- **Summer Food 4 Kids** was off to a great start, serving 75 meals the first day! Lots of cookies will be needed so keep your ovens going! Note: 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.
- **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. in the Fellowship Hall:** All are invited to come for coffee and a donut or muffin and get better acquainted with your sisters and brothers.
- Instead of a traditional Summer Story Hour, the **WDC Conference Resource Library** will be hosting **Story Days** with a self-guided, come-and-go approach with activities for ages 3-8 and their caregiver(s) on June 15, July 20 & August 3 from 9:00am-7:30pm. Read alouds by library staff/volunteers on the hour from 9am-7pm. The WDC Resource Library is located at 2517 N Main in North Newton.
- **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](https://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](https://mennoniteusa.org/registration)