



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

July 12, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Ministries Council News:** The council met on Monday evening -
 - Connections were made at MennoCon23 with people and organizations that have given our vision team multiple ideas for moving ahead toward a healthy, communicative congregational culture. (Sue visited with both Heidi Regier Kreider and Kathy Neufeld Dunn from WDC, people from both of our Mennonite biblical seminaries and MCC)
 - Our financial report shows a decreasing deficit.
 - A “Corporate Resolution” was passed which is a document needed for accepting the distribution of annuity funds that have been donated to the church.
 - Hearing needs were discussed for use during our worship services. If you know of someone who would use an aide device, please let someone on the council know.
 - Arts and Crafts Fair: Our Peppernut Project Team is aiming to make 400 pounds of peppernuts this year. Another team of people are working on hosting an ethnic meal in our building also that day as we did last year.
 - Stewardship reported:
 - We are grateful for Darrel Knoll mowing our cemetery this summer.
 - The slide on our playground has cracked and will be replaced.
 - Aging trees are having issues with branches falling.
- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team:**
 - Starting this Sunday, we will give time in worship for people to share insights from the Gospel of Mark shared scripture reading. (Chapter 1)

- Our theme for this coming Sunday is “Praying with Thanksgiving Brings Peace.”
- Rev. Gaylord Goertzen will preach on August 20.
- We are seeking to increase the variety of people involved in worship services. (Let us know if you sense God nudging you in this direction!)
- Planning will focus on times together as a whole community to discuss our needs, vision and next steps in the fall.

Verses for Pondering:

Romans 12:1-2 (New International Reader’s Version)

“Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him in the right way. ² Don’t live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- **Pray for the Klaassen family** and save the date for a Celebration of Life service for Joel on September 23 here at FMC.
- Praise God for **His amazing love** for each one of us in the body of Christ.
- Thank God for all those who are keeping **Food4Kids** going strong!
- Pray for our **Worship/Nurture/Vision team** as they plan the upcoming next steps for our congregaton..
- **Praise God for His amazing answers to prayer!** Looking for a new machine for making peppernuts, The best deal was online but it was in Connecticut. We decided to put that need in the newsletter, not knowing how God might provide. A member read the article and thought of her friends who live in Connecticut. They had been wanting to take a trip here, so they were happy to work with us on planning to drive our new machine out to Hillsboro! They are expected to arrive around July 26. Thank you, Lord, for providing! Keep listening for how God wants to use this peppernut ministry here!

Upcoming Events

- Read **Mark Chapter 1** this week. Our shared Bible reading adventure is beginning!
- **Bring your smile** to church on Sunday if you would like to have your picture taken to be on our bulletin board. All active participants are invited. We want to abide in the vine together!
- **Did MennoniteCon23 sound like something you would enjoy?** You have a chance to experience the same type of thing on a smaller scale nearby at Tabor Mennonite Church! Mark you calendar and register to participate at our Western District Assembly. It will begin with worship on Friday evening, August 11, 7-9pm. Saturday, Aug. 12, will include breakfast, worship, faith formation times, lunch, fellowship, putting together hygiene kits, a BBQ and MennoGrass Concert on Aug. 12. (7:30am - 8:30 pm) The assembly concludes with worship and a seminar Sunday morning Aug. 13. Worship, learn, eat, work and fellowship with like-minded brothers and sisters. Don't miss this opportunity for your faith to grow! (Even going one of the days would be encouraging, so please consider it)

There will be a separate time for delegates to help make decisions for our denomination. Please let Doug Bartel or Sue Buchholz know if you would be willing to be a delegate. We can have 4 delegates.

- **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.
- **Peppernut baking** will be August 24 – 26.

Other Announcements

- **COOKIES!!!** Keep them coming for Food4Kids. Today they used 224 cookies, which comes to about 18 dozen a day!!! No wonder we need to keep baking. (remember: no tree nuts or peanut butter due to allergies.)
- **This Saturday, July 15**, in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Mennonites coming to USA is an opportunity to learn about our Mennonite heritage in Moundridge. Plowing with Horses and a Vintage Tractor will be 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.