



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

July 19, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team** met on Monday.
 - **This Sunday we will be celebrating Communion!** Come prepared for this special time.
 - Read Mark 2. There will be an opportunity to share insights during worship on Sunday, either written or spoken. (there is a basket and paper in the foyer for your written comments)
 - Our theme for this coming Sunday is "Peacemakers Forgive." We are excited to have our worship music accompanied by guitar and violin this week.
 - This team will meet on August 2 to focus on our nurture and vision needs. We welcome your input as you hear God's leading.
- **Ministries Council**
 - **SPECIAL NEWS!!! Offering a 50% discount to anyone who wants to be a delegate at our WDC Assembly.** This offer is good for up to 4 people. The Assembly is close by this year at the Tabor Mennonite Church August 11-13. If you are interested in knowing what our denomination is doing, this is a great opportunity. Registration deadline is July 30.

Verses for Pondering:

Luke 11:4 (NRSV)

"Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us."

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for a **job** for friends in need and thank Him for providing.
- Thank God for His generous provision for the **Food4Kids** ministry!
- Pray for WDC congregations that are supporting **refugees and asylum seekers**, as they join God's work of justice and care for all people.
- Pray that **children and their caregivers** may grow in faith and joy as they attend summer Story Day activities at the WDC Resource Library on August 3.

Upcoming Events

- **Peppernut planning** meeting tonight at 7pm.
- Read **Mark Chapter 2** this week for our shared Bible reading.
- **Looking for spiritual encouragement? Our Western District Assembly** will be August 11-13. We will explore listening to God and to each other through our theme, "Holy (Wholly) Listening." 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. Registration is open online.

If you can't take in the whole weekend, consider joining in on Saturday evening for Tabor Church's traditional BBQ Supper and MennoGrass Concert at the park. (5:30-9pm) Since this is combined with the assembly, you can go without registering and just give a donation that night.

- The rain came [Saturday evening July 15](#), and the field was turned to mud, so no plowing. But the Ag Committee decided to have Plowing with Horses and Vintage Tractors on [Saturday, July 29](#), just west of Moundridge Museum, 8:30-2:00. Again, concessions by Gospel Mennonite. We tasted their homemade ice cream and that really makes a trip to Moundridge double worthwhile. Come and see.--Kathy Goering for 150th steering committee

Other Announcements

- We have **4 weeks left in the Summer Food 4 Kids program**. We have served 2,853 meals so far. Our freezers are nearly empty of cookies. We serve 19 dozen a day! So if you can help bake cookies for the next 4 weeks, we will finish strong. We are also using homegrown cucumbers, onions and tomatoes. Thanks so much for your help in feeding families in Hillsboro.--Norma Duerksen
- **Wear your favorite outfit this Sunday** and have your picture taken for our bulletin board. Thanks to those who participated last Sunday. It's never too late to join in. All active participants are invited. We are abiding in the vine together! (check it out - I think the pruning helped!)
- The **MCC School Kit Challenge** is almost here – 10,000 school kits in the month of August!
- **Quotes** from some Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers found in their newsletter.

“What better cause can you have but our Lord and Savior?”

“We're just trying to walk with Jesus and when we find an opportunity to do it with others, we want to do that.”

Wow! These say so well what we here at FMC want to do. Remember: We are

“IN CHRIST- MAKING DISCIPLES THROUGH LOVING RELATIONSHIPS!”

- In August, **AMBS** (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) is launching a new **Practical Leadership Training** program to help pastors, lay leaders, community leaders and leaders of nonprofit organizations increase their capacity to provide effective Anabaptist leadership in a variety of settings. Copy this link to see their flyer. <https://mennowdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/PLT-flyer-2023-06.pdf>
- **Colorado Peaches are coming!** The Palisade peaches on the Western Slope are supposed to be a good crop this year thanks to the moisture during the winter and spring. Please email patsydirksen@mcc.org to place your peach order from **July 24-August 5**. Two sizes are available: **10 lbs. for \$30 and 18 lbs. for \$41**. Checks should be made payable to **Beth-EI Mennonite Church with "Peaches" in the memo line** and payment (cash/check only) is due by **August 5** to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St.). Peaches will be available for pickup from the MCC Material Resources Center on **Monday, August 21**. This is a fundraiser for the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale held in Rocky Ford, Colorado October 20-21.