



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

July 5, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

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

- Prepare in advance to enjoy a day outside in the beauty of God's creation and relaxing fellowship as we learn, worship and picnic in the park this next Sunday, July 9. We will have an introduction to the gospel of Mark during Sunday School, focus on trusting God during our worship time, and share the noon meal. Bring your lawn chairs, table service and food as well as invite your friends and neighbors!
- The video message that we heard last Sunday by Glen Guyton was a taste of what he and other speakers are sharing at MennoCon23 on the theme of transformation. Five worship services and five teaching sessions will be enjoyed by those at the conference. We will be sharing more about this in the coming weeks as we seek transformation for our family here at FMC.
- Nurture your soul by joining together with your FMC family in reading through the gospel of Mark. We are eager to hear God's voice together as we listen in a unified fashion around common shared study. See the chart below for plans on how we will do this.

Verses for Pondering:

Romans 12: 1-2

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- We send our condolences to the **Klaassen family**. Joel completed his last days on earth and passed into eternity last Thursday morning. We will have a celebration of life service for him sometime in September. Pray for the whole family.
- Our four members send greetings from the **MennoCon23** conference in Kansas City! They are having wonderful times of worship and learning!
- 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 one body of Christ.
- There are **120 different individuals** who have been served lunches and given pool passes through the Food4Kids Ministry so far this summer. Pray that they will be drawn to seek God and find healing for their hearts.
- Pray for our **Ministry Council** as they meet on Monday, July 10 at 5 pm and our **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team** as they meet on Monday, July 17 at 10:30 am.

Upcoming Events

- **COOKIES & CHECKS needed for Summer Food4Kids.** Find a cool time of day to get your oven going again to bake cookies or bring a check made out to “Summer Food4Kids”. There are still 27 days to provide food this summer!
- **Meet in the park this coming Sunday!** Sunday School, (9:30) Worship (10:30) and a Picnic (following worship) will all be part of our plans for Sunday morning, July 9th. Bring your lawn chair and gather in the south west corner of the park where there is nice shade. Drinks will be provided, so bring your own table service and food to share. If you need help with getting a chair, please let the church office or someone else know. Many have extras and are willing to share!
- **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.
- **Shared Scripture Reading!** Sunday we will have an introduction to the gospel of Mark and then invite everyone to begin reading together. The hope of your worship/nurture team is that this could bring us together around our common love for Jesus and His Word. It will

give us much to talk about and encourage one another with as we seek to apply the scripture to our lives.

Week 1	July 10 – 16	Mark 1
Week 2	July 17 – 23	Mark 2
Week 3	July 24 – 30	Mark 3
Week 4	July 31 – August 6	Mark 4
Week 5	August 13	Community Time
Week 6	August 14 - 20	Mark 5
Week 7	August 21 – 27	Mark 6
Week 8	September 3	Community Time
Week 9	September 4 –10	Mark 7
Week 10	September 11 – 17	Mark 8
Week 11	September 18 - 24	Mark 9
Week 12	Sept 25 – Oct 1	Mark 10
Week 13	October 2-8	Mark 11
Week 14	October 15	Community Time
Week 15	October 16-22	Mark 12
Week 16	October 23-29	Mark 13
Week 17	Oct 30 – Nov 5	Mark 14
Week 18	November 6 - 12	Mark 15
Week 19	November 13 - 19	Mark 16
Week 20	November 26	Community Time

- Spring Valley Mennonite Church invites us to share with them as they celebrate 150 years of ministry with special activities on September 2 - 3. This is the church where Ronnie and Diane Mason fellowship. (see flyer on the bulletin board) In anticipation of this they will have “A Century and of Half of Travel” car show and car stories of Spiring Valley on July 8 and an “Old Fashioned Hymn sing” at 7 pm August 13. See their website for more information.

Other Announcements

- **Young Children in Our Worship?** What would you do if a neighbor walked in with a young preschool aged child on Sunday morning? One of the moms that comes to get food during the week has been inquiring about our worship services. Norma has assured her that she would be very welcome! Would you be willing to love a child in our nursery during worship? If you would take a turn at that, please let Jan Amstutz or Sue Buchholz know of your willingness. They would like to create a list of willing volunteers so they know who to ask when the need arises. Also be aware that they have made an activity bag for a preschooler should one come and want to sit in worship with their parent. It is located under the table where bulletins are kept.
- Our piano tuner, JD Hershberger, was in last week and got our piano tuned for the year! Let one of the worship/nurture team members know if you would like to be one of those who get to play it during our times of worship! Or let us know what other instrument you have that could be shared for God's glory! God desires a "joyful noise" and a willing spirit!
- When our **pipe organ tuner, David Rankin**, came recently, his beautiful music started a conversation about hymns. He is interested in coming back 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 Sue know if you would be interested in helping her plan this.
- Arts and Crafts Fair is coming. Does anyone want to join in offering an ethnic meal in our building on that day? Share your ideas with Sue in the office.
- **Thank You! Camp Mennoscah** is happy to announce that money continues to come to Camp through the engagement of good people like yourselves with the **M&M Project**. Churches, small groups, families, and individuals are signing up to be the "Fire Keepers" - \$1000 givers - and as of last week, we have almost half of what we need to reach our goal of \$100,000 in pledges.

If you haven't signed up, or if you don't have the money right now - remember that the gift can be spread over several months or weeks - your choice. We know you will want to be in on this opportunity to continue our Mission at Camp.