



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

August 2, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team**

- The team will be meeting tonight with a particular focus on nurture and vision planning.
- Read Mark 4. We will continue to have an opportunity to share insights during worship on Sunday, either written or spoken.
- Our theme for this coming Sunday is “Be not arrogant!” Bring your pride and you can leave it with Jesus.

- **Ministries Council**

- Next meeting will be Thursday, August 10.

Verse for Pondering: Matthew 11:28 (NRSV)

“**Come to me**, (*Jesus says*)

all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for a friend at St. Frances hospital who is waiting for a possible valve repair surgery. Continue to pray for her healing!

- A sister shared a funny T-shirt logo from Facebook –

**“I want to be so full of Christ that if a mosquito bites me, it flies away singing
'There's Power in the Blood!'** Thanks! 😊

- Continue prayers for **a job** for friends in need and grace in waiting and accepting.
- Next week is the last week this summer for the **Food4Kids** ministry! Pray for a strong closing.
- Pray for **wisdom and direction** for our church leadership teams.
- The **Trinity Mennonite church** will be remembered in a special service during the WDC Assembly on Saturday, August 12. Pray that this will be a very meaningful time.
- Hold up to our heavenly Father those who will be going **back to school – teachers, administrators, and students**. May Christ's light guide and shine brightly in our Hillsboro schools as well as all of Marion County, our state, and our nation.
- The church office will be closed from August 8 through the 16. Our secretary will be working remotely while visiting her son in New York City and babysitting another granddaughter who is turning 2. Please pray for her travels, time of sharing God's love, stamina, and to have God's view of this different culture.
- **Our WDC request:** Pray for all who will participate in the WDC Annual Assembly next weekend, Aug 11-13, as we gather for worship, work and fellowship around the theme Holy (*Wholly*) Listening.

Upcoming Events

- Study **Mark Chapter 4** this week for our shared Bible reading.
- **Western District Assembly, August 11-13** at Tabor Mennonite Church. We will explore listening to God and to each other through our theme, "Holy (Wholly) Listening." There will be fun options and choices available as we learn about following Jesus together. Registration is open online. You can also join in on Saturday evening for Tabor Church's traditional **BBQ Supper and MennoGrass Concert** at the park. (5:30-9pm) without registering and just give a donation that night.
- On behalf of **Spring Valley Mennonite church**, FMC is invited to their old fashioned hymn sing Sunday, Aug 13 at 7p.m. This is part of their celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church so they will be singing acapella from old hymnals. Spring Valley Church is located at the corner of Frontier and 29th just inside McPherson County.

- The **Life Enrichment Program** at Bethel College begins for Fall 2023 on August 23 and ends on November 15. See the bulletin board in the hallway for all the wonderful courses being offered.

Other Announcements

- **MCC is looking for a driver with a semi tractor** that would be willing to transport cardboard paper bales for recycling from the MCC warehouse in North Newton to Wichita. This is an immediate need, but MCC anticipates needing help like this 4-5 times per year. If you can help or have questions, please reach out to Duane Unruh at MCC at 785.760.1390 or duaneunruh@mcc.org.
- The **MCC School Kit Challenge** is going strong, thank you for helping us meet our goal of gathering 10,000 school kits in the month of August! Did you know that school kits now include 4 new blue or black ballpoint pens? The MCC material resources center in North Newton is very low on pens and notebooks. Please keep these needs in mind as you see these items for sale this month. Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact katemast@mcc.org or 316.283.2720.
The full list of MCC kit contents (NEW items only)
 - 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
 - 8 new unsharpened pencils
 - 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
 - 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
 - 1 large eraser
 - 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
 - 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. **All metal** sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com) or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners** please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.
- **Ministry for the Hillsboro Arts and Crafts Fair:** Sign-up sheets on the hall whiteboard.
 - **Peppernut sales!** Making peppernuts will take place on August 24, 25, and 26. Sign up sheets are on the white board at the east entrance. This is a great opportunity to invite unchurches neighbors and friends who need a taste of our love!
 - **First Mennonite Café!** We will serve 3 ethnic foods from 10am – 1pm.
 - **Prayer ministry!** Spend some time in our sanctuary praying for our church and community. God desires our hearts turned to Him and our lives following His lead.

- **Love to cook?** Learn the best methods for cooking Hillsboro sausage or making cherry moos!
- Do some armchair traveling- **host an exchange student!** The Greenheart Exchange program is looking for sponsors for six students who have won US government scholarships to spend a high school year in the US. They are eagerly waiting news that they have been selected by a family who wants to host. There is a list on our family bulletin board with a brief bio on each student if you are interested in more details and contact information.
- **Orders for Colorado Peaches through MCC are due by Saturday, August 5.** . Please email patsydirksen@mcc.org to place your orders for 10 lbs. for \$30 and 18 lbs. for \$41. Checks should be made payable to Beth-El 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.). Pickup of the peaches will be, **August 21**. This is a fundraiser for the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale held in Rocky Ford, Colorado October 20-21.