



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

August 23, 2023

### To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team** – report from meeting on Monday, August 21
  - This coming Sunday will be about **celebrating the harvest, celebrating abundance!**
  - **September 10<sup>th</sup>** we will have Rosie Epp as our guest speaker in worship.
  - The following week, September 17 will begin a **six-week series on “Why Church?”** This will be taken from the book by David E. Fitch, [What Is the Church and Why Does It Exist?](#) This will be interspersed with evening times of discussion for the whole church to share their thoughts about who we are. (See the following paragraph).
  - **Wednesday Evening Events!** As we move forward on discovery of who we are and where God is leading us, we will be having 6 Wednesday evenings inviting everyone to come together for prayer and discussion. “Prayer Listening Time” will be from 7:00 – 7:30 pm on September 20, October 4, and October 18. This will be a simple, short time to come before God together. Discussion time will follow for three weeks called, “Church, Why?” These will run from 7:00 – 8:15 pm on – September 27, October 11, and November 1. We are looking forward to having our whole body share together in these ways. They will be stand alone events so you can come to any or all as you desire.

**Verse for Pondering:** John 10:10b (NRSV)

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

## Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Continue to pray for our dear brothers and sisters who are struggling with **physical health issues**. – surgery, treatments, pain, etc.
- Praise God for those considering becoming a part of **the FMC family**. Pray that they will have discernment in God's leading. 23 people – new folks and ministries council leaders - enjoyed lunch together on Sunday as we shared our history and beliefs. Check out the table in the foyer with all 24 confessions of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective!
- Pray for many in our community who are struggling to pay bills, find affordable housing and sustainable jobs. The number of those calling our church **needing assistance** has been increasing.
- The latest news from **Main Street Ministries** has been put in you FMC mailboxes!
- Remember all those settling into new school routines. Prayers and notes of encouragement would be welcome especially to our **college students!**
- Pray for the victims of the tragic wildfires in Maui.
- Please pray for emerging congregations as the Spirit draws them together to be of one mind and heart to do the will of the Lord – WDC Church Planting Commission.

## Upcoming Events

- **Peppernut baking** is being set up today! Come join in on the fun on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.
- **State Fair tractor drivers** are needed for the MCC fundraiser on Friday, September 8. There are 3 shifts available throughout the day. Talk to Doug Bartel if you are willing to help with this.
- **Want to be a story catcher, story keeper, and story sharer?** Find out more by attending the Western District Women in Mission Women's & Girls Retreat Sept. 9-10 at Camp Mennoscah! Activities will be available for all ages (no specific girls programming). A brochure and registration form are available to download, print and send in at <https://www.westerndistrictwomeninmission.org/events>. We hope you can join us! This year's theme is Women Talking, Listening, and Creating, with our scripture theme being 2 Peter 1:12-21. **Registration is due by September 5**. For questions, email [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto:westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com).

## Other Announcements

- The box is in our foyer for the **MCC School Kit Challenge** again this year! Here is the full list of MCC kit contents (NEW items only). Copies of this are also located on the box that you can take shopping with you!
- **Time of Transition:** Dallas Willard once wrote, “you do not have to make it happen”. At Main Street Ministries, we are in a time of transition and we take comfort in knowing that we do not and cannot make all the changes happen. We invite you to read Isaiah 58:6-12. It is the theme verse for our ministry. We have heard the testimony of several women who were transformed by Jesus while at MSM, just like we read about in the Isaiah passage. We look forward to partnering with the Lord, knowing we do not have to make it happen. He will complete the work he has started at 1MSM. Thank you for your prayer, financial and volunteer support! Please look for our newest newsletter in your church mailbox!
- The August 25 issue of **Anabaptist World** is now available to be read online. If you are interested, please contact customer service at 1-845-267-3069 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday or by emailing [AnabaptistWorld@cambeywest.com](mailto:AnabaptistWorld@cambeywest.com).
- The box in our foyer continues for the **MCC School Kit Challenge** again this year! Here is the full list of MCC kit contents (NEW items only). Copies of this are also located on the box that you can take shopping with you!
  - 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.