



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

July 26, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team** .
 - Read Mark 3. We will continue to have 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. *[It is so nice to feel like we are listening to God on the same page!]*
 - Our theme for this coming Sunday is “Peacemaking may mean walking away from conflict.” The focus will be on the story of Isaac and the wells in Genesis 26:12-33. There will be no projection of hymns or scripture because Deryll and Jan are at a family gathering. *[Could God be leading you to be a part of our tech team?]*
 - 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**
 - **There will be a beautiful “recognition of closure” service for the former Trinity Mennonite Church** at the WDC Assembly. They will share the history of the church and recognize former participants of the church.
 - **The offer is still good** through July 31 for a 50% discount to anyone who wants to be a delegate at our WDC Assembly for up to 4 people. The Assembly is at the Tabor Mennonite Church August 11-13. The theme is “Holy (Wholly) Listening”. If you are interested in knowing what our denomination is doing, this is a great opportunity. Registration deadline is July 30.

Verse for Pondering: Luke 6:45 (NRSV)

“The good person out of the **good treasure of the heart** produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil, for it is out of **the abundance of the heart** that the mouth speaks.” [*emphasis is mine- are you storing up good treasure in your heart and getting rid of the evil?*]

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Listen to the Holy Spirit for who and how we might **support and encourage** those in need in our FMC family.
- Continue prayers for **a job** for friends in need and grace in waiting and accepting.
- Thank God for His generous provision for the **Food4Kids** ministry! Pray for connections and seeds of love to be planted during these last 2 and a half weeks!
- **Our WDC request:** Pray for the newly-certified church plant of *Arca de Salvacion* (Ark of Salvation) in Uspantan, Guatemala. We also pray for the calling of new members in the church planting commission which experiences transition as a number of its members make moves.

Upcoming Events

- Read **Mark Chapter 3** this week for our shared Bible reading.
- **Looking for spiritual encouragement?** Mark your calendar for our Western District Assembly, August 11-13. 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.

*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 these are community events combined with the assembly, you can go without registering and just give a donation that night.*

- There will be “Plowing with Horses and Vintage Tractors” on **Saturday, July 29**, just west of Moundridge Museum, 8:30-2:00. Concessions by Gospel Mennonite which

includes their homemade ice cream! Come and see.--Kathy Goering for 150th steering committee

Other Announcements

- **Money donations** are still appreciated for the Food4Kids ministry.
- **Tired of the Hillsboro Arts and Crafts Fair again for the 54th year? Consider this:**
 - For this ministry opportunity, we will limit ourselves to two main tasks. Selling our delicious homemade peppernuts and serving 3 ethnic foods from 10am – 1pm.
 - *We are offering our cool, air-conditioned building and restrooms to many from our community and beyond who will need a break!
 - We will open our sanctuary for prayer and have someone in prayer throughout the event to intercede for the event and any who might come desiring prayer. (30 minute slots will be available for you to pray!)
 - We are only using willing participants who want to do a small task to shine God's love to others. (tasks vary from 30 minutes to 2 hours, unless you want to hang around and be blessed to see the whole morning affair!)
 - We will buy the verenika already prepared, cooked and ready to serve from "The Breadbasket" in Newton. (We just need one driver to pick it up and people to serve it!)
 - Bob and Judy Jantz, the masters of cooking Hillsboro sausage will prepare the sausage. Here is a chance to learn from the best if you are interested in helping them.
 - The third item we will offer is cherry moos! Yum!!! If you don't know how to make this family tradition, here is your chance to learn. Two of our experienced women would welcome a couple more people to learn this trade a day or two before the fair.
 - Set-up the day before only includes hanging signs and putting up one tent for peppernuts.
 - Servers/greeters can serve drinks, food, or just welcome people as they come through.
 - What would I enjoy doing?
- 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.

- **Mennonite Family Centre, Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine**, is a ministry of the Mennonite Benevolent Society. Their newsletter, "Beacon of Hope", arrived and is on the "service" bulletin board with a very interesting update on some of the affects of the war in Ukraine and the work of the Family Centre. Check it out!
- **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-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.). 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.