



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

August 30, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team –**

- Worship planning has been outlined through November. We praise God for worship leaders, readers, and storytellers. Having more responsibility during the services since Pastor Tom left, our team is working on being creative with our Sunday services. We appreciate all who are stepping forward to join in!
- A warm welcome to **Norma Duerksen** who recently agreed to serve on our team. If you have input, let Deryll A, Jan A, Sue B, Norma D, or Aleen R know. What a joy to worship and glorify God together each week!
- This week will conclude our series on seeking peace together with the theme of **Rejoicing with Creation!**
- September 10th we will have **Rosie Epp** as our guest speaker in worship.
- September 17 begins our six-week series on **“Why Church? Tom Voht** will be sharing his gift of worship music on the guitar that Sunday as well as having **Shirley Baltzer** on the organ.
- **Make plans to join us for Wednesday Evening Events!**
 - **“Prayer Listening Time”** from 7:00 – 7:30 pm Sept 20, Oct 4, and Oct 18; simple, short times to come before God together.
 - **“Church, Why?”** from 7:00 – 8:15 pm Sept 27, Oct 11, and Nov 1. Everyone is invited to share in these discussion times.

Verse for Pondering: Isaiah 58:11 (NRSV)

“The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

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 that **Lloyd Funk** is now doing fine. He was extremely dehydrated so Larry suggested we pray that God would “keep a cloud over him so he keeps drinking water. LOL”
- It is great to welcome **Nancy Klaassen** back in town. Please pray for her as she gets settled in and plans the Celebration of Joel’s life service to be held on September 23 at 1:30pm. It will be in our sanctuary and have a dessert fellowship following.
- Praise God for those considering becoming a part of **the FMC family**. Pray that they will have discernment in God’s leading.
- Thanks to all who have shared their abundant garden produce with those who had little. We rejoice in God’s **abundance and generosity!**
- Praise God for **ALL who helped with making peppernuts** last week. 405 ½ pounds were made, not counting those that were tasted for quality control! (The office administrator would also offer special thanks for the daily aromatherapy you have given her by storing them in the back office! You also might want to pray for an extra measure of the Holy Spirit’s gift of self control for her? ☺)
- The **church office will be closed until Sept. 5**. Sue will be working remotely so can still be contacted by phone or email. 620-947-3734; secretary@fmchillsboro.com while she visits her son and daughter-in-law in San Rafael, California.

- **Kay Scharping and Glen Goertz** are both doing rehabilitation in the same place. Send cards of encouragement to them at:
Regent Park Rehabilitation & Healthcare
10604 East 13th St. North
Wichita, KS 67206
- **Happy birthday** to
 - **Stephanie Hiebert** (Mark and Sandy's daughter) today, August 30
 - **Glen Diener** on Friday, September 1.

Upcoming Events

- **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.
- Sign-up sheets are back on the white board for the **Arts and Crafts events** on Saturday, September 16. We will again have our FMC Café with ethnic food inside our building and sell our peppernuts. Consider joining in on this ministry to our community!
- **September 10** will be our **special offering** for our **FMC Care Fund**.
- **Ministries Council** meets on Thursday, September 14 at 7pm.
- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team** will meet on Monday September 18 at 2:15pm.
- Wednesday, September 20 will be a time of **Prayer Listening** in the sanctuary from 7 – 7:30pm.
- **Celebration of Life memorial service for Joel Klaassen** – Saturday, September 23 at 1:30pm. Dessert Fellowship to follow.
- **New Member Sunday** – September 24 with a reception following. Four people have already decided to join in. Let the church office know if you would like to become an official

member of FMC too. Letters of transfer can be left in the box outside the office door anytime.

Other Announcements

- **Greetings from Camp Mennoscah!** It has been an amazing year so far! With the help of program volunteers, support volunteers and the Summer Staff we welcomed 383 campers back to share faith & fun for eight weeks of youth camp programming at Camp Mennoscah. Many lives were influenced by our 155 dedicated volunteers and staff, most of who come from supporting churches. We are thankful and blessed by the number of people willing to share in Camp Mennoscah's summer programming! All generous volunteers are valuable to Camp Mennoscah's ministry as mentors and living examples of a Christian life. We will look to see you next summer!
- There is still time to buy school supplies and add them to the box in our foyer for the **MCC School Kit Challenge**. (shopping lists are on the box)
- **Bethel College News:**
 - Now in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College – “Drinking from a New Well,” **ceramics by Tom and Pam Voht**, through Thurs., Sept. 21. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
 - Sat., Sept. 2 – **Kauffman Museum bird walk**, 7 a.m.
 - Sun., Sept. 10 – ***Eat, Protest, Lift***, a film by **Caleb Stephens**, 7 p.m., *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*
- **Mennonite Men:** This is the men's organization for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA with a mission of “Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.” Check out their programs for giving to churches under JoinHands, resources for men under JoinMen, and their campaign to plant one million trees under JoinTrees. More information at: mennonitemen.org
- **Tabor College Homecoming 2023** is set for Sept. 29-30. Save the dates.