



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

September 13, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team –**

- This Sunday begins our six-week series on “**Why Church?**” During our worship service we will have some teaching time from the first chapter of the book, What Is the Church and Why Does It Exist? By David E. Fitch. It is one of a series of books that have been published by Herald Press called “The Jesus Way: Small Books of Radical Faith”. There will be lots of scripture and an outline will be shared on the screen, so bring your Bible and a pencil if you like to take notes. Hopefully you will find much to ponder. The following week will be chapter 2 and then we will gather on Wednesday evening, Sept.27 at 7 pm for discussion and discernment together of what this might mean for us as a congregation here in Hillsboro. We hope that everyone who considers themselves a part of our body of Christ will join us in this pursuit!
- Make plans to join us for a **prayer time** of listening to God next Wednesday, the 20th, in our sanctuary from 7 – 7:30 pm.
- Tonight, a team of people are meeting to launch **relationship building meals**. Please pray for direction as we seek to welcome EVERYONE to God’s table! Details coming soon.
- Last Sunday Aleen shared the idea of “**Breath Prayers**” taken from “The Peace Table Storybook Bible” during children’s focus. Perhaps you will find more information on this helpful. This practice of prayer is explained as follows:

“Breathe in slowly as you say or think one of the names for God from the left column. Breathe out slowly as you say or think one of the phrases from the right column. Repeat several times. Add your own ideas to each column.

BREATH IN

BREATH OUT

Loving God

give me peace

Creator	lead me
Shepherd	help me
Holy Spirit	bring me joy
Healer	give me strength

Verse for Pondering: Ephesians 1:5 – 8a(NRSV)

“He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Continue to **pray for and encourage one another** in all our struggles and our joys.
- Pray for God’s guidance for elected leaders of WDC as they begin a new program year.
- Patricia Shelly, retired credentialed minister in WDC, died September 4, at her home in Newton, following a 3-year struggle with pancreatic cancer. A memorial service is planned for 11:00am on Saturday, September 30 at Bethel college Mennonite Church in Newton. The service will be live streamed at https://youtube.com/live/IX0_1OnzWQs?feature=share.
- CORE Community Marion County, helping to lift people out of poverty, will begin meeting in our building every Thursday evening from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. They will be in the fellowship hall, kitchen, chapel and nursery. Pray for the 20 some people who are participating in this ministry.
- Invite God’s wisdom to lead our **Ministry council** meeting tomorrow evening at 7 pm.

Upcoming Events

- **Time to share God’s love in Hillsboro!** Plan to enjoy the **Arts and Crafts Fair** on Saturday, September 16, with your church family. Let Sue know in the church office when you are available or sign up on the whiteboard.
- **Wednesday Evening Events coming soon!**
 - **“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.

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team** will meet on Monday September 18 at 2:15pm.
- **New Member Sunday** – September 24 with a carry-in lunch following worship. 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.
- **Pam and Tom Voth’s pottery show** at Bethel College will be available until the closing reception on Sept 21 from 6-8pm. It’s located in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Regular hours are 9 am to 5 pm M-F and 2-4pm Sunday. No admission charge.
- **Everence® September Workshop: Social Security and retirement income**

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, Sept. 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include, Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions. The in-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, KS.

Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

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- Bethel College Women’s Association has their annual Fall Festival the second weekend of October. **BCWA welcomes donations of baked goods** for Market-in-the-Round and pies for Pie-by-the-Slice at Fall Festival. Bring homemade fruit pies, poppyseed roll, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, or other treats to room 140 in Luyken Fine Arts Center from **2-5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13 or 7-9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14**. Questions? Email bcwa@beltheilks.edu. All proceeds will benefit Bethel College.

Other Announcements

- The **Treasurer’s report** for the second quarter:

Second Quarter (Apr. - June) FMC Ministry Fund Income for this year (2023): \$40,353.55

Second Quarter (Apr. - June) FMC Ministry Fund Income past four year average: \$57,246.34

Second Sunday Offerings:

April - Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: \$95.00

May - Hesston/Bethel Colleges: \$201.00

June - Camp Mennoscah: \$555.00

-Glen

- **EtCetra shop NEEDS YOU!** Volunteers are needed for cashiers on Mon, Tues, Wed or Fri 9 – 5 with half-day shifts preferred and Sat AM. Once or twice a month would be very helpful! Sorting clothes are also needed if you prefer to be behind the scenes. Contact the Et Cetera Shop at 620-947-3817.
- **A thank you** was received from David Boshart of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary(AMBS) for our gift of support. He said, *“Your support is vital in helping us to carry out our mission to educate leaders for God’s reconciling mission in the world.”*
- **Main Street Ministries** (MSM) is seeking a director to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ by providing physical, social/emotional, and spiritual resources in a supportive environment. MSM is a Christian non-profit organization that offers transformational housing for women and their children in times of crisis. If you are interested in this full-time salaried position, please see the full job description and fillable application on our website at mainstreetministries.net/jobs/
- Dr. Justin Morgan is offering free **Navigation of Health Resources in Marion County** at Parkview for uninsured patients on Mondays 3:30-4:30 pm and by appointment. For more details call (316) 804-8619. Why: Because Jesus loves Marion County. Justin wants to help uninsured patients navigate the medical system and other local resources for health needs that arise. He is happy to see uninsured with health sharing plans such as Christian Healthcare Ministries or Medi-Share. He will not be there on federal holidays and occasional other times. We recommend that you call ahead.
- Wheat planting means fall is here! The second happening of the **150th celebration of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites** coming to the U.S. in 1874 is a Planting Turkey Red Wheat with Horses event just west of the Moundridge Museum on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Three teams of horses will show up to work the planting project starting at 8:30 a.m. and an old tractor will deliver the wheat to the drills. Morning concessions will be available. The Moundridge Museum will be open to visitors, and the Farmers Market will have plenty of produce to sell.
Thank you to Darrel Schrag, Glen Goering, Keith Goering, Russ Stucky, and Nathan Graber for making all the arrangements. We all don’t have a team of horses in our backyard, so seeing those big work horses is astonishing; the kids especially find them awesome.
Come and see. – Kathy Goering

- An emailed copy of the 2023 Western District Conference Annual Assembly Business Session minutes and election results, budget and delegates list is available. If you would like to have a copy sent to your inbox, let the church office know.
- From a sister congregation in Western District Conference:
Footsteps of Paul in Greece + 3-Night Cruise May 27 – June 6, 2024. Led by Pastor Weldon Martens, Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS. This is a 11-Day Tour & Cruise to Athens, Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth, Crete, Patmos, Ephesus, Mykonos & Santorini. Cost: \$3,219 + flights. Registration: Due by January 18, 2024. Contact Pastor Weldon Martens at: weldon.martens@gmail.com / 402-202-9276. Complete tour information & registration at www.tourwithweldon.com