



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

September 20, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision Team –**

- There will be a time of **prayer tonight in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm**. We will sit in a circle at the front, open with a simple song and scripture to help us focus, then follow some prompts with time for silent meditation and open prayer. All are invited to join in.
- Keep pondering on “**Church - What?**” Teaching time will continue this week with the second chapter of David Fitch’s book, then we will gather on Wednesday evening, Sept.27 from 7-8:15 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!

Verse for Pondering: John 13:35 (NRSV)

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- **Praise God for His Spirit and encouragement** with the beginning of our study about the church. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we continue seeking to understand who we are and where God is leading.
- **Pray for and encourage one another** in all our struggles and our joys.

- **Praise and thanks** for the wonderful day of serving others at the Arts and Crafts Fair. It was a very “chill” time with so many sharing their gifts and doing their part working together. We sold out on Peppernuts a bit before noon and the food was all gone by around 1:30 except for a couple of cups of cherry moos that workers were very glad to purchase!
- WDC request: pray for the WDC Listening Process, as congregations host listening teams from WDC to reflect on congregational ministry and hopes for the future, and ways that WDC resources can support their mission. (Our ministry council is looking at dates in March for FMC to participate in this)

Upcoming Events

- This Saturday at 1:30pm come **celebrate Joel Klaassen’s life** with a reception following.
- Sunday School will be discussing **Mark chapter 9** this week.
- Share in our “**carry-in lunch**” **this Sunday** after worship as we welcome 10 brothers and sisters who will be transferring their membership to join in our FMC family!
- **Pam and Tom Voth’s pottery show** at Bethel College will be available until the closing reception tomorrow, 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. No admission charge. Having been, I encourage you to see it; they do such unique beautiful work!
- Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, Sept. 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. The in-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, KS. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

Other Announcements

- **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 Mennonite Church USA for our contribution.
- **KMRS QUILTER’S CORNER FALL SALE** - October 13-14, 2023, Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-3, at MCC, 121 E. 30th Street, North Newton, KS. There will be lots of great quilt-related items available for purchase with all the proceeds going to the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Questions? Contact Rose at 316-288-0079 or Ann at 919-604-3282

- Kevin King, Executive Director of **Mennonite Disaster Service** in U.S. shared in the MDS newsletter that he has responded to disasters internationally and domestically for the past four decades. He said, "Somewhere along in my journey I gathered these notes of "go to" scriptures that keep my feet grounded. Well, I confess, most of the time!"

May they be an inspiration to you too.

- God wants to hear from us - David the Psalmist cries out Psalms 4:8, Psalms 55:4-8, 16-17 Psalms 31:9-10, 22b and Lamentations 2:18-19, 3:49-50.
- Suffering is universal. It is wrong to say God is punishing us. God said Job's friends were wrong Job 4:7-9.
- We don't always know why God allows events to occur, but we can trust that God is love and that God is at work in the world in powerful ways. Job 42:1-3.
- God invites our burdens. Mathew 11:28-30.
- God knows us more than we know ourselves, thus we may not always understand the emotions disaster survivors go through. Only God knows. Psalms 139:1-4.
- God is not far away; we are not to be afraid. John 14:27.
- We may never know why the disaster occurred, but we can know that nothing can separate us from God's love. Romans 8:35, 37-39.
- God sent his son so we can be connected. John 3:16.
- God offers us new life, a new beginning, a chance to live life to the full. John 10:10b.