



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

October 18, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Tonight: Family prayer time** in the sanctuary at 7 pm. Bring your Bible please.
- **This coming Sunday:**
 - A panel discussion with Mike Brandt, Glen Diener, Aleen Ratzlaff, and Sue Buchholz will be shared around the topic "How Do We Do Church? Social Spaces"
- **Ministries Council** is planning a meeting with a **transition pastor candidate** to continue a dialog. Please keep praying for discernment and clarity.

Verse for Pondering: Psalm 25:4 (NRSV)

***"Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths."***

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory! We will again focus on three families each week. This week, pray for the first three families.
- Remember our sister in the hospital in Wichita for colon issues. Pray that the appropriate treatment plan will be developed soon. She has her cell phone, so can take your calls of encouragement. No visitors please.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom for our FMC leadership.

- Pray for wisdom and strength for the worship team as they plan the final two weeks of our focus on the church, asking the question, how do we do church?
- Lament and mourn for the chaos that so many find themselves in. Be ready to sow seeds of God's love to all you meet!
- Join with the WDC Israel Palestine Task Force in praying for leadership that has the courage to address the problems, injustices and racism that perpetuates this violence. We especially pray for wisdom and restraint between Hamas and the Israeli government.

Upcoming Events

- **Tonight!** As brothers and sisters, we will be lifting our hearts to our holy and gracious God in unified prayer. All are invited to come and pray from 7 – 7:30 pm. Bring your Bible.
- **Replenish the Food Bank!** The youth of all churches in town will be collecting non-perishable food on October 25th with the fun activity of “Trick or Treat So Others Eat”. A collection box is in our foyer.
- **Chapter 12** in our gospel of Mark reading this week.
- Sunday November 5 – **Mission Sunday!** Don't miss our annual mission Sunday when Bob Tolle, a representative for the Mennonite Mission Network will be sharing about that ministry. We will celebrate God's mission, and share fellowship at a delicious lunch together. Meat and potatoes will be provided. Please bring side dishes to share if you would like. We will have our special offering for the month that Sunday, rather than waiting until the usual following week since we will be giving to the Mennonite Mission Network.
- **MEN!!! – You have an amazing opportunity right in Newton.** A half-day men's retreat: Living that Matters - November 11, 2023, 8 am – noon in Newton at Shalom Mennonite Church. This retreat draws from Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith (Herald Press, 2023), which each participant will receive. The retreat is led by Steve Thomas, US coordinator of Mennonite Men. They will “examine the scripts we've been given, explore differing expressions of masculinity, and reconsider our purpose and aims in life.” Check out the flyer on the bulletin board!
- **Hoffnungsaue Mennonite Church**, 43 13th Avenue, Inman, will hold its annual **Sausage Mission Supper** on Saturday, October 21, 5:00 – 6:30. This will be a curbside pick up meal featuring our traditional menu of German sausage, mashed potatoes with gravy, creamed peas, zwiebach, applesauce and pie. This year we will have picnic tables out for anyone wanting to stay and eat their meal! Cost will be a free will offering with all proceeds going to support Camp Mennoscah M & M project. Call or text Barb (620-543-6863) or Eric (620-899-6972) to order meals.

Other Announcements

- **Thank you** to all of you active participants who helped to update our church directory information. The new directory will be in your church mailbox by this Friday.
- Our **East Door** by the kitchen has been rekeyed. Please turn in your old keys to the office.
- **MCC responding to the Palestine and Israel conflict** – As conflict has escalated in the region, MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC remains committed to a just peace for all, and we invite you to join us in praying for an end to the violence.

MCC is planning an emergency response to the current crisis with existing partners. Our response will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. MCC's work will build on previous responses to the ongoing conflict, including the distribution of food and bedding. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction. Donate online at mcc.org/Palestine-Israel.

- Bethel College annual **Menno Simons Lectures**, "The Mennonites in Revolutionary Ukraine," with Dr. Aileen Friesen, professor of Mennonite studies at the University of Winnipeg. Three lectures will be given Sunday Oct 29 at 11 am and 7 pm and Monday, Oct 30 at 7 pm.
- **Main Street Ministries** is in a season of waiting and preparing for a new director and new families. Pray for this ministry and consider volunteering to help with some cleaning and repair for preparation of the apartments.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AA4AB2EA3FD0-44414237-main> Use this link to find something that fits for you. There are projects both large and small.
- **M & M Project Update for Camp Mennoscah** - As of October 16, we have raised more than \$90,000 for the Mission and Maintenance Project at Camp Mennoscah! Thank you all who have supported this effort with your prayers and your gifts! It shouldn't be long before we reach our goal of \$100,000, matching our generous giver who started this challenge back in the Spring!

Donations have continued to come in from many individuals and congregations. On September 24, the good folks at **Southern Hills Mennonite Church in Topeka, KS**, had a Camp Sunday. Various people shared about their camp experiences, wore their Camp Mennoscah gear, and sang a few Camp songs during worship. Children's time included a campfire! (Not a real one, but . . .) After church a taco salad lunch was served - a traditional Camp favorite! Southern Hills gave Camp Mennoscah's M&M Project a gift of more than \$3300 to help support Camp's mission by supporting Camp's Maintenance!

Camp Mennoscah had a booth at the **Bethel College Fall Festival**, where Camp gear was sold and a donation station collected money specifically for the M&M Project. That same weekend, **First Mennonite Church in Halstead, KS**, held their annual Hog Roast, with part of the proceeds going to M&M.

There are **events coming up**, the income from which will go to support M&M. **Hoffnungsaue Mennonite Church, Inman, KS**, is holding its annual Mission Supper on October 21 with proceeds to go to the M&M Project, and **First Mennonite Church in Beatrice, NE**, is planning to host a breakfast event to raise funds on October 29.

We are almost there! Now is the time to make your donation and become part of the M&M Project and the promise it represents.