



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

October 25, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision: This coming Sunday:**
 - We will conclude our series on “How Do We Do Church?” Our focus will be on the overlap of how and where we do church. As the body of Christ, we do church as a whole way of life, we find ourselves in three places. Hope to see you Sunday as we share these places together.
 - Tomorrow evening the worship/nurture/vision team will be participating in a webinar sponsored by our seminary – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary – (AMBS) entitled “Peacemaking through Curious Dialogue”. If any of you are interested in joining in on this, contact Aleen Ratzlaff or Sue Buchholz.
 - Next Wednesday, November 1, our third family discussion is on how we do church. 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall!
- **Ministries Council** has been in dialog with a quality transitional pastoral candidate and are sorting through the critical details of how God is leading us to extend an invitation. They will hopefully be meeting soon, with a decision. Focus your prayers for discernment!
- **Hospitality/CareTeam:**
 - The leaders want to be sure that we don’t miss anyone going through a struggle at home in need of some meals. We will be using a new website to assist us with getting meal needs covered more efficiently. If someone has a passion for this and would be interested in coordinating this ministry, please contact Sharon Diener at 620-877-7447 or the church office.
- **Stewardship Team:**
 - **New keys available.** As our building is aging, the locks on our doors have gotten to be rather temperamental. Our **East Door**, by the kitchen, has been

rekeyed with a new lock. Please use this door to enter our building when it is not otherwise open. Turn in all your old keys to the office. New keys can be checked out for a fee of \$5 to help us cover their costs.

Verse for Pondering: Acts 2:46-47 (NRSV)

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory!
- Pray for continual healing for **those with health issues**. Praise God for wonderful surgeons! May God continue to use them in their ministries of God's healing.
- Pray for strength and peace as we lean on Jesus.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom for our **FMC leadership**.
- **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!
- Our **WDC Church Planting Commission** offers this prayer for us to join in: “From generation to generation your mighty works have been. I also ask that your mighty works be manifested amid the times in which we live. Make us understand your desires and appreciate and carry out your projects and vision of these last days. In the name of Jesus we ask you. Amen.

Upcoming Events

- **Tonight is “Trick or Treat So Others Eat”**. Don't forget to put some non-perishable food on your porch for the youth to pick up for the food bank or bring it to the church front door.
- **Reading Mark 13** this week.
- **Meat Canning at MCC tomorrow**. We still need two people for the morning shift from 9:30am – 1:30pm. Call Doug Bartel if available.

- **Children's Ministry:** Down Home Christmas will be here on Sat., Dec. 2. Summer Food 4 Kids will be having a bake sale at that event. Please get out your favorite Christmas goodies recipes and begin planning for what you want to donate to the sale.
- 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.

Other Announcements

- **Thank you** to all of you active participants who helped to update our church directory information. The new directory was put in your church mailbox last Friday.
- 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.
- **WDC North Newton Office and Resource Library** will be closed today and possibly tomorrow for new carpet installation. Staff will be working remotely, so contact them by email at wdc@mennowdc.org.
- **Schweitzers and Friends.** An opportunity for the theatrically inclined! One of the events celebrating 150 years since ancestors came to the U.S. in 1874 is a musical drama to be given on Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24, 2024, by *Schweitzers and Friends*. The first informational meeting will be Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Eden Mennonite Church, rural Moundridge, 401 18th Ave. Interested in being part of a drama depicting a history of Anabaptist Mennonites? There are parts for children and adults, as well as a choir. Rehearsals will begin the last week of January and be held twice a week (the evening that works best and Sunday afternoons). Questions: contact Jenny Schrag by text or phone 620-747-9158. --Kathy Goering for the 150th Steering Committee
- **Marion County health fair:** November 4, 2023 8:00 – 11:00am at the Shari Flaming Center for the Performing Arts in Hillsboro.