



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

November 1, 2023

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

- After much waiting, praying and discernment, **Ministries Council** is thrilled to **welcome Kristine Regehr** as our new transitional pastor!
 - Many of us had the opportunity to meet Kristine last Sunday as she came to study and worship with us. She lives in North Newton and begins today, working three quarter time. Here is what she says:

I'm so glad to meet you and be part of you! This is our start together, today. My intention is that you will find me curious, supportive, helpful, and resilient. One of the threads that led me into ministry is holding both a clear sense of justice and right, along with an unwillingness to judge others, because I can never completely understand their stories. I resist inserting "should" toward individuals, and rarely use it for groups. Being one of God's beloved children, and knowing you are too, encourages me to lead from that perspective. I look forward to listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit with you.

Kristine Regehr, transitional pastor

- **Worship/Nurture/Vision:**
 - **Tonight**, don't miss this opportunity to share and discuss your thoughts on how we do church. We are one body and everyone's input is important! Meet at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
 - **Mission Sunday!** This week we will welcome Bob Tolle as a guest speaker from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) to share what that ministry is doing. Stay afterwards for lunch fellowship together. Meat and potatoes will be provided, so bring a side or dessert to share. We will have our special offering this Sunday for MMN also.

- **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.

Verse for Pondering: John 15:9 (NRSV)

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory!
- Pray for **Bob Tolle**, our guest speaker with Mennonite Mission Network and our Mission Sunday focus this coming week.
- We grieve the devastating violence that's escalating in and around Gaza. Pray and act for **peace!**
- **Western District Conference grieves the death of Eldon Epp**, credentialed minister in WDC, who passed away unexpectedly on October 29 at his home in Wichita. Eldon was Chaplain at Bethesda Home in Goessel and served more recently as Interim Associate Pastor at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita since Aug. 2023. Eldon's memorial service is planned for Sunday, Nov 5. A graveside service at Buhler Municipal Cemetery will be at 2:00pm followed by a memorial service at 3:00pm at Buhler Mennonite Church. Visitation is Saturday, Nov. 4 from 4-7pm at Buhler Mortuary.

Upcoming Events

- Read and study **Mark 14** this week.
- **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.
- **Peppernut Making for Christmas!** Let us know if you are interested in helping in any way.

Other Announcements

- **Tabor Mennonite Church Men** are holding their annual Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on Nov 2 from 5-7p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church (891 Chisholm Trail Rd, Newton, KS). Come bring a friend and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship.
- **Marion County health fair:** November 4, 2023 8:00 – 11:00am at the Shari Flaming Center for the Performing Arts in Hillsboro.
- Join **Hesston College music department** is celebration of Tony Brown as we honor his lifelong pursuit of peace building through music with this year's Masterworks concert presented by Hesston College music department: **Peacing it Together: A Tribute to Tony Brown**, Saturday, November 11, 7:30 pm at Hesston Mennonite Church.