



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

November 8, 2023

### To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

*Hi friends,*

*You'll be hearing more soon from Ministries Council and me about our work this year. We are planning ways for us to listen to each other and to the Holy Spirit about how church works, so that we can craft a simple, functional organizational structure (teams and ways of plugging into the work) and grow in our capacity to convey God's love to each other and to our community. I have been encouraged by your kindness and willingness to try new things. May the Lord be with us, always!*

*Pastor Kristine*

- **Ministries Council** meeting tomorrow evening upstairs in the youth room.
- **Worship/Nurture/Vision:**
  - **November worship plans:**
    - Nov.12 - Pastor Kristine will be preaching.
    - Nov. 19 – With the completion of the Gospel of Mark, we will consider a few lessons learned, hear a life story shared by Kent Funk, and celebrate Communion together.
    - Nov. 26 – Our Thanksgiving theme will include Norma Duerksen preaching.
    - **Advent Choir!** If you love to sing, consider joining in the celebration of advent with participation in a choir that will sing Dec. 3,17, and 24. You can sing for any or all. We will practice a few Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Tonight and next Wednesday we will get started at 7:30 pm. All are welcome!

○ **Nurture News:**

- **Sunday School** will complete the study on the Gospel of Mark on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. The 26<sup>th</sup> will be a community time for fellowship again.
- Wondering about needs for **new “dotted circle groups”** like we talked about in our church study. Please pray for God’s leading regarding new Bible studies, fellowships, or other new groups He might want to build among us.
- **Gift boxes for our college students!** Once again we will gather donations of goodies, supplies, and encouragements for each of our college students. Keep this in mind as you are out shopping. Boxes will be in the fellowship hall starting this Sunday.

## **Verse for Pondering: 2 Peter 3:18 (NRSV)**

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

## **Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers**

- Pray for one another through our directory!
- Pray for **Pastor Kristine** as she prepares a message for us for this Sunday.
- We grieve the devastating violence that’s escalating in and around Gaza. Pray and act for **peace!**
- Pray for **WDC congregations in pastoral transition**, and for those who are considering a call to ministry, that they would be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in times of change.

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Prayer time tonight at 7 pm** in the sanctuary followed by choir practice/planning.
- Read and study **Mark 15** this week.
- **Save the dates!** November 17 and 18, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, we will share in the best Christmas memory making ever - **peppernut baking together!** We will share some with the Food4Kids fundraiser, enjoy some at our Christmas Eve celebration and sell some for missions. More details coming soon.

- **Down Home Christmas** will be in our fellowship hall on December 2 from 10 – 3 pm. Support Food4Kids booth by making crafts or goodies to sell as well as participating in support of our community.

## Other Announcements

- **M&M Project Update: WE DID IT!!**

We did it, friends! Working together, we have raised more than \$100,000 for the Mission and Maintenance Project at Camp Mennoscah! Thank you all who have supported this effort with your prayers and your gifts! We've been able to match the generous gift that started this challenge back in the Spring!

**So, what's next?** That's a good question! One thing is for sure: We don't want to stop the ball now that it is rolling! Camp is still in need of money for maintenance. We need to make sure we have the facilities working well so we can continue to be a place where people of all ages come to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God. We still need maintenance to do the mission.

Please consider giving to Camp Mennoscah and/or the M&M Project on **Giving Tuesday** - this year on November 28 - or as part of your end-of-the-year giving. It's not that we aren't thankful for all you've done - but there is a lot to be done at Camp, and we already know that God has touched your heart and called you to be part of Camp's mission. Let's not just finish the M&M Project strong - let's finish the year strong!

And who knows? Maybe - just maybe - someone may step up to match what we've contributed over and above our goal. Maybe that someone is someone you know. Maybe that someone is you!

Thank you for being a part of Camp Mennoscah! 75 years - There is still so much ahead!

- **MCC NEWS:**

Two millennia ago, a guiding star led a group of wise men across borders so they could share gifts with a young couple in another nation.

They didn't know the family — but they knew they could do their part to help the couple's newborn reach his full potential.

In the modern day, grandparents across Canada and the U.S. act as guiding stars each Christmas, leading their families toward the time-told tradition of helping others across the world. As Elizabeth Stauffer of Goshen, Indiana, says, "It's important to know that Christmas is not just about giving to each other, to people from whom we receive. Christmas is also a time to give to people who have less than we do."