



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

January 10, 2024

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

Good day, friends!

The Gospel of Luke is a pretty special and attractive gospel. Have you ever thought about which telling of the Jesus story is your favorite? Which Gospel do you feel most connected with? We studied the Gospel of Mark last fall, mainly in the Sunday morning class and (fortunately) shared with the rest of us in worship. Maybe you'll claim that one, or perhaps claim Luke, like a friend of mine did in college, eventually naming her son Luke. Or maybe you resonate with Matthew, or John. The worship-nurture-vision committee has decided that we'll spend a number of weeks, actually through Easter, studying Luke.

A bit of transparency here: It's because I want to read a new book. And the best way for me to read something is to prepare to teach it. The new book is the Luke commentary in the *Believers Church Bible Commentary* series published by the Institute of Mennonite Studies (at the seminary in Elkhart, Indiana). The author, Dr. Mary Schertz, was my advisor and one of my New Testament professors at seminary. Her writing in the commentary is as meaningfully rich as the prayers she wrote for us to begin class every time. You can tell she loves God and that, as she says in the introduction, she knows the love of God. I am so excited to share some of her thoughts with you.

We'll share the full schedule with you soon. Meanwhile, Read Luke 9:1-51 for this Sunday. And so we begin!

Blessings--Pastor Kristine

Ministry Council News: Wanting the annual meeting to be a time when the whole congregation can celebrate together, due to the extreme cold, we will postpone that event until January 28. Our "Annual Meeting" will combine with the "Peace Party" for one big celebration that Sunday! Stay tuned for details!

Worship News:

- This Sunday: Pray for Pastor Kristine who will be preaching on Luke chapter 9.

- We are pleased to have our musicians returning – Tom Voth on guitar, Phil Duerksen on violin and Sue Buchholz on piano.
- Due to the extreme cold we will offer 3 options for worship together:
 - Come to our sanctuary as usual.
 - Join in on your computer following a zoom link that will be sent to your email inbox later in the week. Let us know if you need help figuring this out.
 - Phone a friend who is on the computer zoom and you can listen on your phone or call a friend for a ride if you are up for getting out in the cold.

The worship team did not meet yesterday as planned due to weather issues and the internet being down. They will meet on Thursday and have an update on future plans after that.

Verse for Pondering: Luke 9:1-2 (NRSV)

“Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory!
- Praise God for the beautiful moisture He sent!
- Pray for wisdom for our church family as we consider how to best care for one another and stay connected through this cold weather.
- Pray for all those who must work out in this weather.
- Continue to remember those with health issues.
- **WDC Request:** Pray for the WDC Executive Board and Commissions as they meet this month to provide guidance, leadership and vision for our conference.

Upcoming Events

- January 10 – 6:30 pm Ministries Council meeting by Zoom.

- January 11 – 1:00 pm Worship, Nurture, Vision Team meeting in the chapel.
- January 14 – **No carry-in or annual meeting!** Sunday School and worship only.
- January 28 – Peace Party & Annual Meeting!

Other Announcements

- Pastor Kristine will be gone on vacation January 18-24.
- **Everence® January Workshop: Social Security and retirement income**

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, January 25, starting at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include, Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions.

The in-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, KS. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

- **WDC Event coming next month! Saturday Library Book Sale & Open House:** Stop by the Conference Resource Library on **Saturday, February 10** from 10am-12pm. Browse the book sale, check out what's new for individuals, families, children and more for home and congregational use. Enjoy a hot drink and stories with Bethel College Students.
- **WANTED**—Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's, Campers, Tractors, Modern Farm Equipment, etc. for the KS MCC Sale. Items you no longer need can help Feed and Cloth Thousands in desperate living conditions. ALL donations are Tax Deductible. Call Jerry Toews for info: 620 367 8257. Help make a difference. -KS MCC Sale Committee
- The next meeting of the **Mennonite Public Educators** group is Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 7pm Eastern. This group is intended for all Mennonite education professionals working in public school settings. The conversation topic will be "CRT, Social-Emotional Learning, & book banning." The seminar is free but registration is required to get the zoom link. Email info@MennoniteEducation.org to receive registration information.
- **Work on the Camp Mennoscah Retreat Center HVAC Project is starting! There are two Work Days to start off the project on January 20 and 27.** The first day will focus on removing furniture and all other items from the building and the second will be the start of "demolition." Work will start at 9am and end at 5pm. Bring your own lunch and water bottle, please, and meet at the Retreat Center. Camp Mennoscah will provide tools needed. Space

heaters will be used, but temperatures inside may be around 50 degrees. **Please let us know you are coming so we can be prepared.** Contact us at 620-297-3290, 316-293-7313 (text) or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org. We are grateful for your generosity as a volunteer.

- **A request from the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce.** The Trojan Classic is coming up fast (Jan 16, 19 and 20). The Booster Club is working hard to provide the team's great hospitality. However, they are still looking for [volunteers](#) and [food donations](#).