



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

March 6, 2024

Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

Hi friends,

You or someone you know may be feeling a little uncomfortable with transition work. I usually don't hear this directly. But I assure you: **it's normal** and not something I'm unfamiliar with. In fact, the work of changing how we interact challenges patterns we don't think or talk about much, and our discomfort comes from deep within, since the patterns are ingrained in us early, also without words. I don't mean that our families and social circles meant to do harm. The patterns are natural, although not wholly helpful, reactions to perceived threats.

It can be scary for even the most courageous of us to tell someone that our response to their project is nervousness and we want to back away. Since I already know it's a good possibility, I invite you to tell me anyway. I'll practice listening, and our goal would be for you to sense you were heard.

And what do we all do, with some discomfort appearing in our work? We keep showing up. We face this hard thing together. We pray without ceasing, asking the Holy Spirit to protect us and accompany us through it. We show love and acceptance to each other, and we love our way through it..

Blessings—Pastor Kristine

Worship/Nurture/Vision News:

- **Nurture Focus groups** are tomorrow, **Thursday, March 7** at 1:30 and 6:30 pm in the chapel. Come to listen or share any ideas and topics in faith or spirituality you would like to study.
- Pray for this **Sunday's leadership**: Pastor Kristine will share on Luke 19: 45 – 21:38. Leaders will include Sandy Hiebert and Jan Amstutz, and Deryll Amstutz. Sarah and Caleb Diener will share mission journeys they are planning for this coming summer.
- **TONIGHT**— Remember our **prayer and singing time** from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the chapel. This has evolved into a small group time of praying, singing and sharing together. We are still

interested in a choir song on Easter Sunday morning. (# 266 in the older blue Hymnal – “They Crucified my Savior”) We will have a quick practice after Sunday worship this week, so please come sing or talk to us so we can determine if this is something enough people want.

Verse for Pondering: Luke 20:17 and Psalm 118:22 (CEB)

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory!
- Pray for our **Nurture focus groups** tomorrow. May God bring those who need to share and need to hear.
- Pray for the **CORE Communities** as they finish this season with a time of graduation tomorrow evening for those who have completed curriculum on their journey through understanding poverty.
- **WDC:** Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance for pastors, worship planners, and musicians in WDC congregations, as they shape the church’s journey through the season of Lent and Easter.

FMC Upcoming Events

- **Choir for Easter Sunday?** Stay after worship for 10 minutes at the front of the sanctuary each Sunday between now and Easter to practice a special song to share. It is #266 in our blue “Hymnal” worship book, *“They crucified my Savior”*.
- **Tonight - 6:30 – 7:30 pm in our chapel** – Prayer, sharing & singing time! These Wednesday evenings will continue through March 27.
- **Pastor Kristine** is in the office today and tomorrow, March 6 and 7, 11:30 – 8 pm. Stop by and chat or call for an appointment!
- Tomorrow, Thursday March 7 – **Nurture Focus Groups** - 1:30 and 6:30 pm for your convenience.
- Next **Peace Party!** Sunday, March 24. This is meant to be a time of fun together and learning about peaceful practices. A carry-in lunch this time. We hope you will all join in!
- **Easter Sunday:**
 - Sunrise Service at 6:45 am at Mark and Sandy Hiebert’s place.

- Light Brunch in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am Everyone is invited. We do not need everyone to bring food however. Those who would like are asked to consider egg dishes, breads and fruits. Juice and coffee will be provided here.
- Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am. Pastor Kristine will be preaching.

Community News:

- **Spring Break** for all Hillsboro schools next week! (Find a student to love!)
- Ministry idea: **American Red Cross** will offer a training in Marion on March 16 on the roles and responsibilities for opening, operating and closing a shelter during a disaster. Check out the flyer on our bulletin board if you are interested.

Mennonite News:

- An invitation from Norma Duerksen

Everyone is invited to join in
A PRAYER WALK FOR GAZA
 Wednesday, March 20 @ 4:00 pm
 Meet in the Hillsboro park at the Statue of Liberty.
 Wear comfortable walking shoes.
 Dress for the weather.
 May walk one mile.

- **Winter Coats and Jackets** sharing opportunity. Begin to clean out your closets with this in mind. We would like to have coats and jackets to lay in our sanctuary on Palm Sunday as Jesus' followers did when he entered Jerusalem and then send them on to refugees in need.
- **REMINDER: Spring Cleaning at Camp Mennoscah** sponsored by Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10 am – 4 p.m. Come for part or all of the time. Women, men, kids, youth groups, Sunday school groups are all invited. If children younger than high school attend, they need to be supervised by their parents (no child care or children's activities will be provided). **Projects will include cleaning staff houses, shower houses, cabins, t-shirt inventory, and other jobs.** Dress warm, bring a full water bottle, \$5 to cover the cost of lunch (pizza), and the following cleaning supplies if you have them: rakes, long handled brooms for cobweb reaching. Other cleaning supplies will be provided. **To register send an e-mail by March 18 to westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.** Space is capped at this event to manage the jobs, so don't delay in registering. Thanks!
- **Spring play at Bethel College:** NOTE DATE CHANGE: Fri., March 22, Sat., March 23, Sun., March 24 –, *Rancho Mirage* by Steven Dietz, Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m.

matinee, *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*. Friday evening performance interpreted for the d/Deaf community. Ticket purchase required (buy on campus weekdays at Thresher Shop; online at <https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/theater/theater-department-presents/>; or at the door). NOTE: Adult content, not suitable for children.

- **Tabor Mennonite Church** is having a fundraising dinner. Check out the poster on our bulletin board.
- **FYI: MCC Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale** will be in Hutchinson, Kansas April 12 – 13 this year.
- Another event as a part of the 150th anniversary celebrating the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites and many other groups coming to the U.S. in 1874 is coming to this area on Monday, March 18, 2024. Jerry Juhnke is presenting a **Seminar on researching your genealogy**. The presentation will be free and open to all at 10 am or 6 pm at the Pine Village Wellness Center in Moundridge, Kansas, 86 22nd Ave. 620-345-2901. Jerry will also present this information at the new Newton Library on Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 pm.
- **Everence® March Workshop: Social Security and retirement income**

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, March 21, 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.