



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

March 27, 2024

Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

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

Hi friends,

Here we are again! **Holy Week is our annual time to retell the story of our faith's origins:** how the life of Jesus led to his death, and resurrection! Somehow, Christmas has become a more eventful holiday for many Christians, despite it being irrelevant or even unknown to the earliest followers of Jesus. So, **let's take this time to deliberately start from scratch**, like the disciples: follow Jesus, **show up at dinner**, be confused and tired, then shocked and scared, and finally grieved.

Thursday at 6:30 p.m., dinner is in the fellowship hall. We'll go through the story and get to grief.

Then we get to the pivotal point in the story: **resurrection!**

Sunday at 6:45 in the morning, our Easter sunrise gathering will be at Mark and Sandy's place.

9:00 breakfast (earlier than Sunday School or community time, and *no harm showing up when you get here!* Come even if you don't bring food. Just come.)

10:30 Easter worship

We Christians say that the death and resurrection of Jesus is how we are saved, how we are redeemed, how, when we turn around (repent) we have new life. But how does that work, really? We'll look at that during Easter worship.

Also, you're invited to join me at **Bethel College next Wednesday at 7:00**. They're planning a "Bethel for ceasefire in Gaza" event. Meet me at the Krehbiel auditorium front door at 6:55. More info available on the bulletin board.

Blessings! Pastor Kristine

Ministries Council:

We are very thankful to have had 40 people share in our Peace Party last Sunday. We are hearing some good feedback about our learning of communication skills. Extra handouts are available in the office if you missed out.

Worship/Nurture/Vision News:

- Be sure to check out the Holy Week options for reflection and celebration below!
- WNV Team meeting also discussed:
 - We will add a “mission moment” during worship each week.
 - Next focus group will be on Stewardship of our Building.
 - Nurture survey is being sent out to active participants. (if you didn’t get one and want to share your thoughts, let the office know.
 - Things to ponder - What makes FMC totally unique? How do we want to be known?

Verse for Pondering: 1 Peter 2:23: (NIV)

“When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory!
- Praise God for his **amazing love** that we remember this Holy Week.
- **Hosanna! Halleluia! 62 coats** were shipped to Brownsville, TX to share with immigrants who will relocate in colder climates! (thanks to all who shared coats!)
- **Pray for this week’s leadership** for all of our Holy Week events.
- Pray for **Main Street Ministries, CORE Communities and Hillsboro Area Ministerial Association**, our mission organizations for this month.
- **WDC:** May the Lord guide us and provide financial opportunities for the Guatemala learning tour that is in the planning process. We pray for the safety of all future travelers and that their eyes and ears will be opened to their new surroundings. – WDC Church Planting Commission

FMC Upcoming Events

- **Office Schedules:**
 - **This week:** Pastor Kristine: today and Thurs. 3/28, 11:30 – 8 pm. Office Administrator will be in Thursday and Friday mornings.
 - **Next week:** Pastor Kristine: Tuesday 4/ 2, 11-7, and Thursday 4/4, 11 -5:30 pm. The office will be open Monday afternoon and Tuesday through Thursday, 9 – 12:30.
- **This week's Holy Week Schedule:**
 - **Wednesday:** Zwiebach Making for the Relief Sale and for our Maundy Thursday meal 11:00am – 4:00pm. Come and go, bring a sack lunch if you like.
 - **Wednesday:** Pray and sing 6:30 – 7:30pm in the chapel.
 - **Thursday:** Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Chicken Borscht and Zwiebach meal starts at 6:30 pm with The Last Supper in the fellowship hall followed by the Crucifixion Story in the sanctuary.
 - **Easter Sunday:**
 - Sunrise Service at 6:45am at Mark & Sandy Hiebert's house. (931 140th – ¾ mile west of Indigo/"13-mile road")
 - Light Brunch at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited. Those who would like to bring food are asked to consider egg dishes, breads and fruits. Not everyone needs to bring food however. Juice and coffee will be provided here.
 - Resurrection Worship in the sanctuary at 10:30am. Pastor Kristine will be preaching. A small choir will be singing. Tom Voth will be here with his guitar to join our violin and piano! Last week for bringing \$ for "Our Coins Count!" for MCC water projects.

Mennonite News:

- **MCC Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale** will be in Hutchinson, Kansas April 12 – 13 this year.
- **All interested singers are invited to participate in Bethel College's annual Masterworks concert on April 28**, featuring Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Scores are available now and **rehearsals begin Tuesday, April 2**. Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/Auu4FaYBcaLwKDUF6> so that your contact information is available for digital rehearsal materials, etc., or come to the first rehearsal April 2, 6 p.m., *Choir Room in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College*.

- **Tabor College's Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies (CMBS)** will lead a Mennonite Heritage Tour on Saturday, April 20, and host its Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 21.

The Mennonite Heritage Tour, set for 11:45 a.m.-5 p.m., is part of celebrating 150 years since the first arrival of Russian Mennonite immigrants in August 1874. Sites will include Brunk Cemetery, Gnadenau Orphanage and Village, Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church and Cemetery, Peabody Train Station, and Prisoner of War (P.O.W.) Building, Hillcrest Cemetery in Florence, Kan., and Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church.

The tour is \$40 and leaves from the Historic Church on the Tabor College campus. A Faspas lunch is included.

The Annual Dinner is \$25 and will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Franz Family Heritage Lobby of the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts. It will include a keynote address from Benjamin Schmidt (g'16), who teaches History, English, and Greek at The Classical School in Wichita, Kan. He will present "Forerunners of Faithfulness: The Gnadenau Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Settlement in Marion County, Kan."

- The WDC Ministerial Leadership Commission is sponsoring a **Minister Retreat** with the theme: *Restore my soul (Psalm 23:3)*. April 16-17 at Camp David Conference Center, Hesston, KS. Pastor Kristine will be able to take advantage of this during her vacation time in April.
- MCC Sale Announcement: MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton is critically low on inventory for **Relief Kits**. **YOU CAN HELP by bringing supplies to the MCC Sale**. There will be carts in the Meadowlark (Quilt Building) to collect your supplies. These are the **needed supplies** to complete kits: new infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes); bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); laundry bar soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); shampoo (20 oz min) and spiral notebooks (70 sheets).
- Join MC USA Climate Justice Coordinator Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler on Apr. 2 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT for the first of **four webinars** in **MC USA's** "Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom" initiative. The first webinar will focus on Indigenous Justice and Climate Justice and will feature the testimony of Indigenous leaders, Manuel May Castillo and Mark Charles, and the prophetic voices of Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler,