



# ***New Beginnings – Isaac is born to Sarah***

**September 3, 2023**

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“Sarah laughs because ‘God has made laughter for me.’  
By his powerful word, God has broken the grip of death,  
hopelessness, and barrenness.  
The joyous laughter is the end of sorrow and weeping ....  
**Laughter is a biblical way of receiving a newness which  
cannot be explained.”**

(Walter Brueggemann. Genesis. John Knox Press. 1982. Page 182)

## **OPENING TO GOD’S PRESENCE**

*The chime is rung as a call to worship, to set aside distractions to find rest in God, who invites and welcomes us here.*

Prelude

Welcome

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Genesis 18:1-7)\*\*

One: As Abraham welcomed the strangers

**Many: So God welcomes us.**

One: God greets us with joy

**Many: and says, “rest here for awhile.”**

One: God brings out water to wash our dusty feet.

Many: God prepares what we need  
to nourish our weary spirits.

One: So let us receive the gracious hospitality of our God.

Many: Let us rest and celebrate in this holy place

*ALL: where there is shade and water, food and laughter.*

HYMN *I Owe the Lord a Morning Song* VT 496

Passing the Peace & Fellowship Greeting

## TELLING GOD'S STORY

HYMN *The God of Sarah Praise* VT 190

Children's Time

Scripture Reading *Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7; Mark 10:27*

Sermon

Music for Meditation

## SHARING OUR STORIES

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Generosity Moment – *Hutchinson Refugee Project*

Announcements

## LIVING GODS' STORY

HYMN *My Life Flows On* VT 605

Benediction

Postlude ... *receive the postlude as a musical blessing*

\*Photo on front of bulletin: by Omar Lopez on [Unsplash](#)

\*\*Call to Worship written by Joanna Harader (adapted by Tonya Ramer Wenger)

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# Welcome!

We are so glad you all are here!!

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The Christ Candle and Peace Lamp are lit each Sunday as a visible sign of our trust  
in God's presence-with-us, and our commitment to allow the peace of Christ to

grow

and rule in our hearts, minds and lives.

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*Your offerings are received, with gratitude, in the offering  
box on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

*You can also now donate electronically on our website.*

*Thank you for your generosity shown in many ways!*

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Sound: Earl Ediger  
Livestream: Jonathan Wenger  
Nursery Attendant: Adam & Maggie Pounds  
Ushers: Glenda & Rick Hooper  
Pianist: Peggy Stucky  
Worship Leader: Calvin Buller  
Children's Time: DeAnna Goering  
Scripture Reader: Hilda Iwashige  
Sermon, Song Leader: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger  
Generosity Moment: Joel Iwashige

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**TODAY:**

- **Fellowship time** after worship, AND **packing school kits** in the basement fellowship hall. Plan to stay and help!
- Sign up deadline for **"Guess Who's Coming to the Yard"** (Sept 17 or 24)

**Sunday School classes for all ages** begin NEXT SUNDAY!!

- **CHILDREN (all ages + nursery care):** *Becoming A People of God*
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**, using Salt & Light curriculum from Menno Media. This class is facilitated by Calvin Buller and Marlene Thode and meets in the Prayer Room in the basement.
- **ADULT DISCUSSION CLASS**, meeting in the basement fellowship hall. This group will begin with a 6-week video based spiritual formation resource from Renovare: **"From the Inside Out."** Pastor Jim and Pastor Tonya will be facilitating this class.
- **YOUNGER ADULTS CLASS** will resume. For more details, talk with Maggie or Adam Pounds.

**Youth Fundraiser Hamburger Fry – Sunday, September 17**

Plan to stay for lunch after Sunday School and enjoy burgers with vegetarian and GF options, raising funds for youth events/projects.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- September 11 - Craft Night 6:30-8:00pm
- September 23 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen
- October 1 – Crop Hunger Walk 2:00pm. Checks to CWS/CROP.
- October 7 – Mennonite Friendship Communities Auction
- October 29 – FMC's Budget Meeting
- December 3 – FMC'S Annual Meeting



**First Mennonite Church  
Hutchinson KS**

***Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served***

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