

THIS WEEK @ FMC - August 13-19, 2025

As we live in a time of rising violence involving Israel, Iran and the United States, this litany reminds us of God's call to peace and our desire to faithfully follow Jesus who IS our peace. This litany is written by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz. It was included at the end of last week's update to "This Week" and is worth repeating as the needs and challenges remain ever before us...

God of love, who calls us to be peacemakers in a world of conflict, we come to you with heavy hearts as tensions continue to rise between nations.

Make us instruments of your peace.

We ask that you guide our leaders to seek wisdom, restraints and diplomacy as we move forward.

Make us instruments of your peace.

For those who are living in fear of escalating violence, we pray for safety and the right to live in a world where there is no war.

Make us instruments of your peace.

For those calling for peace, for justice, for dialogue, give each one courage and strength to speak truth to power.

Make us instruments of your peace.

May our church rise as a witness to peace and justice, rejecting war and proclaiming God's love for all.

Make us instruments of your peace.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 9:30am

The link to join is on our website: www.hutchfmc.org Join 5 minutes early for announcements. The bulletin can be found under the BULLETINS tab on our home page.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025 – OBSTACLES to SEEING GOD at WORK & JOINING IN: Fear of Loss of Community and Relationship

John 9:18-23

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Peace Essays: Hannah Nisly, Reuben Wenger

Worship Leader: Maggie Pounds

Pianist: Shelley Kauffman

Song Leader: Trae Gehring

Children's Time: DeAnna Goering

Scripture Reader: Anita Kehr

Prayers of the People: Tonya Ramer Wenger (text prayer concerns to 620-513-2828)

Ushers: Kris Lindenberger & Marlene Thode

Nursery Attendant: Adam & Maggie Pounds

Sound Tech: Earl Ediger & Allen Yoder

Livestream Tech: Jonathan Wenger

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

During each worship service, you are invited to text your prayer joys and concerns – usually to Pastor Tonya. You are also invited to send prayer joys & concerns during the week. The recording of our worship service is public, so let us know if you'd prefer your request to only be shared via email during the week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are scrolled Sunday mornings before and after worship. There will be no spoken announcements unless there are pressing announcements that did not make it into the PowerPoint. Please send any announcements you'd like to have included to the church office by Thursday each week.

OFFERINGS

We welcome, and are grateful for, your financial donations to our ministry here in Hutchinson. Instead of collecting an offering during worship (except on special occasions), an offering box is placed at the back of the sanctuary for your Sunday morning donations. You can also now make a donation directly from our website (www.hutchfmc.org) using a credit card or your banking account. You are also welcome to send a check to 52 Rambler Rd Hutchinson KS 67502.

CALENDAR – LOOKING AHEAD

August 17 – Peace Essays presented by Hannah Nisly and Reuben Wenger

August 31 – Stay after worship to assemble MCC School kits; then potluck meal at 11:30

August 31 – Cloris Enns 90th birthday open house, 2:00-4:00pm, 2802 Dickens, Hutchinson

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (at 7:00pm) IN AUGUST

August 13 – 7:00pm Senior Youth Group report on Christ at the Border Peace Pilgrimage (will be livestreamed – watch for the livestream link)

August 20 – 7:00pm Anabaptism @ 500 Zurich Switzerland sharing: Jennalee Boggs, Joretta & Delon Martens

August 27 – 7:00pm MennoCon 25 and WDC Assembly delegate reporting

REMINDER: If you are last one out of the church building, be SURE the doors lock behind you.

DEEPENING in Christ...

PRAYER GROUPS & OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to join with others at FMC for prayer, please let the church office know.

The Tuesday ecumenical **Centering Prayer group** is taking a SUMMER BREAK and will resume sometime in August. For more details, contact Pastor Tonya.

LPC: Listening-Prayer-Conversation Groups

These groups meet for an hour once/month in the Common Grounds room and are facilitated by Pastor Tonya. The format allows for time in prayer by yourself and also with the group. Any are welcome to join, or to just come and check it out! It's also possible to join on Zoom if you prefer.

Both groups meet today (Tuesday Aug 12) – at 1:00 and at 6:30pm

The September gatherings will be:

Tuesday Sept 9 at 1:00pm

Wednesday Sept 10 at 6:30pm

SUMMER 2025 WORSHIP @ FMC – LEARNING TO SEE

*“This capacity to recognize and respond to the presence of God in all of life is a **spiritual habit and practice** that keeps us connected with God’s larger purposes for us and for our world, rather than being consumed by self-interest. As we become practiced at recognizing the presence and activity of God, we are able to align ourselves more completely with what God is doing in any given moment.*

-- Ruth Haley Barton (Sacred Rhythms)

Our summer worship began June 15 with a story inviting us to explore what it means for us to ‘*learn to see.*’ The invitation to learn to see God more clearly will continue throughout the summer as we hear stories of how we see God at work in our lives, receive peace essays from our seniors, and take a long look at the story of the man born blind whose sight is restored in John 9. This story is a lesson in some of the obstacles keeping us from seeing God at work. Interspersed throughout the summer will also be 3 opportunities (the last Sundays of June, July and August) to light candles as an expression of our prayers of lament and hope, and to be fed, nourished, and seek transformation as we encounter together the presence of the Risen Christ in Communion.

August 17 - Obstacles to Seeing God at Work & Joining In: The Parents (John 9:18-23) –

Pastor Tonya preaching

August 24 - Obstacles to Seeing God at Work & Joining In: The Healed Man (John 9:24-41)

Eldon Wagler preaching

August 31 - Prayers of Lament & Hope and Communion: Turning from Fear to Faith

Pastor Jim and Pastor Tonya

SUMMER Sunday School Classes and Dates

Mark your calendars for Sunday School at 11:00am. Our last date for the summer is **August 24. The fall Sunday School quarter will begin September 7!**

Children through junior youth will be together in one class, and will be led in activities and discussion inspired by the book: *Let the Children Come to me, Nurturing Anabaptist Faith Within Families*

The Adult Class studying the Salt and Light Bible Study will also be meeting in the fellowship hall to study the summer topic of “*Exclusion and Embrace*” - a study of the Beatitudes “in motion” and Jesus’ “living water” —which is always about more than just water. Written by Timothy J. Gedder. A Zoom option will be available.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

As shared during worship on August 10, we are pleased to announce we have hired Joy Miller to fill the role of a 10 hour/week Children’s Faith Formation Coordinator. Joy will officially begin in this role on September 1, and we will have a time of blessing for her on a Sunday in September (tentatively Sept 7).

UPPER ROOM and REJOICE! devotional magazines - available above the mailboxes

- *UPPER ROOM* .. September, October
- *Rejoice!* .. September, October, November

STRENGTHENING Community Connections...

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

- Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

PASTOR TONYA'S HOURS/SCHEDULE

Office hours:

- Monday: Day Off
- Tuesday-Friday: generally working 8:00am-5:30pm
- "In Office" Hours: 9-2 Tuesday and Thursday; 10:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays
- Available other times by appointment.
- Available evenings and weekends (cell phone is most reliable)

Pastor Tonya's Sabbatical dates (spread out between summer 2023-summer 2025)

The 9th and final retreat in "Transforming Community" is complete, but Pastor Tonya will be reading and working on the final paper/project for the program which is due in October. She also has plans to continue meeting once a quarter remotely with the small group she was a part of in the program.

CLORIS ENNS celebrates 90th birthday!

Cloris's family invites the congregation to attend an open house in her honor on Sunday, August 31, 2:00-4:00pm. The event will be at her home, 2802 Dickens in Hutchinson.

URGENT NEED FOR BIKES for our friends from Congo

Do you have a good bike in your garage that you're not using and for which you would like to find a new home? We are looking for two good quality, adult/teenage-sized bikes for our friends from Congo. If you have one you would consider finding a new home for, please contact Adam Pounds — 316 558 0411 and/or Eldon Wagler — 620 960 4041 and we'll have a look at it. If it meets the family's needs, we'll be happy to take it to its new home. Thank you very much.

LOST & FOUND BOX . . August 31 is the deadline to claim anything that is yours!

Our Lost & Found Box is overflowing!! During the Sundays in August we will have a table in the foyer with items left behind. Check it out and take what is yours. Anything left after August 31 will be repurposed.

ARMS WIDE OPEN – FMC's history book

The amazing story of First Mennonite Church's 100 years is told in the history book prepared for our centennial celebration. Copies of the book are available for \$25.00 (cash or check). You can also purchase a book online at a price that includes the cost of shipping (click on the "DONATE" button on our website to find this option). Check with the church office to pick up a book.

STRETCHING to Serve as Christ Served...

SUNDAY MORNING DONATIONS FOR RENO COUNTY FOOD BANK:

August: Peanut Butter

September: Canned Meat/Tuna

Personal care/hygiene items such as these are appreciated anytime: toilet paper, laundry detergent, bath soap, Kleenex, deodorant, disposable razors, paper towels, shampoo, dish soap, hand/body lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Travel size – new & unopened – are desirable.

FMC YOUTH GROUP SUMMER TRIP – *Just Peace Pilgrimage* with Mennonite Mission Network

Come hear about their experience and learning this Wednesday, August 13, at 7:00pm. Their sharing will be livestreamed – watch the church email for the livestream link or contact Pastor Tonya at tonya@hutchfmc.org

MCC SCHOOL KITS . . purchase supplies, help assemble kits and join us for a potluck!

MCC School Kits – Pick up a list of school supplies needed from the table in the foyer and **bring them to church by August 31**. On that day (Aug 31) we'll assemble kits during the Sunday School hour, so plan to stay for the fun of putting everything together!! **Then, at 11:30, we'll gather for an all-church potluck meal**. Bring a dish to share (label if it's gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, or has artificial sugar in it). If you can help clean up in the kitchen afterwards, please do so!

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK note of thanks

Dear First Mennonite Church (Hutchinson),

Thank you for your gift of \$892.48 to Mennonite Mission Network in support of Missions. It is exciting to be walking with you, as we partner in God's work across the street and around the world. With your help, we are living into our guiding statement to **"Be the Gospel."**

Thank you so very much for all you do to help extend the kingdom of God here on earth. Blessings to you!

Sincerely, Marisa Smucker, Executive Director

Mennonite Mission Network

NOTE: This contribution of \$892.48 from FMC is part of our budgeted support to our denominational partners.

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE WOMEN IN MISSION retreat plans

Online registration is open for the Women's & Girls' Retreat September 6-7 at Camp Mennoscah sponsored by Western District Women in Mission. Our speakers this year are Pastor Katherine Goerzen (Tabor Mennonite Church) and Pastor Laura Goerzen (First Mennonite, Newton). Go to westerndistrictwomeninmission.org for a detailed schedule, register and pay online, or print out forms to register and pay by mail. Registration is due August 29. Any questions? Email us at westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com. See you there - share the news and bring a friend!

MENNONITE MIGRATION film to be part of Salt City Film Fest on September 25

As part of the Salt City Film Fest in Hutchinson at the Fox Theater Sept 25-27, the film "[Where the Cottonwoods Grow](#)" by Dale Hildebrand (Canada) will be shown at 7 pm on Thursday, September 25th. Tickets are \$5. The film tells the story of the Mennonite migration from Ukraine and Russia to North America. This is the same film that Kauffman Museum earlier sponsored for screening at Bethel College. Please join us! - SCFF Programming Director, Sheri Kaufman-Marsh.

BETHEL COLLEGE announcements

The 2025 issue of *Mennonite Life*, Bethel College's annual online journal, is now live at ml.bethelks.edu, with articles and reviews by Susan Fish, Ardie Goering, Don Goertzen, Peter Goerzen, Jeff Gundy, Michele Hershberger, Melanie Howard, Melanie Springer Mock, Justina Neufeld, Ken Rodgers, Mary Schertz and John D. Thiesen.

LIBERTY QUARTET in concert Saturday, August 23 at 7:00pm

Bethel Church (located 1 ½ miles south of Inman, extends and invitation to attend this evening of music. No admission fee – a love offering will be received.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE and ADVOCACY RESOURCES

At the recent **Mennonite Church USA** assembly, delegates approved an updated statement on Immigration: **Church Statement Resolution on Immigration / Declaración de toda la Iglesia sobre la inmigración** which also lists resources for education and ministry related to immigration justice.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since January 20, 2025, the U.S. government has made drastic immigration policy changes that are affecting newly arrived immigrants (through various pathways) and have also put at risk the lives of immigrants currently living in the U.S. MCC's partner organizations in the U.S. are asking MCC to respond to help provide support for community members and churches through a virtual **Know Your Rights Training** to be held on August 14 and 15, at 6-8 pm each day. For more information and registration, see <https://mcc.org/events/know-your-rights-training>. This 2-session training will give insight on how to prepare community members for interactions with law enforcement officials, create a family preparedness plan, and prepare participants with detailed information in case of immigration detention. The training will be led by Abraham Diaz Alonso, Immigration Program Coordinator for MCC-Central States. For more information, contact Abraham at abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org, 956.904.7092.

Additional resources are available at MCC's Immigrant Resources

website: <https://mcc.org/resources/immigrant-resources> - This includes ready-to-print Know Your Rights cards, family preparedness plan documents, and a link to find immigration legal support free or low cost.

Recycling opportunities at MCC in North Newton, KS! MCC accepts the following materials for recycling, cardboard, books, and paper. We also recycle soft plastics (any plastic packaging that you can stretch with your finger, including Amazon mailers and bubble wrap). We also accept and process wearable clothing, shoes and purses/bags. However, it is best to donate those items to an Et Cetera Shop first, if possible. When you arrive at MCC, follow the signs toward the warehouse and you'll find bins outside under the covered roof for each recyclable item. MCC is located at 121 E. 30th Street in North Newton, questions can be directed to duaneunruh@mcc.org or 316.283.2720.

PEACE CAMP for YOUNG ADULTS

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. (Micah 4:3)

How can we live out God's call for justice and reconciliation through nonviolence in a world that is built on the myth of redemptive violence? If you are a young adult (18-30) concerned about the state of our world and energized to reimagine society built on God's vision of love and justice for all, come join us for a week of experiential learning rooted in theological reflection, peacebuilding practices, and real-world application. [View and download the flyer.](#)

When: September 21-27, 2025

Where: Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Divide, Colorado

Who: Young adults ages 18-30

How: Register [here](#) by August 31

Registration Fee: \$250.00 guarantees your spot at the camp

Register today for the MCC Immigration Learning Tour in South Texas, October 4-9. This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. Find out more at mcc.org/learning-tour-texas.

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK (MMN) newsletter

Just Peace Pilgrimages

- **South Africa Racial Justice Pilgrimage** — This pilgrimage will explore the long history and legacy of settler colonialism and apartheid, and will focus on the social constructs created around race, land dispossession and how they so thoroughly defined, and continue to define, South African society.

- **Underground Railroad Racial Justice Pilgrimage** — Explore the role of faith and faith communities that helped enslaved people escape their bonds. This chapter of the Racial Justice pilgrimage series delves deeper into the struggle for freedom, exploring the ways — both literal and figurative — people took in search of their emancipation.
- **Civil Rights Pilgrimage** — Led by MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton, this young-adult focused, multiracial pilgrimage through the southern United States fosters shared learning and deep understanding of the racial divides that our society perpetuates. Date: October 28-November 2, 2025; register by September 15.

For more information on the Just Peace Pilgrimages, to sign up, or to inquire about scheduling a trip for you and your group, visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace or contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net.

Check out this link to hear stories about some of the many who have served in a variety of MMN programs. Might their amazing adventures inspire you to experience one of their service / learning opportunities? <https://mailchi.mp/mennonitemission.net/alumni-connections-16446729>

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

As needs grow in Texas, MDS is there. As needs grow in the wake of deadly flooding in Texas, Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers are on the ground. [**Click here to read more**](#)

MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements

At the recent MennoCon 25, the MC USA Executive Board thanked four outgoing members for their service to the denomination at an abbreviated Executive Board meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, on July 10, 2025. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/thanks-members-service

On behalf of Mennonite Church Canada, Executive Minister Doug Klassen extended a warm welcome to the MC USA Delegate Assembly gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina, on July 11, 2025. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/greeting-at-convention

The big dove is here! MC USA has launched an online storefront featuring hats, sweatshirts, mugs and more. Check the selection of merch – sales support MC USA ministries! bonfire.com/store/mc-usa-gear/

A spirit of hope and shared purpose marked the opening of MC USA's biennial Delegate Assembly on July 11, 2025, as more than 350 delegates gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina, to reimagine the denomination's future and approve four key measures to strengthen and equip the church. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/delegates-propel-mc-usas-forward/