

# THIS WEEK @ FMC

## September 3-9, 2025

This summer at MennoCon25 (Mennonite Church USA convention) I attended a workshop presented by the Duke Center for Reconciliation. The presentation began with the powerful reminder that we can claim a strong foundation for hoping in reconciliation, because according to scripture reconciliation has already happened through the cross:

*For in him [Jesus] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)*

We know full well, as we look around at all the heartbreaking things happening near and far that we are living in a world of old systems seeking power and dominance, working through violence. The good news is we are planted here by God in this time and this place, to follow a different path, to be part of a different kingdom seeking beauty and harmony for the earth and all who live on it. And we are not alone on this journey of reconciliation and hope.

In my journal I jotted down these notes capturing some of the process the presenter outlined to encourage us on a way forward where we ask God to open our eyes and help us to discern God's will amid the pain we see, and perhaps are experiencing personally:

- We take time to lament what is happening. We humble ourselves in God's presence and accept the reality of all that is not right.
- We recognize we can't change things on our own. When our pride is shattered, we are better prepared to be open to discerning God's direction to address the complexities of structural injustice and abuses of power.
- Lament is the school of authentic hope. Authentic, Biblical, hope is anchored in discerning God's will in light of the reconciliation Jesus has already brought about. It's not about us figuring out what to do on our own – it's about leaning into God's presence, at work for good, for shalom, for healing in the world.
- We ask for the Spirit to help us see signs of hope, God in action, in our daily lives.
- And we ask for courage and wisdom to take risks rooted in hope, for the sake of the world.

*"I hope, Lord.  
My whole being hopes,  
and I wait for God's promise." (Psalm 130:5)*

**-Pastor Tonya**

### **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 9:30am**

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

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 – CREATION BY THE WORD**

### **Turning from Fear to Faith**

***Genesis 1:1-2:4a (John 1:1-5)***

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Joel Iwashige

Pianist: Shelley Kauffman

Song Leader:

Children's Time:

Scripture Reader: Santalena Caudillo

Prayers of the People: send prayer concerns to Pastor Tonya 620-513-2828

Ushers: Jay & Stephanie Gehring

Nursery Attendant: Jonathan & Joanna Wenger

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](http://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**

September 2 – CMT (Congregational Ministry Team) meets @ 6:00pm

September 7 – Fall Sunday School Quarter begins, meeting every Sunday at 11:00am

September 7 – Sign up to be a guest or host for Sept 21 Guess Who's Coming" dinner

September 8 – Craft Night, 6:30-8:00pm, Fellowship Hall

September 14 – Teacher Dedication, Bible Dedication, and Blessing for new Children's Faith Formation coordinator, Joy Miller

September 21 – Guess Who's Coming for Sunday 5:30 Meal? – sign up as guest or host by September 7

September 27 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen

September 28 – FMC Safe Sanctuaries Training Noon-1pm – *required for ALL volunteers with children or youth at FMC*

**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.

**Tuesday (11:30am-12:30pm) ecumenical Centering Prayer group** resumes September 2 and will be meeting weekly this fall. 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.

These will be our September gatherings:     Tuesday Sept 9 at 1:00pm  
   Wednesday Sept 10 at 6:30pm

## FALL WORSHIP @ FMC – LIVING INTO GOD’S STORY

Our fall worship series begins on September 7 with a return to the overarching story of the Bible provided by the Narrative Lectionary. This lectionary of readings begins with the story of creation in Genesis and then moves through the Old Testament leading up to Advent. After Christmas we turn our attention to walk with Jesus through the perspective of one of the four gospels (this year is John) which carries us through Easter, followed by the story of the early church, culminating in our celebration of Pentecost.

Along the way this fall, we'll add in a couple of special Sundays (including Peace Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and Mission Festival), and one final peace essay from Adrianna Peach.

We'll begin in September with several stories from the book of Genesis inviting us to realize just how different God's story is, and how our participation in it really does involve ongoing choices and decisions as there are many other powers vying for our attention and allegiance.

**September 7 - *Creation by the Word*** (Genesis 1:1-2:4a) – Pastor Tonya preaching

**September 14 – *Binding of Isaac*** (Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14) – Pastor Tonya preaching (+ blessing for Joy Miller as she begins as Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, and Sunday School teacher blessing, AND Bible Dedication!)

**September 21 – *Jacob's Dream*** (Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17) – Pastor Tonya preaching (this is also Peace Sunday, with the theme from Mennonite World Conference – ***The Courage to Love*** based on *Matthew 22:34-40*)

## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all ages begin September 7 (11am)!

**Children (age 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Junior Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)** use [Shine Curriculum](#) from MennoMedia. This fall's theme is: ***Fall of a Kingdom***, focusing on "*Calling On God – Psalms*" and "*Exile and Restoration – 1 & 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Ezra*".

**Senior Youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)** meet with Jonathan Wenger, Tanya Martin Nisly, and various other teachers (including Pastor Tonya) through the year to build community, support each other, study the Bible, theology, and Anabaptist history. We also consider baptism, discuss current events and faith, and more, depending on the year.

**The Adult Class studying the Salt and Light Bible Study** this fall with the theme, "*Their Story, Our Story, and God's Message*," written by Osheta Moore. The study will include scripture texts from Genesis, Jeremiah and John's epistles. They will be meeting in the fellowship hall and a Zoom option will be available.

A “**Conversation & Connection**” group also meets during the Sunday School hour. Contact Maggie Pounds for more information or with questions about this group!

Sunday School classes meet at 11:00am throughout the church building. We do not have Sunday School on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and on some major holidays.

### **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 September 14.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 mid-October. She also has plans to continue meeting once a quarter remotely with the small group she was a part of in the program. *As part of completing the program, Pastor Tonya will be establishing a ‘rule of life’ to help structure her ongoing spiritual grounding and learning, which will include intentional times apart (likely monthly and quarterly). The details of that are still being decided, and will be communicated with the congregation!!*

### **GUESS WHO’S COMING FOR SUNDAY 5:30pm SUPPER? – SEPTEMBER 21 AND OCTOBER 19**

Plan to spend an evening with friends from FMC this fall!! The Faithful Community Coordination Team is looking for volunteers to host a Sunday evening meal for a group of 8-10 (or whatever size you can accommodate). Hosts provide a main dish and those attending will be asked to bring a side dish to share.

**Sign up by Sept 7 to host or attend on Sunday evening, September 21.**

**Sign up by Oct 5 to host or attend on Sunday evening, October 19.**

*(Sign up sheet will be in the foyer soon!!)*

## **CRAFT NIGHT @ FMC on Monday, September 8, 2025**

Craft Night is on Monday, September 8, 6:30-8:00pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your project – knitting, crocheting, other crafts – and enjoy this time of friendship and ministry together. Any questions, contact Cheryl Warkentin or Diane Ziemer.

## **FALL BOOK STUDY . . . *How We Learn to Be Brave* (Maryann Edgar Budde)**

The FMC book group will be meeting weekly this fall, beginning on Wednesday, September 17 (and subsequent Wednesdays from 1-2pm ending Oct 29 or Nov 5), to read and discuss: **How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith** by Maryann Edgar Budde. If you would like assistance getting a book, please contact Carol Moore ([moorecl412@gmail.com](mailto:moorecl412@gmail.com)).

## **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.

## **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:**

### ***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.

## **SALTHAWK COMMUNITY SUPPORT (SCS)**

Salthawk Community Support is a local nonprofit housed under the umbrella of Trinity UMC that FMC has been involved with from its beginning through Pastor Tonya's involvement on the board and donations of time, finances, and items from many of you in the congregation. There is a basket in the foyer under the table designated for donations of gently used clothing (appropriate for teens) as well as toiletry items.

This fall's welcome letter from SCS included, among others, these highlights and updates: *"We staff 'The Closet' at Hutchinson High School and the 'Hawk's Nest' at Hutchinson Middle School providing clothing, school supplies, hygiene items, food, after-school tutoring, mentoring, and a safe place for students to talk or just find a bit of quiet calm during a hectic day, all with that important personal touch of our Salthawk Community Support staff and volunteers. ... We also implemented new projects last year. We were able to help students attend Prom and the all-important after-Prom party. We helped students complete their graduation experience with a tassel for their cap. SCS was able to give gift certificates to students to attend the semi-annual 'Market Day' sponsored by the high school Entrepreneurial program. WE are partnering with Hutchinson Community College to fund Step Ahead classes for high school students. And, beginning*

*with the 2025-2026 school year, we will be offering Salthawk Community Support Breaking Barriers Scholarships. SCS is committed to helping youth in our community succeed."*

SCS is grateful for financial donations to support this important work in our schools. You can donate online at [www.trinityhutch.org](http://www.trinityhutch.org) or send a check made out to Salthawk Community Support to Trinity UMC (1602 North Main Street Hutchinson KS 67501).

### **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.

### **MENNONITE FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITIES announces *EVENING at the BURT***

Mennonite Friendship Communities is pleased to announce an "Evening at the Burt." This event will be held on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> with doors opening at 5:30 pm and the dinner served at 6:30 pm. Larry Hatteberg of Hatteberg's People, will be our featured speaker. A silent auction will also be held. Contact our MFC board member, Joretta Martens or Susan Nisly at [snisly@mennofriend.com](mailto:snisly@mennofriend.com) for more information or to buy your ticket.

### **BETHEL COLLEGE announcements**

**Sat., Oct. 4** (during Fall Festival): Internationally renowned theologian **Miroslav Volf**, Yale University, will speak at Bethel College Mennonite Church, 10 a.m.

**Sun., Oct. 19, and Mon., Oct. 20:** Dr. Kat Hill, a religious and cultural historian from Scotland, will give the annual **Menno Simons Lectures** *[please note that these dates are different from some previously printed material]*.

**Sun.-Tues., Nov. 2-4:** The biennial **Worship and the Arts Symposium** will focus on homiletics (preaching) with special guest Dr. Luke Powery from Duke Divinity School at Duke University. The symposium will also feature an art exhibition by Merrill Krabill and the fall choral concert "Bethel Sings."

*More information on all these events will follow in the coming weeks.*

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

### **HESSTON COLLEGE announcements**

**Homecoming at Hesston College** the weekend of September 26 to 28, will include the inauguration of President Mark Landes. For a full schedule of events and to register to attend, please visit [hesston.edu/homecoming](http://hesston.edu/homecoming).

### **Fall theatre production, "Journey to the Poles of Inaccessibility"**

The Hesston College Theatre department will perform "Journey to the Poles of Inaccessibility," a new comic fantasy play by Craig Pospisil, October 2 to 5 in the Black Box Theater located in Keim Center. Performance times are Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [hesston.edu/bookstore](http://hesston.edu/bookstore) or by calling 620-327-8104.

### **Fall HC Lark athletic events have begun**

Hesston College athletics begins a new athletic era as a member of the NAIA this fall. Schedules, rosters and game information for Lark volleyball, men's and women's soccer, golf and cross country can be found online at [HCLarks.com](http://HCLarks.com). Come out and support the Larks this fall! Bryan Kehr, a member of our congregation, is athletic director at Hesston College.

### **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MCC Meat Canning** will be coming to North Newton later this fall. If you have an interest in representing FMC on a planning group for this ministry, please talk with Delon Martens. FMC's annual budget includes a \$600 contribution toward purchasing meat for the canner. We invite additional contributions to increase the amount of meat available for processing here. Please make your contribution by September 14, by placing it in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be written to FMC, designated for "Meat Canning."

**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. 30<sup>th</sup> Street in North Newton, questions can be directed to [duaneunruh@mcc.org](mailto:duaneunruh@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720.

### **CAMP MENNOSCAH announcements**

**The next tee shirt comforter will be (silent) auctioned off at Bethel College's Fall Fest on October 4.** Check it out at Fall Fest and get your bid ready! Tee shirts and other souvenirs will be available, too.

**The Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat is October 10-12.** Registration is now open. Activities and lodging will be in the dining hall and bunkhouses. Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com>

**Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting will be held at Hope Mennonite Church on October 19 at 6:30pm.** All are invited to attend. Hope Mennonite Church is located at 868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita, KS 67212. A silent auction for a few items will take place.

**Volunteers are needed for grounds work.** This could be mowing, trail maintenance, string trimming, poison ivy and sticker plant control, or likely any number of other things. Contact us at 620-297-3290 to discuss opportunities!

### **RENO COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK . . . WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD**

**October 12 at Rice Park – registration at 1:30pm and the walk begins at 2:00pm**

On October 12, we will walk in solidarity with people around the world who must walk miles to access clean water, or who have been displaced from their homes. We walk to raise money for hunger relief and to build global resilience even when disasters occur. We also walk to meet local needs: 25% of the money we raise stays in Reno County and goes to the Reno County Food Bank and Christian Soup Ministries. Registration is now open at this link and donations can be made at this link: [Reno County CROP Hunger Walk](#) Checks (payable to CWS/CROP) may also be sent to Grace Episcopal Church, 2 Hyde Park Dr, Hutchinson KS 67502.

In conjunction with this event, walkers will be invited to participate in a "Hygiene-Kit-Build." The goal is to make 48 kits, which are provided to people in need after disasters. Items for the kits will be supplied.

## MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK (MMN)

### Just Peace Pilgrimages

- **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](https://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace) or contact Stephanie Weaver at [StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto: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

Our **August edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King reflects on the impact of Katrina, 20 years ago this month; we also celebrate this year's cohort of year-long volunteers; and you'll meet two pillars of faith in action, celebrating 14 years of MDS service. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3UFiw2x>

### MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements

MC USA's 2025 convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8–12, set records for attendance and racial diversity. Of the 1,640 registrants — the highest turnout in three conventions — a record 17.2 percent (282 attendees) identified as Black, Indigenous or people of color. More importantly, BIPOC voices filled prominent leadership roles at the national convention. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/intentionality-drives-belonging](https://mennoniteusa.org/intentionality-drives-belonging)

**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/](https://bonfire.com/store/mc-usa-gear/)

### ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY

#### Discipleship – Thursday, Sept. 18 – Saturday, Sept. 20

AMBS campus, with selected parts livestreamed. Building on the six conferences held since 2014, the seventh Rooted and Grounded Conference will explore the theme, **“Kinship with All Creation: Pursuing Relationship, Justice and Community.”** Our keynote addresses will focus on restoring relationships with land and creation, confronting and repairing ecological injustice, and participating in solidarity with the suffering of all creatures. Optional in-person **immersion experiences** will be held on Thursday afternoon, before the conference begins. INFORMATION here: <https://ambs.edu/rooted-and-grounded/>

**Keynote speakers** (in chronological order of their presentations)

- Wendler Nosie, Sr., PhD, of the Apache Stronghold and the American University of Sovereign Nations
- T. Wilson Dickinson, PhD, of Lexington Theological Seminary
- Douglas Day Kaufman, ThM, of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative

Register by Sept. 11 for meals and by Sept. 16 for the conference.



**Online Short Course: Challenging Christian Nationalism: Oct. 22 – Dec. 9.** Join Drew Strait, PhD, in this six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary to deepen your understanding of White Christian nationalism and how faith communities can mobilize to disrupt it. Drawing on biblical studies, theology and peace studies, we'll explore how nonviolent resistance in the way of Jesus can counter extremist narratives that are radicalizing Christians. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Oct. 1 to save \$50! [ambs.edu/nationalism](https://ambs.edu/nationalism)

### **SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

The annual banquet will be held Saturday, October 18, at 5:00pm at the Burrton City Auditorium. The speaker will be Peter Buller, a recent Bethel College graduate, whose presentation will be about his recent experience at Reba Place in Chicago, connecting with bigger themes about our role as Mennonite in the world. Tickets are \$25 and reservations are requested by October 11, by texting Dave Stucky at 620-532-4408 or check the website [www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org)