

# THIS WEEK @ FMC - October 8-14, 2025

## A pastoral letter regarding war in the Middle East (from Mennonite World Conference)

7 October 2025 is the tragic anniversary of an outbreak of violence that has led to hundreds of thousands of lives lost in the lands called Israel and Palestine and also in the larger region.

We acknowledge that the image of God is in every man, woman and child: every death resulting from oppression, starvation, imprisonment and violence is a tragedy.

We grieve the repression, the disregard for human dignity, and the dispossession over decades that led up to the current crisis.

We denounce genocidal acts that seek to snuff out a people and their culture. We denounce Christian teachings that justify and undergird cruelty, superiority and violence.

We open our eyes to see and our ears to hear the cries of the suffering. We confess our failures to respond to their pain.

We call ourselves to act in solidarity with those who are wounded and oppressed. We commit to truth-telling and justice that leads to peace and safety for all in the region and beyond.

Along with our Palestinian Christian siblings from the [Sabeel liberation theology movement](#), we cry:

*All powerful God, we remember that “when the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.” (Psalm 34:17)*

*Lord, where is your message of freedom amidst the suffering of those unjustly detained and tortured?*

*Help us bear witness to those who are suffering and increase our actions so that your justice may be fulfilled. **Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer.***

O Lord, how we long to see your peace reign in our world.

We long to see your peace in Palestine and Israel, as well as for MWC member churches in other parts of the world who are also suffering political violence or war in DR Congo, India, Myanmar, Ukraine and USA; and ongoing social violence in many parts of Latin America.

May your peaceable kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And may we be participants of your peaceable kingdom!

Our words seem small and inadequate in the face of the crisis, yet we reaffirm our conviction that

*“The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice, and share our possessions with those in need.”  
(Shared Conviction 5)*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace,

*Henk Stenvers – President, Mennonite World Conference*  
*Tigist Tesfaye – Secretary, Deacons Commission (of MWC)*  
*Andrew Suderman – Secretary, Peace Commission (of MWC)*

## **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, OCTOBER 12, 2025 – GOD CALLS SAMUEL**

***1 Samuel 3:1-21; (John 20:21-23)***

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger  
Worship Leader: Santalena Caudillo  
Pianist: Shelley Kauffman  
Song Leader: Jonathan Wenger  
Children's Time:  
Scripture Reader: Pauline Buller  
Prayers of the People: send prayer concerns to Pastor Tonya 620-513-2828  
Ushers: Diane Ziemer & Shane Miller  
Nursery Attendant: Maggie & Adam Pounds  
Sound Tech: Adam Pounds  
Livestream Tech: Joel Iwashige

## **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**

October 8 – First WNAF Session (dinner between 5:45-6:45pm and program between 6:45-7:45pm)  
October 11 – FMC workday *Seconds on 2<sup>nd</sup>*, 8:00am or whenever you can get there (see below)  
October 12 – FMC leads the 10:00am worship service at Mennonite Friendship Communities  
October 12 – Reno County CROP Walk – Rice Park, registration @ 1:30pm, walk @ 2:00pm  
October 13 – Craft Night 6:30-8:00pm

October 14 – LPC (Listening-Prayer-Conversation) Group meets at 1:00pm

October 19 – Guess Who’s Coming for Sunday 5:30 Meal? – sign up as guest or host by October 5

October 26 – FMC church budget meeting @ 11:00am (children’s Sunday School meets as usual!)

**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** is 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.

October gatherings are:      Tuesday October 14 at 1:00pm  
   Wednesday October 1 at 6:30pm

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

We continue this fall exploring the story of God in the Hebrew scriptures which will lead us up to Advent (beginning Nov 30 this year). Upcoming service themes include...

**October 12 – God Calls Samuel** (*1 Samuel 3:1-21*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**October 19 – God Calls David** (*1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**October 26 – Solomon’s Temple** (*1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**November 2 - God Speaks to Elijah** (*1 Kings 19:1-18*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**November 9 – Mission Festival** *focusing on Indigenous Justice with Raylene Hinz Penner*  
(*Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24*)

**November 16 - Isaiah: A Child Is Born** (*Isaiah 9:1-7*) Pastor Tonya preaching

**November 23 - Jeremiah’s Letter to Exiles** (*Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14*) Pastor Tonya preaching

### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all ages @ 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.

**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 are meeting in the fellowship hall and a Zoom option will be available.

A “**Conversation & Connection**” adult 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.

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

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

## **STRENGTHENING Community Connections...**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

- Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 12 noon – 3:00pm

**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; noon-3pm 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!!*

**WNAF (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST)**

**FALL 2025 SERIES: *LEARN-PRAY-ACT: LOCAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES***

Our Wednesday evening line-up is as follows, with the possibility of adding one more session (stay tuned!). We'll welcome local guests to help us learn – pray – and act in relation to these justice issues. Each evening will include a **meal provided between 5:45-6:45pm** (*donations welcome to help cover costs of the meal and honorariums for our speakers*) and an **adult program and activities for children between 6:45-7:45pm**.

- **October 8: Food Justice** – with Candace Davidson from the Reno Co Health Dept, Kelli Snyder-Short and Jason Probst from K-State Extension Services, and Donna Davis from Reno County Food Bank & FMC!
- **October 15: Community Justice:** DART (Faith-based community organizing around justice issues) with Rev. Jeanne Koontz, community organizer with DART. God is doing a new thing in Central KS by bringing people of faith together to "do justice" in our communities. Together we will explore the difference between mercy and justice and how we can be part of an organization that calls for broad-scale improvements to local systems alongside and on behalf of the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and the poor.
- **October 22: Earth Justice** - with Earth Matters (various members) & 2nds on Second (Delon Martens); Introduction to Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (Adrienne Derstine)

- **October 29: Immigration Justice** with Esmerelda Tovar (Hutch in Harmony, Kansas Immigration Coalition, Wisdom in Motion)
- **November 5 – Housing Justice** with Pastor Jim Unruh

### **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...**

### **RENO COUNTY FOOD BANK**

#### **Sunday morning donations in 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.

#### **Nourishing Our Future Capital Campaign**

The Reno County Food Bank will be moving to a new location at 4<sup>th</sup> and Severence. Their capital campaign will fund the necessary renovations and the purchase of equipment at this location. Contributions may be made online at: <https://www.foodbankofrenocounty.org/campaign> or by sending a check to the Food Bank at this address: Food Bank Capital Campaign, 800 N Walnut, Hutchinson KS 67501. Brochures are available on the table in the foyer or talk with Donna Davis for more information.

**EMPTY BOWLS fundraiser to benefit Reno County Food Bank** will be held October 16 at Hutchinson Art Center. Potters in our schools and in our community make bowls for this event, and your payment provides you with a hand-crafted bowl and some tasty food. Stop by the Art Center at 405 N. Washington, 5:00-7:00pm. Suggested donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

### **SECONDS on 2<sup>nd</sup> workday**

**Builders Bargains is moving to a new building at 118 West Second and is being renamed *Seconds on 2<sup>nd</sup>*.** FMC’s workday is planned for Saturday, October 11, 8:00am, with work continuing into the afternoon. Lunch will be provided. Tasks may include painting, building shelves, moving stuff around from one building to another, organizing donations, and possibly sanding metal shelves. A sign up sheet is posted in the foyer. Contact Delon if you have any questions; 620-960-9471.

### **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. OR – give your donation (check or cash) to the FMC youth group this coming Sunday, Oct 5 after worship.

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.

### **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.

**Right now, specific requests are for men’s tennis shoes (size 7-10 in neutral colors), deodorant, and individually packaged snacks for students attending tutoring.**

**Salthawk Community Support Fall Chili Feed Fundraiser** will be Tuesday, October 7, 5:30-7:00pm. Serving will be 5:30-7:00pm with dine in or carry out available for \$10 per person at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1602 N. Main.

### **NELSON’S 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FISH FRY to benefit HANDS OF CHRIST MINISTRIES**

Farm-fresh Mississippi catfish, hush puppies and sides are on the menu for this fundraiser on Friday, October 17, 4:30-8:00pm at Pleasantview Activity Center (5015 S. Dean Road). Drive-thru and Gluten-free available; cash, checks and credit cards accepted. FMC collaborates with Hands of Christ Ministries, to help folks in our community by helping with rent, utilities, food and more.

### **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MCC Meat Canning** will be coming to North Newton and the time for Hutchinson area volunteers is Monday, November 3, 12:30-6:30pm. To volunteer, talk with Eldon Wagler, who is now our contact person with the Meat Canner! Contributions toward purchasing meat and canning supplies are also needed. Please make contributions by October 19. Checks written to First Mennonite Church and designated for MCC Canner may be placed in the offering box.

**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.

### **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**

**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.” *Information coming.*

**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 Goerzen, Jeff Gundy, Michele Hersherberger, Melanie Howard, Melanie Springer Mock, Justina Neufeld, Ken Rodgers, Mary Schertz and John D. Thiesen.

### **MENNONITE ACTION – KANSAS EVENTS!**

**The Mennonite Action** training tour is coming to Newton and Topeka! Right now, the genocide in Gaza rages on as authoritarianism kidnaps our neighbors off the streets in the U.S. So many of us are horrified and want to do something, but we don’t know how. **That’s why we’re bringing training, tools, and frameworks to help our communities respond in courage to our historical moment**, “discerning the times” as we’re called to do (Matthew 16:3).

And we’re thrilled to share that Newton and Topeka are stops on the *To Build Our Courage* tour. On Friday, October 10th we will have an evening training in Newton, and then on Saturday, October 11th we’ll be in Topeka for a full-day training. More details to follow. We’ll dive into trainings on noncooperation, grassroots organizing, and mutual aid, in addition to spending time worshiping in prayer and song. And we’ll of course enjoy a meal together somewhere in there too. We hope you can join us for one or both of these trainings!

**Register here for Newton, here for Topeka**, and invite a friend to join you. Whether you’re brand new to Mennonite Action or have been with us since the beginning, this training is for YOU– and will leave you with a better understanding of how we can work together to resist a genocide and an authoritarian takeover. We can’t wait to see you there! In Peace, Mennonite Action

### **WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE announcements**

**“Repeal to Heal: Death Penalty Repeal Advances the Culture of Life”**, is the theme for the 2025 *Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty* Conference to be held on November 22, at Hudson Auditorium in the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson County Community College. A virtual option is available as well.

The decision to sentence someone to death is a statement that the defendant’s life is disposable. It is a societal judgment that more violence is the answer to the act of homicide. So instead of stopping the cycle of violence and asking how there can be accountability and healing, we replicate the original act. More pain and trauma result. People are increasingly exploring how the death penalty harms a culture of life. This conference will offer an opportunity to explore this theme further through the lenses of faith and politics.

Speakers include the following: Krisanne Vallaincourt Murphy of Catholic Mobilizing Network, Nan Tolson of Texas Conservatives Concerned and Kansas Representative Bill Sutton, R-District 43. This conference speaks to **A Resolution: The Death Penalty** affirmed by Mennonite Church USA delegates in 2001.

### **CAMP MENNOSCAH announcements**

**Verenike Casserole Meal Returns!** Camp Mennoscah will be having a Verenike Casserole Fundraiser on November 8 at Faith Mennonite Church. Reserve your meals at <https://forms.gle/1MiwgNbZJb5i2gq59> The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zweiback, and fruit crisp. **Meals will be available at Faith Mennonite Church between 5:30-6:30pm on November 8th. You may either drive-thru**

**and pick up your meals or dine in.** Watch Camp Mennoscah's Facebook page and check your email for any changes. Suggested donation of \$20 per meal or \$40 per pan. Additional donations are welcome!

**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.

**Calling All Helpers!** The retreat center at Camp Mennoscah has provided many folks with the opportunity to participate in a multitude of camp activities and we are looking to jump start the renovation project with new management, fresh volunteers, and renewed financial assistance. To complete the project, we need your help whether you have construction skills or not! We'd like to create a list of people who we can email for specific workday projects as they come up. Please call or text Tom Gaeddert at 316-288-7766 with your name and email address if you are willing to help and we will send out info for projects a week or two in advance of work to be done. Donations are also greatly appreciated and can be sent directly to camp designated for "Retreat Center". Thanks for your help!

**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!

### **ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY (AMBS)**

**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. 15. [ambs.edu/nationalism](https://ambs.edu/nationalism)

### **MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements**

#### **Menno Snapshots**

MC USA has awarded the 2025 Bring the Peace award to Legacy Peacemaker Joe Roos and Young Peacemaker Ciela Acosta. The award, sponsored by MC USA's Church Peace Tax Fund, highlights the peace and justice work of people within MC USA. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/btp/>

Duncan Smith, director of The Corinthian Plan, looks at changing governmental priorities and their impact on health and health/medical insurance — and how we can respond, in his Menno Snapshots blog, "Healthcare and the 'perfect storm' on the horizon." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/health/>

**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/)