

THIS WEEK @ FMC

October 29-November 4, 2025

“With the bread we need for today, feed us.” (New Zealand Book of Prayer – excerpt from the Lord’s Prayer)

During the month of October we’ve been praying a different version of the prayer Jesus taught us, as found in the New Zealand Book of Prayer. I was introduced to this version during my sabbatical Transforming Community experience. Each retreat I participated in was structured around morning, afternoon, evening and night prayers, providing a solid foundation of community worship in the midst of individual spiritual deepening.

The part of the prayer I highlighted above is one I resonate deeply with every time we pray this together. We are living in a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, with difficult and traumatic news coming at us from many directions, and I truly long for God to feed each of us, all of humanity, and all our more than human kin in the earth, with the ‘bread’ we need for today.

One source of ‘bread’ I have returned to is a book of prayers I’ve had in my book collection since seminary – Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly: Prayers for Peace and Justice by Edward F. Gabriele (Saint Mary’s Press, 1995). These morning and evening prayers are so tenderly and insightfully written, structured around the themes in the title from Micah 6:8. And, perhaps not coincidentally, he has his own paraphrase of the prayer Jesus taught ... another steady guide into deeper prayer:

***Abba in heaven,
Your name is holy!***

***Your justice come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in the heavens.***

***Fill us this day
With all that we need.
Teach us to heal
As you have healed us.***

***Bring us not to the test
But deliver us always
From the power of evil.***

***You alone are God
And all belongs to you!***

(Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly: Prayers for Peace and Justice by Edward F. Gabriele, Saint Mary’s Press, 1995)

Pastor Tonya

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, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 – GOD SPEAKS TO ELIJAH

1 Kings 19:1-18; (John 12:27-28)

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Joel Iwashige

Organist: Pauline Buller

Song Leader: Shane Miller

Children's Time: Joy & Shane Miller

Scripture Reader: Eldon Wagler

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

Ministry Moment: Russ Gaeddert

Ushers: Dennis & Jennalee Boggs

Nursery Attendant: Fred & Mary Wade

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

October 31 – Halloween Donuts on the Lawn (volunteers needed beginning at 4pm till finished!)

November 1 – Singing Group at the Wenger's (5pm potluck; 6pm informal hymn sing)

November 2 – Farewell Blessing in worship for Adam Butler, Adrienne Derstine, and Vincent

November 3 – MCC Meat Canner day for volunteers from Reno County; 12:30-4:30pm (note new time)

November 5 – PCRC (Pastor Congregation Relations Committee) meets at 5:15pm

November 8 – Rethinking Justice Scripture Study of Hope in Newton (see below & talk to Tonya for details)

November 9 – Mission Festival – Raylene Hinz Penner, speaker; potluck after Sunday school

November 9 – 2nd Annual Blessing of the Pets – 4:30pm (by the columbarium)

November 11 – LPC (Listening-Prayer-Conversation) Group @ 1:00pm (all are welcome)

November 12 – 6:30-8:00pm – practicing Confessional Bible Study with Pastor Tonya (all are welcome)

November 19 – *We'll Leave Our Lights On* drive for Food Bank, 5:00-7:00pm at participating churches

November 21 – Bethel College and Hutchinson Community College Choirs joint concert, 7:00pm at FMC

December 7 – FMC Annual Congregational Meeting

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.

Our November gatherings are: Tuesday November 11 at 1:00pm
 Wednesday November 12 at 6:30pm

OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE CONFESSIONAL BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR TONYA

Last spring Pastor Tonya was trained at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in a specific method of Bible Study being used in their Orienting with the World program for churches. You are invited to come Wednesday evening November 12 from 6:30-8:00pm to experience this style of study, and to help Pastor Tonya have a chance to practice leading it! There are three movements to this practice: scripture text study, a creative response to the scripture text, and worship. RSVP's would be helpful, but are not necessary.

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...

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 and Isaiah 58: 6-12)

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

MISSION FESTIVAL – Sunday November 9

Raylene Hinz-Penner from Newton (see bio below) will be our speaker during worship, focusing on Indigenous Justice, including the mission of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and the related Kansas Repair Network, which Pastor Tonya has been participating with. *Our offering that morning will be given to the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.* Raylene will also join us for an interactive Sunday School conversation to include your questions emerging out of the worship service! ***Plan to stay for a potluck meal following Sunday School – bring a dish to share!!***

Raylene Hinz-Penner grew up on a southwest Kansas dairy farm, land reclaimed after the Dust Bowl. She is retired from a career as an English professor at Bethel College and Washburn University. She has written *Searching for Sacred Ground: The Journey of Chief Lawrence Hart, Mennonite* (2007) and *East of Liberal: Notes on the Land* (2022). She writes and presents these days on issues of settler accountability, dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery and advocacy for Indigenous rights. She is a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church and its Task Group for Indigenous Justice working with other Kansas churches to build an advocacy coalition, Kansas Repair Communities.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all ages @ 11am!

Children (age 2-5th grade) and Junior Youth (6th-8th) 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 (9th-12th 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 5th Sundays and on some major holidays.

WDC's KIDS MEET CHRIST worship initiative . . . November 15

Preparing the Way for Children in Worship Event is a day of fellowship and learning about how to prepare the way for children in worship. Participants will hear from guest speaker Melissa Florer-Bixler about the scriptural foundation of including children in worship and practical steps to take to become more intergenerational. Michele Hershberger will facilitate discussions about congregational change and culture. There will also be resources to pick up (including Advent materials for children) and a catered lunch to enjoy! This event is part of the Kids Meet Christ worship initiative through Western District Conference. It is FREE for all participants from WDC congregations and \$25 for other participants. Contact Joy Miller, Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, if you would like to participate.

- Date: November 15, 2025
- Time: 10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
- Location: Hope Mennonite Church - Wichita, KS

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)

Tonya has completed the Transforming Community experience, which gave shape to her sabbatical time spread out over 2 ½ years. She will be continuing a quarterly retreat rhythm (closer to home, beginning in January!) and will be observing a ‘Day Apart’ in the months she is not taking a retreat. In October

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

FMC’s ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING . . . October 26 . . . meeting notes

- Minutes of two congregational meetings were approved: December 8, 2024 and June 1, 2025.
- Proposed 2025-26 budget was presented and approved.
- Martha Miller was affirmed as a new member of the Faith Formation Coordination Team, replacing Joy Miller, who has now become our Children’s Faith Formation Coordinator.
- Allen Yoder shared on behalf of the Trustees, about building/grounds maintenance and updates.
- Pastor Tonya shared opportunities for volunteers in several of FMC’s initiatives: (1) helping with set up and clean up for Sunday morning fellowship time; (2) Be part of a team to put together a new pictorial directory for FMC; (3) Take charge of posting pictures to our website, including getting permission from individuals to do so; (4) Plan and lead the 10am Sunday morning worship service our church is responsible for at Mennonite Friendship Communities on December 14.

PASTOR CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kevin Martin-Nisly, Adam Pounds and Cheryl Warkentin serve on this committee and offer their skills in listening, affirming and supporting our connections between the congregation and our pastors. This group meets quarterly, welcoming your suggestions, concerns, affirmations and blessings as we seek to strengthen our relationships and support healthy communication patterns. Please speak with a committee member ahead of their meeting on November 5, with any comments you wish to share.

SINGING GROUP @ WENGER’s . . . Saturday, November 1 – 5pm potluck, 6pm informal hymn sing

All are invited to join with friends for informal fellowship and singing. Please bring a dish to share and a musical instrument, if you wish. Hymnals are provided.

2nd ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE PETS . . . November 9, 4:30pm

Bring your pet on a leash or in a cage and join with your church family for a blessing of the pets. Meet by the columbarium.

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 November: Canned Fruit

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 4th 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.

FRIENDSHIP MEALS OF RENO COUNTY – Noon Meal offered Monday-Friday

South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging at 700 N. Walnut, inside the Salvation Army Building.

Social Hour: 11:00-11:45 with **Meals Served:** Beginning at 11:30am; last meals served at 12:15pm

Special Events for Holiday Meals. Prizes for those bringing guests.

Monthly raffle (no purchase or donation necessary)

Age Requirement: 60+ **Cost:** Suggested donation per person is \$4.00. NO ONE 60 or over will be denied a meal. Under 60 cost is \$7.08.

Home delivery can be arranged for those not able to travel.

Questions/Concerns: Lander at 620-663-7491. Donations are tax deductible.

KANSAS INTERFAITH ACTION (KIFA) HUTCHINSON EVENT – NOV 2 @ GRACE EPISCOPAL

On **November 2nd at 6:30 pm** at **Grace Episcopal Church, 2 Hyde Park Dr, Kansas Interfaith Action and the Kansas National Education Association** will be in Hutchinson! Join us for the opportunity to learn more about local elections, and their impacts on our public schools. We will discuss the importance of people of faith and conscience supporting their neighborhood schools and how we can use our voices to advocate for our students, educators, and communities. Register at bit.ly/SchoolSpiritHutchinson. This issue is important, so make sure to invite out any one you know who cares about public schools, or who wants to know why people of faith should care about them!

RETHINKING JUSTICE SCRIPTURE STUDY OF HOPE FOR CENTRAL KANSANS – NOV 8

If you were at our Oct 15 WNAF (Wed Nights at First), this is the workshop Rev. Jeanne Koontz shared about at the end of her presentation. This workshop, specifically for lay people in congregations, will explore what the Bible has to say about justice, offer modern examples, and learn about the plan for a new Central Kansas organization working on justice issues together. We currently have 9 people from FMC Hutch signed up to attend, and would love to have more. Please contact Pastor Tonya for more details, and the registration link. Childcare is provided.

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.

KANSAS REPAIR NETWORK – MEET THE AUTHOR LAURIE DOVE ON NOVEMBER 11!

The Kansas Repair Network is a coalition of local Mennonite churches (that is open to others joining, including non-Mennonite groups!) has had several meetings and is committed to focus our first advocacy/legislative campaign on the subject of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People. At this point we are at work to educate ourselves on this issue, nationally and in the state of Kansas, by first reading local bestselling writer Laurie Dove's novel, *Mask of the Deer Woman*. Pastor Tonya has a copy of the book she is happy to loan out (it's a fast, and interesting, read!). Laurie Dove (who is an Indigenous woman adopted as a child by a Mennonite family) will be at Bethel College Mennonite Church on Tuesday evening November 11 to talk about her book with the Repair Network and friends. Pastor Tonya is planning right now to attend (exact time TBD) – let her know if you'd like to come with her!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT! 50 CONVERSATIONS ON HOME, BELONGING & LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

If you are looking for meaningful ways to engage in conversations that feel hard, you might appreciate this resource provided by World Relief: a set of 'conversation cards' to use around the dinner table, over coffee, or during long rides home. Each question invites deeper connection, reflection and compassion – reminders of what unites us. You can download the cards for free here: [World Relief Conversation Cards](#). And, consider making a donation to [World Relief](#), which is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to boldly engage the world's greatest crises in partnership with the church.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC Meat Canning will be coming to North Newton and the time for Hutchinson area volunteers is Monday, November 3, 12:30-4:30pm (note this adjustment in time). 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. 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. 30th Street in North Newton, questions can be directed to duaneunruh@mcc.org or 316.283.2720.

WE'LL LEAVE OUR LIGHTS ON

Ending hunger in Reno County isn't a job for one church or one organization. It takes a group...a group of friends who believe that together we make a difference. This is our eighth year for our countywide Thanksgiving food drive, "We'll Leave Our Lights On". Sanctuary lights will shine in 21 area churches while collecting donations of non-perishable foods. *The Food Bank of Reno County suggests these items: pasta, peanut butter, mac & cheese, cereal, canned meats, vegetables, fruits, and canned soups.* On Wednesday, November 19, from 5 – 7 p.m., food donations may be taken to ANY participating churches – including FMC.

BETHEL COLLEGE announcements

Sun., Nov. 2 – Bethel Sings, a concert featuring all Bethel College vocal groups, Dr. Russell Adrian, director, 4 p.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church

Registration is now open for Bethel College's Worship and the Arts Symposium, Nov. 2-4 on the Bethel campus. There is no fee, but registration is needed to get accurate numbers. Go to <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/worship-and-the-arts-symposium/> and click the "Registration"

button. **The focus of the 2025 symposium is homiletics, with Dr. Luke Powery** from Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. Of particular interest to pastors but open to everyone is a **preaching masterclass from 9 a.m.-noon on Tuesday, Nov. 4**. The featured visual artist is Merrill Krabill, Goshen, Ind., a former professor at Bethel and now retired from teaching at Goshen College. Use the link above to see a complete schedule.

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.

HESSTON COLLEGE announcements

Hesston College Nursing Open House

Future nurses are invited to attend Hesston College's Nursing Open House on Saturday, November 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is a chance to experience one of Kansas's leading B.S.N. programs up close. This opportunity is available to prospective students, families, educators or anyone considering a career in health care. Brunch is included. Learn more and register at hesston.edu/larknursing.

Hesston College Cultures Fair

The community is invited to join us Wednesday, November 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. as we celebrate our diverse student body and their homeland cuisine at this year's Cultures Fair! Hesston College is honored to host students representing 28 countries this fall, and many of these students will share their hearts through a taste sampling from their home countries. A curry main dish will be served by dining services beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by international sides, desserts and drinks starting at 6 p.m. in Bontrager Student Center dining hall. Cost is \$9.23 per person. Reserve your place by Nov. 3 at hesston.edu/culturesfair2025.

Hesston College Engineering Day

Hesston College invites high school students and future engineers to campus for Engineering Day on Saturday, November 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This opportunity is available to students, parents, teachers or community members who may be considering a career in engineering. Lunch is included. Learn more and register at hesston.edu/engineering-day.

Hesston College Masterworks Concert

The Hesston College Music Department invites the community to their fall Masterworks Concert featuring the piece, "Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle" on Saturday, November 22, at 7 p.m. in Hesston Mennonite Church. The piece is based on a favorite children's book. The message and music are beautiful and also deeply meaningful and timely in today's world. Sing with the choir! Contact Greg Bontrager at greg.bontrager@hesston.edu for details.

"Art From the Hearth" exhibit opens at Hesston College

An exhibit titled, "Art From the Hearth" will be featured in the Regier-Friesen Gallery located in Hesston College's Laban Peachey Center (325 S. College Dr., Hesston) November 3 through 28. The exhibit includes various artists' created bowls, cups, plates, teapots, etc. and includes recipes in which to fill them. A reception with the artists will take place Wednesday, November 12, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Normal exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and admission is free.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE Training to Protect Our Communities

Churches are called to be places of peace, welcome, and safety for all. Yet, with recent changes to immigration enforcement policies, faith communities are facing new challenges in protecting and accompanying immigrant neighbors. Join MCC's Immigration Network for a special two-hour virtual

training designed to help your church understand immigration enforcement, know your legal rights as a faith community, and develop a plan of action in case immigration agents show up at or near your congregation. Just like we make a fire drill plan for our church, our churches can make an ICE response plan to keep our neighbors safe.

Through this training, participants will:

- Learn what “sensitive locations” are and how immigration enforcement policies have changed.
- Explore how to create a church response plan and understand your rights under the law.
- Learn how community-led Rapid Response Networks operate to support families and document ICE activity.
- Reflect on how our faith calls us to respond with courage, hospitality, and solidarity.

Two sessions will be in English will provide the same content. (Spanish session also available.)

- English - November 4 & 25
- Time: 6:00–8:00 PM (Central Time)
- Location: Online via Zoom
- Register here: mcc.org/protecting-our-communities

The training sessions will be led by Abraham Díaz Alonso, Immigration Program Coordinator with MCC Central States, who works regionally and, in the U.S.-Mexico border region to equip churches in advocacy, accompaniment, and immigrant protection.

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. For more information, email info@ksabolition.org or call 785-235-2237.

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. The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zweiback, and fruit crisp. Reserve your meals at <https://forms.gle/DMurJFkp5P7Fb3C86> 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!

Welcome to Eric Litwiller! Eric is the new Development Director for Camp Mennoscah. He has jumped in head-first to activities and has already started making contacts. He can be reached at eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org

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!

50,000 MEALS IN 2025! . . . Buhler Mennonite Church & IdeaTek on December 6

We need your help! On Saturday, December 6, 2025 we need your help to package 50,000 meals. There is a job for all ages 7-147 years of age. You can work one shift or both shifts. Job orientation is provided and no previous experience is needed! 1st shift (arrive 8:45am for the 9-11am); 2nd shift (arrive 10:45 for the 11:00am-1pm). Sand Hills Event Center, 4601 N. Plum Street, Hutchinson. For information: 620-543-2733 or email: bmcpastor@gmail.com.

MCC U.S. NATIONAL PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Puerto Rico has experienced various ups and downs, including hurricanes, earthquakes and a system of governance that seems to keep communities in constant crisis. What does it mean to work for peace in this context? Join us in beautiful Puerto Rico to learn how the life and teachings of Jesus inform our peacebuilding. For one week we will participate in a process of learning and collective transformation, exploring how to live in solidarity with each other and build a community of peace with biblical foundations. *Participants must have at least an intermediate level of listening and speaking Spanish.*

- **When:** February 15-21, 2026
- **Where:** Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
- **Who:** Young adults, ages 18-30; understanding and speaking Spanish is necessary
- **How:** Register [here](#) by January 12
- **Cost:** \$250.00 (Includes flight to Puerto Rico) guarantees your place at the camp

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE (MDS)

Our October edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares what gives him goosebumps, learn how MDS volunteers are changing lives in a remote Alaska village and read how volunteering with MDS during Katrina impacted so many lives. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/4n50530>

Hope amid hardship: MDS works in remote Alaska village. Robert Pitka thinks of MDS volunteers as good workers—and good listeners, too. The tribal administrator for Toksook Bay, home to about 700 people in western Alaska, Pitka recalled when the tribal council first considered inviting MDS to help repair homes in the Nunakauuariut community, who maintain a predominately traditional diet from fishing, and hunting caribou and moose. [Click here to read more](#)

MENNONITE HISTORY TOUR TO POLAND . . . BETHEL COLLEGE tour July 10-21, 2026

Poland was the refuge and homeland for generations of Mennonites during years of intolerance after the Protestant Reformation. As a result, the history of Poland is part of the history of many Mennonites around the world. As early as the 1530s, Anabaptists from Holland and the lowlands of the Rhine and North Germany found a sanctuary in the Polish Commonwealth. Unlike Switzerland and the Holy Roman Empire, Poland rejected the brutal religious persecutions plaguing Western Europe. As a result, along with others seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity, many Dutch and German Mennonites settled in Poland, and remained there until later migrations took some to Ukraine and others to the American Midwest and southern Manitoba. This tour is designed to reacquaint persons of Mennonite descent, and others, with the country that provided their ancestors a safe and secure homeland for so many years from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries.

Information here: <https://mla.bethelks.edu/information/mpsa.php>