

THIS WEEK @ FMC -- December 3-9, 2025

"God of justice and compassion, plant in us a living hope amid the heaviness of waiting. Root us in your love amid the grief of injustice. Grow our dreams and imaginations as we stay alert. And may our hands sow your peace ..." (Illustrated Ministry – Closing prayer for Week 1 in The Will to Dream Youth and Intergenerational Curriculum)

REFLECTION (from the same resource as the prayer above)

"Navigating the challenges, pain, despair, and grief in our lives and the lives of those around us can be overwhelming. The presence of corruption, control, violence and hate in our world is devastating. And waiting for things to get better is exhausting. Hope does not eliminate any of these truths or avoid any of these realities. Though we may grow weary of waiting, let us remember hope is more than waiting.

Hope is found in the stories we share ... Hope is working to bring the light of God's love and peace to those around us.

This hope is transformative. This hope seeks justice. This is the kind of hope the prophet Isaiah meant when he called us to turn swords to plowshares. This is the kind of hope Mark meant when he called us to stand alert and ready. This hope is safety in the midst of overwhelm and comfort in devastation. It is rest in the midst of exhaustion and communal care in the face of despair.

We will stay alert as we hold these profound sharings and stories* alongside Isaiah's vision. We will seek God's presence. And we will hope together for a future filled with love, compassion, and peace for all people."

****Questions to ponder and share with others...***

Share about a time when you chose to be hopeful even when it was difficult to do so.

Share about a person who gives you hope.

Share about a time when you gave someone else hope.

Share about where you feel hope in nature.

Share a lament about something in your life or our world that makes it difficult to hope.

Share about one thing you would like to see this community do to actively share hope with others.

(Source: Illustrated Ministry – Week 1 in The Will to Dream Youth and Intergenerational Curriculum)

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, DECEMBER 7, 2025 – ADVENT 2 .. THE WILL TO DREAM: PROPHETIC PEACE
Matthew 3:1-12 & Malachi 3:1-6a

Decorating the Christmas Tree

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Delon Martens

Pianist: Peggy Stucky

Song Leader: Magdalena Wenger

Children's Time: Jennalee Boggs

Scripture Reader: Jean Gaeddert

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

Ushers: Ken Neufeld & Carol Moore

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

December 6 – Singing Group @ Wenger's (5pm potluck; 6pm singing)

December 7 – Decorating the Christmas Tree (ornaments for adults & children/youth to hang!) during worship; FMC Annual Congregational Meeting (+ lunch and silent auction fundraisers for Sr Youth)

December 8 – Craft Night 6:30-8:00 in Fellowship Hall

December 10 – FMC families caroling @ MFC (meet in main entrance parking lot at 3:45pm – ending time is 5:00pm, followed by hot cocoa at Metro)

December 10 – Choir rehearsal (5:15-6:15pm) in preparation for Lessons & Carols Service

December 14 – FMC leads worship at Mennonite Friendship Communities – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

December 21 – Lessons and Carols worship service (+ Longest Night/Soup Supper/Caroling – details TBD)

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 (11:00am-Noon – NOTE NEW TIME!) 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 December gatherings are: Tuesday December 9 at 1:00pm
 Wednesday December 10 at 6:30pm

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY 2025 – *THE WILL TO DREAM*

Our worship series this Advent-Christmas-Epiphany comes from Illustrated Ministry, focusing on the theme ***The Will to Dream: Hearts are weary, and souls unsettled, and people of all perspectives are searching—not just for answers, but for understanding, healing, and hope. This ache is not weakness; it is a holy longing—a sacred desire for a world made whole. From this longing comes the will to dream—a persistent courage to imagine, resist, and rebuild a better world.***

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent – The Will to Dream: *Prophetic Peace* – Pastor Tonya preaching
Decorating the Christmas Tree during worship and our church's Annual Meeting & Youth fundraisers

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent – The Will to Dream: *Unexpected Joy* – Pastor Tonya preaching

December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Will to Dream: *Merciful Hope* – Lessons and Carols
Evening Longest Night Service, soup supper, and Christmas caroling

December 24: 7:00pm Christmas Eve – The Will to Dream: *Embodied Promise*

December 28: First Sunday After Christmas – The Will to Dream: *Generational Praise* – Pastor Tonya

January 4: Epiphany – The Will to Dream: *Courageous Defiance (+ Star Words)* – Pastor Tonya preaching

ADVENT DAY APART – OFFERED BY GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON DECEMBER 6

Meeting God in the Gaps – an Advent Quiet Day at Grace Episcopal from 9:00am-12:30pm. Led by Father J. Ted Blakley, Ph.D. Bring yourself. Bring a friend. Come and waste a few hours with Jesus. *Pray. Read. Knit. Listen. Color. Journal. Dream. Rest.*

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7 SCHEDULE

8:45am – bring all silent auction donations to the basement

9:00am-9:30am – Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction open in the basement fellowship hall

9:30am-10:30(ish) – Worship with opportunity for EVERYONE to hang an ornament on the Christmas tree

10:30 (or when worship has ended!)-11:00am – Fellowship Time & Silent Auction open for bidding

11:00-Noon – Sunday school & Silent Auction closed

12:00-12:45 – Lunch and Silent Auction

12:45pm – Silent Auction closes

12:45-1:45pm – Annual Meeting (in person & on zoom) + separate activities for children/jr youth

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE & SOUP MEAL ... December 21

December 21 is the longest night of the year, inviting us to linger honestly and prayerfully with the grief, lament, and despair we may be feeling during this joyous season. On Sunday evening, December 21, we'll gather for a Longest Night worship service in the sanctuary (on livestream as well) and will share in a soup dinner together. The exact details and timing for this are still being worked out, including an opportunity for Christmas caroling. Please stay tuned!!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – 7PM ON DECEMBER 24

You (and your family and friends) are all invited to our intergenerational Christmas Eve service, beginning at 7pm. The service includes opportunities for participation of all ages through scripture reading, acting out the Christmas Story (come a bit early to get your costume – no rehearsal required!), singing, playing the

Kristal Bells, lighting candles, and more. The service is followed by a Christmas fellowship time in the basement – bring sweet or savory finger foods to share in this time of celebration.

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) meets weekly for Sunday School in the youth room upstairs with Jonathan Wenger and Tanya Martin Nisly.

The Adult Class studying the Salt and Light Bible Study this fall with the theme, “*Living God’s Abundant Life*,” by Jo-Ann A. Brant. The study will include scripture texts from John, 1 Thessalonians and Lamentations. They are meeting in the fellowship hall and a Zoom option will be available.

A “**Conversation & Connection**” adult group also meets informally 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.

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

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

STRENGTHENING Community Connections...

CHURCH OFFICE REGULAR 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’s next day apart in December is TBD.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED @ FMC!

1. To help clean the cups for candles on Christmas Eve.
2. To help lead the worship service at MFC on December 14 at 10:00am.

Please let Pastor Tonya know if you can help with either of these needs!

SINGING GROUP @ WENGER’S – SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

All are welcome for an informal hymn (Christmas!) sing at the Wenger’s on Saturday December 6. Bring a potluck dish to share for the potluck meal at 5:00pm. Singing will begin around 6:00pm. Hymnals

provided. Additional instruments welcome! Our plan is to schedule this group monthly in the new year, so watch for a January date soon.

CHOIR for LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE . . . December 21

Singers – whether you have sung with us before or you would like to join us for the first time – you are invited to join us for two rehearsals – December 10 and 17 at 5:15pm. If you plan to sing, please text or email Pauline or leave a message in the church office 620-662-9385.

WINTER/SPRING 2026 BOOK GROUP . . . CHERISHED BELONGING, Gregory Boyle

The Wednesday book group has chosen their next read - to begin sometime in February 2026. We'll be reading Cherished Belonging by Gregory Boyle. A summary of the book is at the very end of this newsletter. Having read one of Boyle's other books and having heard him speak, I can attest to his gift of storytelling with an eye out for the power of God's grace and compassion showing up in unexpected ways, places and people. The group typically meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm and all are welcome to join. If you need help getting a copy, let me know. – Pastor Tonya

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 December: Pasta

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.

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 new toiletry items (especially gender neutral deodorant).

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT FMC:

We are collecting \$25 Gift Cards for Salthawk Community Support to gift students with at Hutchinson High School and Hutchinson Middle School 8. ***Pastor Tonya will deliver cards on Thursday afternoon this week (Dec 4) – so you can still bring cards to donate if you wish!!*** Put them in the box on the table in the foyer.

Bring your NEW hats, mittens/gloves, or socks to donate to the Salvation Army. Place them in the basket next to the Christmas tree in the foyer **by DECEMBER 15!**

Anytime before December 24, donate \$25 to cover the cost of an Infant Care Kit (also known as Baby Bundles!) for *Mennonite Central Committee*. We will dedicate these bundles during our Christmas Eve service and then deliver them to MCC to be sent to families around the world who need some extra support and love for their babies. A basket on the table in the foyer displays the contents of a kit for a baby girl and a kit for a baby boy.

THE GREAT MENNO GIVE – Mennonite Church USA

As we enter Thanksgiving week, we invite you to take two minutes to watch this inspiring video (<https://youtu.be/Rp3QoXAnnOQ>) highlighting how Mennonite Church USA staff, Mennonite Mission Network and MennoMedia are working together to share Christ's hope in tangible ways. As you watch, we hope you'll consider joining us in ***The Great Menno Give***. Your generosity helps create accessible faith resources, support mission workers and strengthen congregations across our church family. We are deeply grateful for the faithful, caring community that makes this work possible year after year.

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/give/>

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.

OTHER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Offender Victim Ministries. You can shop for gifts and supplies AND support restorative justice work in our community, all in one action! **Shop for gift wrap, home goods, snacks, apparel, accessories, and magazine subscriptions through the Cherrydale fundraiser catalog [HERE!](#)** OVM will receive 40% of the purchase price on each item. Orders ship directly to your door in as quickly as 7-10 business days.

Mennonite Central Committee. When you give a gift from MCC's Christmas Giving Guide, you can send an eCard, order physical cards or even print out a card at home to share with a friend or loved one. **[Browse MCC's Christmas Giving Guide](#)**

Western District Conference is an extension of and support for the work of our member congregations, with resources such as:

- Transitional ministers and hands-on support for churches navigating pastoral transitions.
- Resource Library – the oldest and largest Mennonite church resource center in the US, with an expanding selection of digital resources.
- New Kids Meet Christ program – supporting congregations to reimagine worship to better engage children.
- Coaching for leaders of smerging faith communities and scholarships for seminary students.
- Consulting with churches for pastor-congregation reviews, updating policies, safe0church training, and more.

We work to build a conference sustained by a consistent rhythm of regular giving. Give here:

<https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=c50eb5b3-a9b7-4431-ba3c-bcb6744f74f1>

“THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER” . . . Eden Mennonite Church, December 13 & 14

In this hilarious Christmas play, a couple struggling to put on a Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids- probably the most inventively awful kids in history. Admission is free for this funny and heart-warming telling of the Christmas Story on Saturday December 13th at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and Sunday December 14th at 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.) at Eden Mennonite Church; 401 18th Ave. Moundridge.

McPHERSON COMMUNITY BRASS . . BRASS CHRISTMAS performances

- **December 7** – St. Paul Lutheran, Peabody, 5:30pm
- **December 9** – The Cedars, McPherson, 7:00pm
- **December 13** – McPherson Opera House, McPherson, 7:30pm
- **December 14** – Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, 7:00pm

Trae and Stephanie Gehring are members of this ensemble.

MENNONITE CHURCH of McPHERSON . . Verenika & Bohne Beroggi food sale

The holidays are approaching fast! It's time to stock your freezers with verenika & bohne beroggi. **First Mennonite church of McPherson** will be selling verenika and bohne beroggi made fresh by members of the church then frozen. Gravy and sauce will not be provided, but recipes will be attached. Orders will be taken until Saturday, December 6, 2025. Pick up date is Saturday, December 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the church 1161 E. Ave A in McPherson. Cost is \$12 for half a dozen. Place your order through Facebook page – First Mennonite Church of McPherson or our website www.firstmennonitechurchmcpherson.org. Pay at time of pick up by check, cash, or Venmo.

INTERFAITH HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Earn a 75% Kansas Income Tax Credit. Invest in Kansas. Empower Lives. Get Rewarded.

Your donation not only changes lives — it rewards you, too.

Here's how it works:

- Donate to the IDA program administered by Interfaith Housing & Community Services.
- Receive a 75% Kansas income tax credit.
- Credits are refundable, meaning if your credit exceeds your tax liability, you'll receive the difference as a refund.

When you support individual Development Accounts (IDAs) through Interfaith Housing & Community Services, your donation helps hardworking Kansans achieve dreams like:

- Buying their first home
- Paying for essential home repairs
- Starting or expanding a small business
- Pursuing college or vocational training

For every dollar participants save, their contributions are matched 2:1, helping them build assets and long-term financial stability. To claim your IDA tax credit or learn more, contact Lacy Stauffacher 620-259-9919.

BETHEL COLLEGE announcements

Weds., Dec. 3 – Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, 11 a.m., with chamber orchestra and soloists, *Bethel College Mennonite Church*. Scores provided.

Weds., Dec. 3 – Senior Art Exhibit I opens, featuring ceramics by Bethel College student Abby Chappell Deckert. The exhibit is open through Dec. 12, with a reception Dec. 8, in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 4 – Jazz Holiday Gala, directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College

Sat., Dec. 6 – Kauffman Museum bird walk, 8 a.m. start time in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail (terrain is mostly wood-chip path and sometimes uneven/sloping).

Sat., Dec. 6 – Five Places of Christmas, featuring Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Women's Association at Goerz House, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Other locations are Carriage Factory Gallery, Harvey County Historical Museum and Warkentin House, all in Newton.

Sun., Dec. 7 – 40th annual Lighting of the Green, 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus

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.

CAMP MENNOSCAH announcements

Paint Day at the Retreat Center on December 6! Please call or text Tom Gaeddert at 316-288-7766 to participate. On December 6, from 9am to no later than 4pm, there will be a paint day with a few other side projects. We need one or two people to clean the walls, four to six people cutting in with a brush and four to six people following with rollers. Brushes and rollers are provided but we could use a couple more extension sticks for the rollers if someone could bring a couple. We hope to finish painting the basement and at least get a good start painting upstairs.

There will also be a group that is chopping up the copper pipe that was removed from the old boiler system so that we can get a better price for pure copper. We can probably use two more people with a Sawzall or an angle grinder to make this happen. A second workday is expected on December 13.

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!

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK announcements

Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications now for August 2026–July 2027. Adults 20+ are invited to serve for one year (renewable up to three) alongside nonprofits tackling poverty, immigration, education, health, and more. Live intentionally with other MVSers in a unit house, be supported by a local Mennonite church, and join a worldwide movement for peace and justice. Visit

MennoniteMission.net/MVS

Just Peace Pilgrimage Calais, France . . . April 6–18, 2026

Walk with migrants, listen to their stories, and serve alongside organizations bringing hope at the edge of Europe. This 13-day pilgrimage will forever change how you see borders, justice, and the gospel call to welcome the stranger. Registration deadline: February 15, 2026, Only a few spots remain! Contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net or visit www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

HURRICANE MELISSA RESPONSE - MCC is responding to the impact of Hurricane Melissa. Please pray for the people who have been affected by this disaster. MCC is working with local partners to provide food, hygiene items and other emergency supplies. We welcome your donations at mcc.org/hurricane-melissa.

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.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements

Advent is underway, and MC USA invites you to deepen your worship at home with our 2025 **Advent at Home** guide. This year's theme, "Be Amazed," follows MennoMedia's Leader magazine and offers weekly reflections and practices for individuals, families and households of all ages. The guide is a downloadable PDF <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/advent-at-home-2025/>

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 November edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares a new version of 1 Corinthians 13, a new bridge brings hope to a grieving father, and meet a man who is both a disaster survivor and an MDS volunteer. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3Lli3eN>

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>

UNITED WAY OF RENO COUNTY

This message from Lacey Mills, CEO of United Way of Reno County.

I'm reaching out because several of our local partners are really struggling to find volunteers right now. Here are **three quick ways you can plug in and support our community right away:**

1. Rise Up Reno – Reading Buddies & Mentors

Rise Up Reno urgently needs volunteers to support kids during the school day. **The time investment is small—typically one hour or less each week**—but the impact is huge.

Volunteers can:

- Have lunch with a student
- Help with reading or academic tutoring
- Share a hobby or interest
- Simply show up and listen

These small, consistent moments help kids build confidence, improve reading skills, and feel supported by caring adults.



Learn more or apply: <https://www.riseupreno.org/Mentoring/>

2. Big Brothers Big Sisters – Become a Big

Many youth in our community are currently waiting for a mentor, and the list keeps growing. Volunteers can choose from two flexible options:

- **Community-Based Bigs** – Meet twice a month for outings like the park, the zoo, grabbing lunch, attending events, doing crafts—whatever fits your interests and schedule.
- **School-Based Bigs** – Connect once a week at school for 20–40 minutes to play games, eat lunch, or work on homework.

Both options offer meaningful, reliable support for a child who really needs someone in their corner.



Learn more or inquire: <https://www.kansasbigs.org/be-a-big>

3. Meals on Wheels – Drivers Urgently Needed

Meals on Wheels is especially short on volunteers right now and needs drivers to deliver hot meals to homebound neighbors. This usually takes **about one hour per week**, and schedules are flexible.

Volunteer requirements:

- Age 16 or older
- Valid driver's license
- Auto insurance

Routes can be shared among several persons on a rotating schedule. Standby drivers are needed as well to fill in when regular volunteers are unavailable.



Sign up: www.hutchmow.com



Or call Gloria at **(620) 665-5711** (7:30 AM–12:30 PM)

These programs are doing important work every day, and they simply can't keep up without more volunteers. Every volunteer makes a huge difference right now. Thank you for always stepping up for our community—we appreciate you more than you know.

Thank you so much! - Lacey (United Way of Reno County, **Office:** 620-669-9329)