

# THIS WEEK @ FMC - February 11-17, 2026

This week in the Narrative Lectionary we skip over quite a few chapters, landing in John 9 next Sunday with the familiar story of the man, blind from birth, who is healed by Jesus. If you have time this week, you might read the intervening chapters. These chapters include a lot of dialogue between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. It's good to remember as you read, given the ways scripture (and John in particular) have been used to support anti-Semitism, that references to 'the Jews' almost always means the 'Jewish religious leaders' ... not all Jews. In the earliest days of Christianity, most Christians were Jewish, just as Jesus and his disciples were Jewish. They just held differing views than others about the identity of the Messiah. The tone in the Gospel of John toward 'the Jews' is often harsh and negative, and this likely reflects the pain of the divisions and schisms in their community. But it was an intra-religious conflict (perhaps like we would argue among other Mennonites or Anabaptists), not an inter-religious claim about the superiority of Christianity over Judaism. That said ... here is one of the familiar stories from these chapters we are skipping over which invites us to remember God's economy of abundance (grace upon grace) and guides us toward the communion meal we will share together next Sunday:

## **John 6:1-14**

*After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). <sup>2</sup> A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.*

*<sup>5</sup> Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.*

*<sup>7</sup> Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary<sup>[a]</sup> worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, <sup>9</sup> "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." <sup>15</sup> Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.*

-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, FEBRUARY 15, 2026 – THE MAN BORN BLIND**

**Celebrating Communion together**

***God of vision, too often we are spiritually blindfolded, unable to see you at work in our world. Remove barriers that keep us from seeing. Help us to be light for others. Amen.***

## ***John 9:1-41; Psalm 27:1-4***

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Maggie Pounds

Pianist: Russell Goering

Song Leader: Jon Miller

Children's Time: Maggie Pounds

Scripture Readers: Sadie Pritchett

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

Ushers: Carol Moore & Ken Neufeld

Nursery Attendant: Cindy Kroeker

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**

February 12 – Faith Formation Coordination Team meets at 6:30pm

February 14 – Women & Girls event – for those who have RSVPd

February 15 – Worship Leader's Lunch @ Noon with Pastor Tonya

February 18 – Book Study, CHERISHED BELONGING (Gregory Boyle) meets @ 1:00pm

February 18 – Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00pm with Community Church of the Brethren

February 19 – Congregational Ministry Team (CMT) meets at 5:30pm

February 22 – First Sunday of Lent

February 27 – Mennonite Friendship Community Liverwurst & Fried Mush fundraiser, 5:00-8:00pm

February 28 – Next Singing Group @ Wenger's: 5pm potluck (bring a dish to share) and 6pm singing begins!

**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) ecumenical Centering Prayer group** is meeting weekly. 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.

Upcoming gatherings are: Tuesday February 17 at 1:00pm (note date change)  
Wednesday February 11 at 6:30pm

### **WINTER 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 winter's theme is: ***The Upside-Down Kingdom***, focusing on *Jesus; birth and the counter-cultural stories he told*.

**Senior Youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 winter 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and on some major holidays.

### **LENT 2026 – Dwelling in Dissonance (begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb 18)**

This year, the entire season of Lent is framed by the experience of Holy Week as recorded in the Gospel of John. We're invited to linger in the intensity of the final week of Jesus' life, to dwell in the dissonance. Dissonance might be a word many of us would use to describe the kind of time we are living in, and we long to find relief from the dissonant uncertainty we are experiencing. As we anticipate the beginning of Lent, consider the invitations found in this poem:

*As we step into Lent,  
we say 'welcome' to the dissonance.  
We reserve a space for lament and grief,  
to stay awhile and do their work.  
We release our nice little pictures  
of perfect selves, perfect faith, perfect world.  
and look for God in the heartache.  
We listen for God in discordant melodies.  
And follow Jesus to the cross,  
though we don't understand  
and it doesn't compute.  
As we step into Lent,  
we say 'welcome' to the dissonance.  
Trusting that God is here.  
Now. In the mystery.  
Before it is resolved.*

(from The Leader Winter 2025-2026 Lent Worship Resources)

## **LENT LUNCHES ARE HAPPENING AGAIN THIS YEAR!!**

Mark your calendars for the Wednesdays of Lent (Feb 25-March 25) from Noon-1:00pm. Five churches, including ours, will host a worship service and a shared lunch together around the theme of Justice.

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

- *UPPER ROOM* . . March, April
- *Rejoice!* .. March, April, May

# **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 monthly 'day apart' is **TBD** (NO regular office hours that day!)

## **NOTE OF THANKS**

Thank you for all the prayers for mom (Gloria Gehring). She has been doing better the last several weeks. Hopefully, she will stay healthy the rest of the winter and spring. God Bless, Russ Gehring

## **2025 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION REPORTS**

Since the IRS has raised the standard deduction threshold and those with IRA's can send directly to charitable organizations to help meet their minimum required distributions, the need to receive your annual contribution report has been diminished for income tax purposes. **Therefore, instead of stuffing mailboxes with annual giving reports, if you would like your giving report from FMC, please let me know I will get you yours.** You can reach me at [mikedirks@earthlink.net](mailto:mikedirks@earthlink.net) or 620-474-1224. - Mike Dirks

## **FEBRUARY 22 SHOWING OF "WHERE THE COTTONWOODS GROW" @ 4PM**

This powerful documentary commemorates the extraordinary 20,000-kilometre migration of Mennonites from South Russia (present-day Ukraine) to Manitoba in the 1870s. Invite your friends and bring snacks to share!

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST (WNAF) BEGIN FEBRUARY 25**

Our upcoming WNAF session will focus on our STRENGTHENING (community, connection, leadership) priority as a congregation. Dinner will be served between 5:30-6:30pm and the program (with activities for kids) from 6:30-7:30pm. The schedule as it stands right now is below – but is subject to change!

**Feb 25** – Asset Mapping Exercise Part 1 with Pastor Tonya

**March 4** – Asset Mapping Exercise Part 2 with Pastor Tonya

**March 11** – Community Circle Conversations

**March 18** – Game & Puzzle Night (bring games and puzzles with you!)

**TENTATIVE: March 25** – MCC Connections – work night and learning session

### **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.

### **GRAINS OF GLORY – THE KANSAS MENNONITE STORY - DVD AVAILABLE**

Thanks to a generous donor, a DVD copy of *Grains of Glory – The Kansas Mennonite Story* produced by PCS Kansas Channel 8 is available in our church library.

## **STRETCHING to Serve as Christ Served...**

### **RENO COUNTY FOOD BANK**

#### **February: 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.

### **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). We are also looking for **adults to mentor high school youth**. This involves meeting with them once/week for 30-45 minutes to be a supportive and encouraging presence. Talk to Pastor Tonya if interested in exploring this.

### **SECONDS ON 2<sup>nd</sup> update**

It has been a few weeks since I have given an update on the progress of the ETC Seconds on 2<sup>nd</sup> building. Remodeling has begun on the new bathrooms; doorways cut, ceiling removed in the middle portion of the building and work on the floors is to begin soon. The Builders Bargain building on 5<sup>th</sup> St is closed, and shelving is being painted and dismantled.

In order to prepare for the opening of the Seconds on 2nd building, a lot of work will need to be completed. There is no definite opening date but hopefully in 2-3 months. In order to be prepared for the opening, volunteers will need to be trained and additional volunteers will be needed as the square feet of the new building is doubled, compared to BB.

The ETC Board is reaching out to all ETC sponsoring churches and interested community people to announce that there will be 3 opportunities for a "behind the scenes tour" of 2nd on 2nd building. This open house will allow individuals to see all the many departments where an individual can volunteer. Some of the areas are:

Small engine, lawn equipment and repairing  
Appliances, plumbing, electrical, lighting repairing and cleaning  
Vintage and repurposing of furniture  
Home decor  
Sorting and packaging of hardware  
Building display and storage units  
Cashiers  
    Receiving donated items (Prior use of forklift would be of great help.)  
    Assist customers on the floor and help loading purchased items  
    And many other ways

3 dates are planned for you to come and see ways you can be involved in this next exciting new adventure. We will explain the mission of the ETC. We will hear where proceeds from sales are distributed to local non-profit organizations and around the world through MCC. And yes, refreshments will be provided. This is another way you can be involved in serving our Lord AND, this is for WOMEN and MEN!

The dates for these behind the scenes events are:

Friday, February 20, 3-5 P. M.

Saturday, February 21, 9-11 A.M.

Saturday February 28, 9- 11 A.M.

PLACE: 118 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave

Finally, you may have had some involvement with ETC or none at all. This is a time to come and see with no strings attached. You might be interested in volunteering 1 day a month, more, or a flex schedule. . . up to you. No RSVP is needed. Come to 1 or all 3 events. If you know of other individuals that might have an interest in this service opportunity, please feel free to invite them. Thanks again for considering this opportunity.                   - Tom and ETC Board.

### **MENNONITE FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITIES' LIVERWURST & MUSH DINNER fundraiser**

**Join the tradition . . . Friday, February 27, 5:00-8:00pm at the Journey Activity Center, 3605 East Long View Road, (1 mile north of Yoder).** The menu is homemade liverwurst, fried mush, whole hog sausage, cream gravy, tomato gravy and applesauce. Proceeds support updates in Independent Living and Assisted Living.

### **BETHEL COLLEGE announcements**

**Tues., Feb. 17 – Bethel College Chamber Orchestra concert, Kris Hilding, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center**

**Weds.-Fri., Feb. 25-27 – Bethel College and KIPCOR present the biennial Justice Symposium, with immigration advocate Karen González, author of *Beyond Welcome* and *The God Who Sees*. González will deliver the Peace Lecture Weds., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. in Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village. For a complete schedule, see <https://kipcor.org/event/2026-justice-symposium/>**

## **HESSTON COLLEGE announcements**

### **Hesston College Community Day February 14**

Hesston College invites you to Winter Community Day at Yost Center, February 14. Come enjoy free admission for basketball games, free popcorn, free haircuts provided by Hesston College alumna Christy Pickerill of CC's Family Hair and free rally towels to the first 100 fans. Lincoln Perk and Sage & Juliet Coffee Co. are teaming up with a coffee truck to serve coffee drinks and baked goods, and the HC Grill Club and flag football team will serve burgers to purchase for lunch. The fun starts at 11 a.m. and continues all afternoon. For a full schedule check out [hesston.edu/communityday](http://hesston.edu/communityday).

### **Coming soon to Hesston College's Black Box Theater, "Xanadu"**

March 5 to 7 at 7 p.m. and March 8 at 2 p.m. We all remember the wild 1980 movie "Xanadu" with Olivia Newton John and Gene Kelly! No? Well, that's ok. It did have great music, but that story...wow. A Greek muse from Mount Olympus comes to earth to help a struggling artist open the world's first roller disco and, of course, fall in forbidden love. Fast forward to 2007 when the stage musical, with an award-winning script, opens on Broadway to fantastic reviews. What changed? Not much. The awesome music from the movie is still featured and the weird story is the same, but the musical has some hilarious additional characters and the source material is lovingly parodied. And don't worry, there will still be roller skating. We can't wait to bring this huge show to our small stage and have you singing "Xanadu" on your way out! [hesston.edu/theatre](http://hesston.edu/theatre).

### **KANSAS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE (Sale on the Kansas State Fairgrounds April 10-11, 2026)**

**MCC Fellowship Meals:** Help cover Relief Sale expenses by participating in a Fellowship Meal this year! You may choose to **Host** or **Be a Guest** in the traditional "*Fellowship in Dining*" way. As a **Guest**, you will be invited to attend the Host's Church Worship Service followed by a meal in their home. Another option is to **Host a Fellowship Meal** for your own congregation.

**Dates:** March 8 or March 15 (dates for congregational meals are flexible)

**Guest Donation:** \$25 per meal (proceeds go toward MCC Sale expenses)

**Deadline:** Sign up to be Host or Guest by February 25.

**Registration forms** are available on the table in the foyer.

Thank you for supporting the MCC Sale through fellowship and hospitality! We hope to cover Sale expenses before the Sale so all proceeds can be donated to MCC!

**WANTED**—Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's, Campers, Tractors, Modern Farm Equipment, etc. for the Kansas MCC Sale. Items you no longer need help Feed and Clothe Thousands in desperate living conditions. ALL donations are Tax Deductible. Call Jerry Toews for info: 620 367 8257. Help make a difference. Be a part of the growing number of folks donating vehicles to the Mennonite Relief Sale.

### **CAMP MENNOSCAH announcements**

**A Challenge to build a healthy reserve fund for Camp Mennoscah.** The reason that Camp Mennoscah was able to immediately begin repairs on the retreat center was because we maintained a healthy reserve fund. But what would happen if a similar repair were needed today? If each of our donor households gave just \$20/month over the next 12 months, our reserve accounts would be replenished and ready to respond to the next emergency building repair. And our website allows you to easily set-up a monthly recurring investment to do just that. Visit [CampMennoscah.org](http://CampMennoscah.org), or text "RECURRING" to our Development office at 620.755.2583 to begin the process.

**Summer staff applications for the 2026 Summer Camps are open.** The application and further information can be found [here](#) or at the link at the end of this announcement. Summer staff need to be 18 or older, preferably with one year of college, work or volunteering. Contact Olivia at 316-293-7313

or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) with

questions. <https://www.campmennoscah.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Programs%7CSummer%20Youth%20Camp%3E%3ESummer%20Youth%20Camp%20Staff%20Application>

**Online Registration for the Spring Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat on March 13-15 is open.** Register online at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com/> Activities and lodging will be at Main Camp. (The Retreat Center is moving along quickly, but is not quite finished.)

**Online Registration for the 2026 Summer Youth Camps is open.** The theme for the summer is "In the Wilderness." Through the new, strange and unknown of "wilderness," we will discover the sacred within each person and all creation and meet God there. Summer Youth Camps are for youth in grades 3-12 (Fall 2026). Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com/>

**Scholarships are available.**

1. Due to a generous donor, first-time campers and returning campers bringing a first-time camper will automatically receive a \$100 scholarship until funds are depleted. Please factor this into your payment before paying full camp fees. If Camp Mennoscah has a record of a camper attending previously, staff will contact parents/guardians. Only one scholarship per camper.
2. Two full scholarships are available for campers needing assistance through a Scholarship Endowment. Campers who are racially and ethnically diverse and/or from non-Mennonite communities will be given priority; all are welcome to apply. Use the Scholarship Request Form at <https://campmennoscah.socs.net/vnews/display.v/ART/5e41970817def> and include supporting information in the "Amount you are asking in Scholarship" field. Contact [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) with questions. Deadline is May 1, 2026.
3. Camp Mennoscah has limited scholarship funds available. Complete the Scholarship Request Form at <https://campmennoscah.socs.net/vnews/display.v/ART/5e41970817def> Contact us at [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) with questions.

**Note: FMC campers, FMC will cover half of your camp registration fee. Please register online, pay the fee and submit your printed receipt to the church office for reimbursement.**

**SYMPOSIUM on the FUTURE OF WATER in KANSAS . . . Hesston Mennonite & Dyck Arboretum**  
**The Outreach Team of Hesston Mennonite Church** invites your participation at a March 7, 2026 Spring Symposium on the Future of Water in Kansas. We are co-sponsoring this event to be held at Dyck Arboretum (177 W Hickory St), Hesston, Kansas, from 8:30 to 4:30 pm on Saturday, March 7. Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator, urges "Let's educate ourselves and work together on solutions now, while water is plentiful, so we never have to face the fight (referring to Mark Twain's quote that 'Whisky's for drinking and water's for fighting.')" Look for registration details coming soon, or contact [arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu).

#### **OFFENDER VICTIM MINISTRIES and MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**Pack Prisoner Care Kits February 12 . . .** In the spirit of Saint Valentine, share love with men on the indigent list at Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Join OVM and MCC to pack 350 prisoner care kits, hear impact stories, and enjoy snacks and fellowship. February 12, 6-8PM - 121 E 30th, North Newton, KS

#### **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](https://MennoniteMission.net/MVS)**



**Service Adventure.** Can a gap year change your life? Only if you're up for adventure! Service Adventure applications are now open for the 2026-27 term. Service Adventure is a 10-month volunteer experience for young adults ages 17-20. Live in community with peers and unit leaders, serve with local nonprofit agencies, and grow in your faith with a supporting church congregation! Learn more and apply at [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](http://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure).

**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](mailto:StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net) or visit [www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace](http://www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace)

**ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY announcements**

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary invites you to an informal reception with Professor Jamie Pitts on Sunday, February 22, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Bethel College Mennonite Church. Professor Pitts and Development Associate Randy Detweiler will deliver updates from the Seminary and share about some exciting changes coming to the Institute of Mennonite Studies.

**The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation:** May 11–21. Participants in this pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This intensive graduate-level course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by April 1. [ambs.edu/trail-of-death](http://ambs.edu/trail-of-death)

**MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE announcements**

**Lunch & Learn at MCC!** Tuesday, February 17, 12-1 p.m. join the Global Voices Speaking Tour to hear firsthand stories of the intersection of climate and peace. Speakers Dr. Arefur Rahaman with MCC Bangladesh and David Waiswa with MCC East Africa and Sahel Region will share how they are working toward peace and climate resiliency, especially around food security. **RSVP by Feb. 10** at [mcc.org/global-lunch](http://mcc.org/global-lunch) or contact [patsydirksen@mcc.org](mailto:patsydirksen@mcc.org), 316.283.2720. Suggested \$10 donation per lunch.

A second opportunity to hear Dr. Rahaman and David Waiswa speak will be on Monday, February 16, 2:30pm in Schowalter Villa Chapel, 200 West Cedar, Hesston KS.

**MCC Central States annual meeting** – You are invited to the MCC Central States annual meeting on Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton, KS 67117.

**Celebrating 50 years of *More-with-Less*!** Herald Press and Mennonite Central Committee invite you to share stories of food, joy, and resilience to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *More-with-Less* cookbook. This beloved cookbook's call to thrift, Christian compassion and abundant living is just as urgent and relevant today as it was in 1976. [Go to this form](#) to learn more and to submit stories, blessings or ideas for simple approaches to sharing food and fellowship. Please share your story by Feb. 15 for a chance to be featured in the 50th anniversary edition or additional digital resources—and receive a chocolate oatmeal cake recipe as thanks!

**MCC is recruiting Canner Operators** to join its mobile meat canning team, which prepares about **600,000 cans of meat** annually for global communities in need. These operators travel to **30 U.S. locations** from October to April, managing machinery, operating steam and pressure vessels, coordinating volunteers, and ensuring compliance with USDA regulations. Make new friends while participating in **a unique service**

**adventure!** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until April 25<sup>th</sup> OR until position is filled. Apply online at [mcc.org/careers](https://mcc.org/careers). For more information, call 1-888-563-4676 or email [marilypeters@mcc.org](mailto:marilypeters@mcc.org).

**The winter 2026 issue of Intersections** on “Decolonizing Relief, Development and Peacebuilding” issue of *Intersections*, compiled by Sara Wyngaarden is now on the MCC website. See here: <https://mcc.org/media/document/149266>. Authors reflect on the opportunities for and challenges in living into decolonial ways of working in Bolivia, Canada, Haiti, India, Palestine and Israel, Uganda, and more.

**Across the U.S.–Mexico borderlands — and in communities far beyond them** — people of courage and compassion are responding daily to the realities of migration. MCC believes that listening to these stories helps us live more deeply into our values of peace, hospitality, and justice. Join us for **Borderlands & Beyond Monthly Charlas**, a new conversation series led by the MCC U.S. Immigration Network. Find out more and register for the Zoom link: [mcc.org/events/borderlands-and-beyond-monthly-charlas-mcc](https://mcc.org/events/borderlands-and-beyond-monthly-charlas-mcc).

**Date:** Every 3rd Thursday of the month (January to December 2026)

**Time:** 4:00 PM PT / 5:00 PM MT / 6:00 PM CT / 7:00 PM ET

### **MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements**

MC USA is launching a new collaborative workshop series to help churches and leaders practice healthier ways of navigating conflict. The first training kicks off in Beaverton, Oregon on March 12-14! Discover what’s behind this new initiative and how you can take part. Read more and register at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/conflict-transformation-workshop/>

Marco Güete, director of Hispanic Ministries for MC USA, highlights how Anabaptist-rooted theological education pathways equip Hispanic and Latino leaders for faithful, contextual ministry without leaving their congregations. Read his Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/walking-together/>

### **EVERENCE announcement**

The Everence Sharing Fund provided \$3,000 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Susan Combs serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact her for more information.

### **NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL HEALTH (NAMI)**

We're excited to share a new release we're really proud of:

#### **Rural and Frontier Mental Health Access: A Qualitative Report**

This report centers lived experience to shed light on what accessing mental health care actually looks like in rural and frontier communities. It brings forward voices, barriers, and realities that often get lost in statewide and national data—but matter deeply to people and communities.

### **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE (MDS) . . . monthly newsletter**

Our January edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, get the latest information on our Annual Celebration coming in February, read about how the MDS RV Program got started, and learn why MDS is seeking drivers. Plus we have a number of employment opportunities to share. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/4qvNRmn>