

THIS WEEK @ FMC

August 26-September 1, 2026

The Season of Creation is celebrated by Christians around the world, in many denominations. The season starts with a day of prayer for creation on September 1, the first day of the Orthodox church calendar, a day to commemorate God's creation of the world. It is observed over the following five Sundays, ending on October 4, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

This fall we will be joining with other Christians around the world to consider how we are called to seek God's Shalom for our Common Home – renewing relationship with our Creator and with all creation, through prayer, celebration, conversion, commitment, and action. We'll be using resources provided in the Leader Magazine from MennoMedia. At the same time, we'll join with people of faith in Central Kansas to consider themes of justice in our communities.

In a recent communication about this year's Season of Creation, the author (Christina Leaño) writes:
*As we prepare to enter the **Season of Creation**, Pope Leo XIV offers us a powerful Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. (You can read it [HERE](#).)*

*This year, as we follow the theme **Living Water**, his words feel especially meaningful. Scripture reminds us to guard our hearts, because **from them flows everything we do** (cf. Prov 4:23). So perhaps this Season of Creation begins with a personal question:*

What is flowing from my heart into the world? Is it care or indifference? Hope or discouragement? A desire for justice, peace, and communion?

*Pope Leo reminds us that ecological conversion begins within us—but it is meant to **flow outward**, transforming how we live, how we relate to others, and how we care for our common home. **Before Living Water becomes a river that renews the world, it first renews us.** And when we allow our hearts to be renewed, new possibilities begin to open.*

As Lorna Gold, Executive Director of Laudato Si' Movement, reflects:

"Ecological conversion begins in the heart, but it cannot end there. When we allow God to transform us, that transformation must flow outward—into how we care for one another, respond to injustice, and protect our common home."

*This is the journey Pope Leo invites us to embrace: **"from the desert to the garden, from division to communion and from violence to peace."***

And it begins with each of us.

What in me needs to be transformed so that new life can flow?

May we enter into these questions with open hearts and minds, for our own healing, and for the healing of the world! **-Pastor Tonya**

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP is typically 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, AUGUST 30 – Rooted in Scripture, Stretching in Justice: Stories to Resist Empire ... highlighting the emerging Justice Ministry in Central Kansas and our participation in the next cohort of AMBS's Orienting with the Word - Confessional Bible Study process

Amos 5:21-24

Meditations: Em Calvert, Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Maggie Pounds

Pianist: Shelley Kauffman

Song Leader: Jon Miller

Children's Time: Em Calvert

Scripture Reader: DeAnna Goering

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

Ushers: Kris Lindenberger & Marlene Thode

Nursery Attendant: Cindy Kroeker

Sound Tech: 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. 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

August 26 – M&M kickoff at the Esau pool (6:30pm)

August 30 – Assemble MCC School Kits during Sunday School hour (11-Noon)

August 30 – 2-4pm Come and Go Reception to celebrate the life of Mary Jo Preheim – FMC fellowship hall

September 12 – FMC hosting *Kids Meet Christ* (a Western District Conference event open to everyone)

September 13 – Fall Sunday School Quarter begins – including Confessional Bible Study for adults!

September 20 – 11am-2:30pm Confessional Bible Study retreat for any at FMC (lunch + childcare provided)

September 26 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen

DEEPENING in Christ...

PRAYER GROUPS & OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to join with others at FMC for prayer, please let the church office know.

The ecumenical Centering Prayer group is still on break and discussing options for resuming. 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: Tuesday September 8 @ 1:00pm & Wednesday September 9 @ 6:30pm

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The fall Sunday School quarter begins for everyone on September 13!

Preschool-8th grade: Shine curriculum

Senior Youth: Kick off on September 13!

Adults: Confessional Bible Study in the fellowship hall (or on Zoom)

CONFESSIONAL BIBLE STUDY & ORIENTING WITH THE WORD COHORT

This fall (beginning Sept 13) FMC is offering **Confessional Bible Study (CBS)** for all adults during the Sunday School hour. This opportunity comes to us through AMBS's (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) Orienting With the Word program. This program developed by AMBS's Faith Formation Collaborative, helping participating congregations to explore how their relationship to the Bible has formed them and to learn Confessional Bible Study — a life-giving practice that helps communities make the Bible an indispensable tool for navigating the ever-changing landscape of daily living. Pastor Tonya and Em Calvert will be working with and supported by AMBS to facilitate this process.

A description of this way of engaging with the Bible is outlined in a bulletin insert available [HERE](#) on our website (under the Bulletins tab). We'll begin on **September 13** (along with all the other Sunday School classes), but there will be a **small preview in the August 30 worship service**. AND, on **September 20 there will be a congregational CBS retreat**, starting during the Sunday School hour, breaking for lunch and continuing till about 2:30pm. This will be a great opportunity to slowly experience the process before we speed it up a bit to fit it into an hour. ***Watch for a sign up sheet for the retreat to help us plan!*** Then on **September 27** we'll be off and running, delving into new scriptures each week as guided by the folks at AMBS. Questions? Talk with Pastor Tonya or Em!

FALL WORSHIP: *Pursuing God's Justice in a Thirsty Land – God's Shalom for our Common Home*

This fall, September 6-October 4, our worship will center on exploring our part in the well-being and flourishing of all people, and all of creation with whom we share our common home. Our scriptures and themes will be drawn from a Justice sermon series being used by many of the other congregations who are also part of the emerging *Central Kansas justice ministry*, as well as themes from the yearly ecumenical *Season of Creation* movement, encouraging us not to forget to care for the other-than-human members of our family. October 4 is World Communion Sunday, and we'll be sharing communion together.

KID'S MEET CHRIST EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 12 – HOSTED BY FIRST MENNONITE HUTCH!!

We are excited to be the hosts of the next "Kids Meet Christ" event titled ***"Art, Improv and Lego are Worship, Too!"*** on **Saturday September 12** from **9:30am-2:30pm**. Kids Meet Christ (a Western District Conference initiative) invites you to a fun community event for EVERYONE – parents, children, grandparents, leaders, and anyone who wants to see what is possible when all ages are fully engaged in worship. Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor at College Mennonite Church in Goshen IN and faith formation extraordinaire, will guide us in exploring worship that works for everyone. *Breakfast and lunch included. Morning program is for all ages. The afternoon session will be separate adult and children's workshops.* Register at: [Art, Improv, and Lego are Worship, Too!](#)

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

- *UPPER ROOM* – September-October issue is here
- *Rejoice!* – September-November issue is here

STRENGTHENING Community Connections...

CHURCH OFFICE REGULAR HOURS

- Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 12 noon – 3:00pm (***No office hours this Wednesday, August 26.***)

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)

Upcoming Monthly Day Apart (for prayer, quiet, renewal) – August 26

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 . . . the need for food and monetary gifts has increased substantially!

Let's help restock the shelves!

September: Canned meat/tuna

Personal care/hygiene items such as these are appreciated anytime: toilet paper, laundry detergent, bath soap, Kleenex, deodorant, disposable razors, paper towels, shampoo, dish soap, hand/body lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Travel size – new & unopened – are desirable.

UPDATE – CENTRAL KANSAS INTERFAITH JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

The formation of the new justice ministry in Central Kansas is moving right along! I'm excited to share we have 4 from FMC who have agreed to head up our church's Justice Ministry Team – Peggy Stucky, Jane Wagler, Carol Moore and Susan Combs. You'll be hearing more from them in the coming months as we will begin the listening phase of the process in the fall. This is the process through which we'll hear stories, concerns and hopes to help us discern the issues that matter most to our communities and guide the future direction of our ministry together. It's an exciting time to be part of this new initiative seeking God's justice and abundance in our communities.

SALTHAWK COMMUNITY SUPPORT (SCS) . . . providing services to Hutch students 8-12th grades

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). **Mark your calendars for a Chili Supper fundraiser for Salthawk Community Support at Trinity UMC on Tuesday October 6. More details coming soon!** There are opportunities to volunteer as a mentor (meeting once/week for 20-30 minutes with a youth) and for special events. Talk to Pastor Tonya if interested.

BETHEL COLLEGE announcements

"Alive with Wonder," fabric art by Hattie Lee Mendoza, in the *Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College* (reception Sept 17). Gallery hours Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

Life Enrichment, the series at Bethel College for adults age 60 and older, resumes for the fall semester on Wednesday, Aug. 26, with Wynn Goering, "Seeing Into the Life of Things" (9:30 a.m.), and Tommy Richardson, "What is GAF and Why is GAF in Newton?" (10:50 a.m.). Details [here](#), along with a link to the complete fall schedule.

Fri., Aug. 28 – Bethel College Music Faculty Showcase Recital, 7 p.m., *Administration Building chapel*, featuring Dr. Christina Liu, piano, Dr. Russell Adrian, piano, Dr. Holly Swartzendruber, soprano, Dr. Jonathan Poquette, trumpet, and Dr. Kelly Poquette, flute

Sun., Aug. 30 – "Piece / Work: The Art of Mary Lou Goertzen," a special exhibit of ceramics and textiles, opens at Kauffman Museum, 1:30 p.m., with a **presentation about Goertzen and her work by exhibit curator Dr. Rachel Epp Buller, 3 p.m.**, *Kauffman Museum auditorium*

The Bethel College Board of Directors has named its presidential search committee, following the resignation of Jon Gering, who completed his service on June 30. Co-chairs of the committee are current board member Cynthia A. Doyle Perkins, Indianapolis, and Becky Bartell, Hesston (Whitestone Mennonite Church). Others are Sal Lujano, Clark Oswald (Bethel College Mennonite Church), Zandra Sawatzky (Shalom Mennonite Church) and Jon Zerger (BCMC), all of Newton. **The committee invites comments and suggestions to any of them, or at presidentalsearch@bethelks.edu** See more information [here](#).

RENO COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK . . . October 11 @ Rice Park, 1:30pm registration

One-quarter of the funds we raise will stay local, divided between the Christian Soup Ministry, Inc. and the Reno County Food Bank We hope to raise enough to send a \$1000 check to each agency. Angela Penner, Food Bank Director, and Stanley Murdock, Soup Ministry Director, plan to be on hand to tell us some of the many ways they can use our donations. Our global neighbors need our help, too. CWS will use what we raise to provide "good seeds to the sower" as they work with family farmers to improve their yields. CWS also helps communities dig local wells—precluding the need for girls who should be in school to walk three miles and then carry water home for their families.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE announcements

The Slash the Pentagon Act ([S. 4799](#)) seeks to drastically cut the defense budget by half and instead invest those funds in:

- **Trains, not warplanes** (\$205 billion)
- **Health care, not warfare** (\$220 billion)
- **Bread, not bombs** (\$200 billion)

- **Education, not annihilation** (\$125 billion)

Human security at home and abroad should be centered in mutual flourishing and not warmaking.

Take action: Encourage your senators to co-sponsor the Slash the Pentagon Act

The U.S. has the largest military budget in the world, accounting for more than half of global military spending since 1949. War never brings peace but rather deprives and steals from programs that support human needs. Anabaptists have long lived out holistic peace values, rejecting military service, engaging in peacemaking, and highlighting the devastating costs of war. The ever-growing U.S. military budget (the current White House request is \$1.5 trillion) and a dramatic decrease in funding for peacebuilding and humanitarian needs have contributed to violent conflict and environmental destruction globally.

The summer 2026 issue of Intersections on “Interfaith Engagement,” compiled by the director of MCC’s planning, learning, and disaster response department, Alain Epp Weaver, is now on the MCC website. See link here. Authors reflect how interfaith engagement forms an essential dimension of humanitarian assistance, community development, and peacebuilding work in Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Chad, Nigeria, Canada, Iraq, and Syria.

Join us for **Borderlands & Beyond Monthly Charlas**, a conversation series about the daily realities of migration led by the MCC U.S. Immigration Network. Info and registration for the Zoom link: mcc.org/events/borderlands-and-beyond-monthly-charlas-mcc.

Date: Every 3rd Thursday of the month (January to December 2026), 6:00 PM CT

BORDERLINKS . . . deepening understanding of borders, migration and social justice

Open enrollment virtual workshops in August – summer programming calendar

Envisioning a Better World is Our Responsibility; virtual Workshop, Thursday, August 13th, 5-7 pm CDT

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

Our August edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King introduces us to Clair Good who will be the next Executive Director of MDS U.S., learn how Rocky Mountain MDS Unit is taking a unique approach to wildfire recovery, and read an inspiring article by guest writer Elaine Maust. Plus we have a save the date reminder for the Annual Celebration coming in February. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/45vmaS5>

ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY study opportunities

New Vision issue on “Decolonial Discipleship as an Intercultural Church” available for free online. The Spring 2026 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Hyung Jin (Pablo) Kim Sun, PhD, and Sarah Kathleen Johnson, PhD — explores how practices of decolonization and genuine intercultural engagement need to be understood as deeply interconnected aspects of our collective journey toward peace, justice and reconciliation. ambs.edu/vision

MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements

“Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit,” is a two-day gathering to explore faithful responses to war, political polarization, nationalism and violence through an Anabaptist lens. Opening keynote address by Shane Claiborne. Join Mennonite Church USA on Nov. 6-7 in Leola, Pennsylvania – high school youth attend free when accompanied by a youth pastor or sponsor.

- Read the news release here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mc-usa-hosts-militarism-summit/>
- Learn more and register here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/militarism-summit/>