

THIS WEEK @ FMC - September 2-8, 2026

Today – September 1 – marks the beginning of the *Season of Creation*. You can watch the Opening Prayer Service for this year's celebration [HERE!](#) **Together, with Christians around the world, we pray...**

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.

May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen. www.seasonofcreation.org

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, SEPTEMBER 6 –

PURSUING GOD'S JUSTICE IN A THIRSTY LAND: Seeking Shalom for our Common Home

The earth is our common home, with an abundance that can support all life. Are we ready to embrace this abundant vision of God's shalom and all that it might ask of us? Are we prepared to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, as the prophet Micah compels us?

Micah 6:8; Luke 10:25-37, Isaiah 55:1-2; Matthew 7:7-12

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Donna Davis

Peace Essay: Jalen Crable

Mission Moment: Eldon & Jane Wagler

Pianist: Russell Goering

Song Leader: TBD

Children's Time: Jean Gaeddert

Scripture Reader: Sadie Pritchett

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

Ushers: Dennis & Jennalee Boggs

Nursery Attendant: Stephanie Gehring

Sound Tech: Jasper Nisly

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

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!

October 14 – Craft Night

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

September 26 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen

September 27 – Safe Sanctuaries training – all who work with children – Sunday School, nursery, M&M, etc.

October 11 – Reno County CROP Walk, Rice Park, 1:30pm registration

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. 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). And, watch the [recording of the August 30 Worship service](#) to get a taste of the process!

We'll begin on **September 13** (along with all the other Sunday School classes). 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 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 using 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)

Out of office for Orienting with the Word retreat – September 17-19

Upcoming Monthly Day Apart (for prayer, quiet, renewal) – September 30

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

This fall **over 25 congregations in Central Kansas** (including First Mennonite) are taking the next steps to organize for justice. At our church, our Justice Ministry Team is being led by Peggy Stucky, Carol Moore, Susan Combs and Jane Wagler. Supporting them is Jeanne Koontz, the lead organizer of the Central Kansas Justice Ministry. Below are details about what's coming up!!

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2026: Shared worship/preaching series throughout Central Kansas: ***"Pursing God's Justice in a Thirsty Land."*** **LISTENING PHASE** begins! Over 100 listening sessions will be held throughout Central Kansas. Through personal storytelling we'll hear the 'cries of the people' and will identify 4 potential issues for us all to work on together. We'll be hosting at least 4 listening sessions in our congregation – watch for an invitation from one of our team leaders soon. **OCTOBER 31 Covenant Assembly.** At this gathering, attended by over 400 leaders (team members, clergy and more) from member organizations, we'll discern and vote to focus on two of the four issues brought to the table from the listening sessions. This is also where we'll vote on a name and bylaws/structure for the organization.

DECEMBER 2026-MAY 2027: Then, we'll begin a **RESEARCH PHASE** spanning **December 2026-April 2027**. During that time two committees of lay leaders and clergy will meet to shape solutions to the identified problems. On **APRIL 2, 2027** these solutions will be presented to the team members, clergy and more from member organizations, and the work will begin to organize to gather a 'great assembly' of people from our member organizations. That work culminates on **MAY 1, 2027** as we gather with 1500-2000 others for our first **NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY**. This is the day we ask our entire membership to gather (just one time a year among the 52 times we gather for worship) to ***do justice***, pressing the decision makers in our communities for clear, concrete systemic solutions to the most pressing problems facing Central KS.

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.

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 presidentialexsearch@bethelks.edu** See more information [here](#).

HESSTON COLLEGE announcements

“Section Selections” quilt exhibit opens at Hesston College

A quilt exhibit titled “Section Selections” will be featured in the Regier-Friesen Gallery located in Hesston College’s Laban Peachey Center ([325 S. College Dr., Hesston](#)) from September 1 through 27 with a reception on September 16. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, free admission.

Save the date for Homecoming 2026

Hesston College will celebrate with alumni and friends of the college during Homecoming weekend, September 25 to 27. Highlights: a disc golf tournament, the Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, family festival Saturday evening and much more! Full schedule: hesston.edu/homecoming.

Fall theatre production, “The Children’s Hour”

Hesston College Theatre department will perform “The Children’s Hour” October 1 to 4 in the Black Box Theater located in Keim Center. Performance times are Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Show information will be posted soon at hesston.edu/news and tickets can be purchased online at hesston.edu/showtix or by calling [620-327-8104](tel:620-327-8104).

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. **If you would like to send donations in advance (whether or not you can walk on October 11), please make checks payable to CWS/CROP and send them to Grace Episcopal Church, 2 Hyde Park Dr, Hutchinson, KS 67502.**

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 [here](#). Authors reflect on 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

MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements

Marco Güete walks the Camino to support Hispanic Ministries

On Sept. 6, Marco Güete, director of MC USA’s Hispanic Ministries, and his wife, Sandra, will begin an 18-day, 143-mile pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago from Portugal to Spain. This is Güete’s fourth pilgrimage to raise funds for theological education and leadership development for Hispanic Mennonite pastors and leaders. His goal this year is to raise \$25,000.

- Read the news release here: <https://bit.ly/4c9Qrtk>
- Follow MC USA on Facebook for updates on their journey: <https://www.facebook.com/MennonitesUSA>
- To support Hispanic Ministries, give online here: <https://bit.ly/4qAQiVO>

Explore a story of conscientious objection. What can we learn from the experiences of Mennonites who have chosen conscientious objection to military service? In his Menno Snapshots blog, “The cost of conscience: My father’s peace witness,” MC USA Archives Coordinator Devon Miller shares his father’s story and reflects on the legacy of conscientious objection. Read the blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/cost-of-conscience/>

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

Our August edition of On the Level is now available. 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 more. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/45vmaS5>