

THIS WEEK @ FMC - September 9-15, 2026

Our ***Season of Creation & Justice Worship Series*** continues this coming Sunday (Sept 13), encouraging us to live united, aware of the reality that we all belong to each other and need each other in the whole community of creation. This is crucial to our intention of seeking God's shalom and pursuing God's justice. I'm currently reading [Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth](#) (by Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley - activist, scholar, author, teacher, wisdom-keeper and Cherokee descendant – 2022 Broadleaf Books). The following excerpt from Day #9 amplifies this concept:

"By giving credence to the idea that all people are related to each other, we open ourselves to the possibility of once again becoming family with all humanity. By realizing the connectedness of humankind to all animal life and life in every form, we become aware of new possibilities for learning and becoming active in species preservation. By studying humanity's dependence upon creation, we learn how to sustain our planet, and we learn fresh prospects for developing food, water, and renewable energy.

What if we are all related? What if the Lakota prayer – for all that is above me, and all that is below me, and everything that is around me – is a prayer said on behalf of all our relatives?

Most important of all, every human creature would realize the fact that peace is attainable if we are all willing to say, "We are all related."" (Woodley. [Becoming Rooted](#). pg 28)

In a similar vein, I also commend to you a pastoral letter coming to us from Mennonite World Conference (written by César García, general secretary): a **Call to Unity of the Spirit** in the midst of ongoing disagreement and division in the global Mennonite family: <https://mailchi.mp/mwc-cmm.org/pastoral-letter-unity-2026-en?e=44ca3072d2> Below is a short excerpt from the longer letter:

"Divisive topics often create fear and tension. In response to disagreement, societies may fragment, separating into groups of people who already think alike. But Jesus calls us to a different path. Guided by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to live as a countercultural community: people who pursue unity, engage differences with love, seek God's guidance together and continue walking with God as one body whose head is Jesus Christ. We do this "until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13 NRSV)." (César García)

-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, SEPTEMBER 13

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

LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP – REUNITING FOR JUSTICE

Shalom grows out of covenant – right relationship with our creator, ourselves, each other, the land, and all other creatures. As God's faithful love takes root in our lives, communities, and places, Christ draws us to reunite and cooperate across dividing lines, seeking God's justice together, for the flourishing of our common home. The African proverb reminds us: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Psalm 133; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Isaiah 55:3-5

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader & Scripture Reader: Delon Martens

Pianist: Peggy Stucky

Song Leader: Shane Miller

Children's Time: Susan Combs

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

Commissioning of Justice Team Leaders: Pastor Tonya

Ushers: Russ & Jean Gaeddert

Nursery Attendant: Julie Goering

Sound Tech: Adam Pounds

Livestream Tech: Joel Iwashige

INVITATION TO ENGAGE WITH CREATION THIS WEEK

We are part of a great, interconnected web of creation. ***This week, invite a friend—human or animal—to enjoy an outdoor space with you.*** Choose a place that you enjoy and where you are likely to see other people or animals. Talk together about what plants, animals, and people you see around you that make this place particularly enjoyable or meaningful for you. Give thanks to God for all the creatures with whom you share this piece of creation. **If you would like, take a picture of yourself and your friend in this place and email it to Pastor Tonya (tonya@hutchfmc.org) by FRIDAY @ NOON to include in a slideshow next Sunday (Sept 13).**

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.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY . . . continuing through the end of September

Special Hope Network in Lusaka, Zambia is a small faith-based organization that provides support for children with mental disabilities and their families. Eldon and Jane Wagler learned about SHN when they were part of a small group in Lusaka that included the Nelson family. The Zambian currency has strengthened recently against the dollar which founder Holly Nelson says has made 'mincemeat' of the SHN budget. Thank you for considering a one-time donation to help SHN continue their support of children with mental disabilities. **Donate to First Mennonite (by check or online on our website) with SHN in the memo line. Donations will be accepted till the end of September.**

CALENDAR – LOOKING AHEAD

September 12 – FMC hosting *Kids Meet Christ* event 9:30am-2:30pm
September 13 – Fall Sunday School Quarter begins – including Confessional Bible Study for adults!
September 14 – Craft Night
September 16 – Interfaith Housing – Open House # Unruh's (3-5pm), 600 South Elm
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 – 12pm Safe Sanctuaries training for all Sunday School teachers, nursery, M&M, etc.
October 4 – Mentors & Mentees meet 12noon-1:30pm
October 11 – Reno County CROP Walk, Rice Park, 1:30pm registration
October 25 – 12pm FMC Budget Meeting (with youth fundraiser hamburger fry for lunch!)
October 27 – Mennonite Friendship Communities "Evening at the Burt" fundraising dinner & silent auction

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

BIBLE DEDICATION SUNDAY MOVED TO SEPTEMBER 20!

The Bible Dedication planned for September 13 has been moved to September 20. We will be giving Bibles to kindergarteners (Peace Table story Bible), 3rd graders (Student Bible), and (new this year, instead of 7th graders) 9th graders, who will be receiving an Anabaptist Community Bible.

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. ***Sign up on the sheet in the foyer to help us plan!*** Then on **September 27** we'll be off and running, delving into new scriptures each week in Sunday School 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!!

Coming up this Saturday, we are hosting the "Kids Meet Christ" event titled ***"Art, Improv and Lego are Worship, Too!"*** on ***Saturday September 12*** from ***9:30am-2:30pm***

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

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

FALL WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST (WNAF) BEGINS OCTOBER 7!

This fall we'll gather for four Wednesday evenings (Oct 7, 14, 21, 28) focusing on the theme "The Inner Work of Aging." Leading us will be Dawn Yoder Harms, newly retired chaplain from Kidron/Bethel in North Newton and Anita Kehr, chaplain at Showalter Villa. More details coming soon, but for now plan to come together for dinner, conversation, and activities for kids.

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.

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. We will be commissioning them on Sunday Sept 13 for this important ministry. 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. ***Beginning this fall, Cindy Kroeker will be taking Pastor Tonya's place on the board – many thanks to her!*** 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 – 5:30-7:00pm.*** 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

Bethel College Fall Festival – October 15-18. [Click here to view the full schedule.](#)

Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) welcomes donations of homemade peppernuts, whole fruit pies, poppyseed rolls, zwieback, cinnamon rolls and other home-made goodies. We are happy to have donated craft items to sell as well. We would also welcome help staffing the Market in the Round, located in the Luyken Fine Arts Center. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about donations, please contact Valerie Klaassen at jvklussen@gmail.com. Donated baked and craft items can be brought to Luyken Fine Arts Center music library on Friday, October 16, between 1 and 5 pm or on Saturday, October 17, between 7 and 9 am. This Fall Fest fundraiser supports students and campus improvements throughout the year.

"Alive with Wonder," fabric art by Hattie Lee Mendoza, in the Regier Art Galler in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. A multi-disciplinary artist, Mendoza uses her art to reclaim her heritage as a member of the Cherokee Nation. The exhibit closes with an artist reception on September 17, from 6-7pm at the gallery.

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 FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITIES . . . Evening at the Burt – October 27

Plans are underway for Mennonite Friendship Communities annual Evening at the Burt event. Tuesday, October 27 will be a wonderful time for the community to gather for delicious food, good fellowship, silent auction and more. This year's speaker is Trooper Ben Gardner. There are a variety of ways you can support this important event. For more information, please talk with your board member or contact Susan Nisly at [620-663-7175](tel:620-663-7175). It's a great way to support Mennonite Friendship Communities!

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE announcements

Mennonite Central Committee is evaluating, working with local partners, and responding to recent disasters, please join us in supporting:

- **Nepal flooding response:** MCC is responding to the impact of deadly flooding in Nepal. Please pray for the people who have been affected by this disaster. MCC is working with local partners to provide food, supplies and trauma support to those in need. We welcome your donations. Donate to MCC's response at mcc.org/nepal-flooding
- **Colombia earthquake:** MCC is also providing emergency relief in Colombia following the 7.4-magnitude earthquake. Donate to MCC's response at mcc.org/colombia-earthquake

IN TOUCH – a monthly newsletter of Mennonite Central Committee. Read it here:

<https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail20.com/t/i-e-vjykyk-ihykyuril-jk/>

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.

Faithful Witness in Turbulent Times webinar – September 21, 10:00-11:30am

Our world faces the negative effects of dominating power and the aggressive hoarding of resources by Empire nations such as the United States, devastating the beauty of creation and our relationship with God and one another (Genesis 1: 3-31). International armed conflicts and violent abuse by domestic state actors cause deaths, displacement and hunger.

Mennonite Central Committee shares God’s love and compassion for all by supporting vulnerable communities through relief, peace and development to meet their needs, and by advocating for the transformation of harmful government policies. In this webinar, panelists will share how the communities where MCC works are affected by Superpower/Empire domination and global inequalities, and how we can commit to being faithful peacemakers. Speakers are the following:

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo – Mulanda Jimmy Juma, *Regional Advocacy and Peacebuilding Coordinator for MCC Southern, Central Africa and Nigeria*
- Palestine – Seth Malone, *MCC Representative for Jordan, Palestine and Israel*
- Northeast Asia – Stacy Nam, *Program Director for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea)*
- U.S. (Minneapolis) – Caleb Yoder, *Pastor at Faith Mennonite Church, Minneapolis*

Join us **Sept 21, 10:00 am - 11:30 pm (CDT)**. Register [here](#)!

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

ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY announcements

New Anabaptist Witness issue on “Anabaptist Missiology Revisited” available for free online. Edited by James R. Krabill, PhD, this issue tells the story of the Association of Anabaptist Missiologists (AAM) and brings together the four papers presented at the initial AAM gathering in 2000 for the first time. Contemporary Anabaptist voices from the global faith family offer responses to each paper. Book reviews discuss intercultural congregations and Muslim-Christian relations. anabaptistwitness.org

Online Practical Leadership Training modules. Grow your leadership skills through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's affordable short-term online modules! Offerings for September – December include Beyond the Budget: Funding What Matters Most; Giving and Receiving Feedback; Leading Engaging Weddings and Funerals; Pastoral Care for Survivors of Child Abuse; Discernment in the Face of Big Tech; and Leadership Practices for Spiritual Vitality. CEUs available. Learn more and register: ambbs.edu/plt

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>