

THIS WEEK @ FMC - September 16-22, 2026

This past Sunday, during the Sunday School hour, twenty some adults gathered around tables to share about the scriptures they felt they could not live without. As they did, stories emerged about important moments in their lives and how God, through scripture, had drawn near in a whole variety of ways. It was such a meaningful and fun exercise. If you haven't already, perhaps you still want to take time to dig back through your journey with God and make your own list ... what are 10 (or so) scriptures you cannot live without, and why?

As I look over the list of scriptures we compiled, its striking to me how many unique scriptures are listed. There's some repetition (*for example: Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 23, Psalm 121, Matthew 5-7, Micah 6:8, 1 Cor 13, Phil 4:4-9, 13*) but perhaps not as much as I might have expected! There's not space here to list all the scriptures shared, but here are a few...

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature. (Romans 12:2)

*Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:13)*

-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 20

**PURSUING GOD'S JUSTICE IN A THIRSTY LAND: GOD'S SHALOM FOR OUR COMMON HOME
Returning to God's Garden – Embracing Nehemiah's Model for Justice**

We lose our way when we limit our sight to our human interests. Jesus taught us to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Our way is restored when we seek God and the expanse of God's plan for the entirety of our shared common home. Through the story of Nehemiah we'll consider a model for seeking God's justice, and continue to imagine what God's justice looks like in our community, today. *Scriptures:* Nehemiah 5:1-13; Luke 5:17-26; Colossians 1:17-20; Isaiah 55:6-9

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader & Scripture Reader: Randy Rempel

Organist: Pauline Buller

Song Leader: TBD

Children's Time: DeAnna Goering

Bible Dedication: Pastor Tonya & Joy Miller

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

Ushers: Glenda & Rick Hooper

Nursery Attendant: Magdalena Wenger

Sound Tech: Ryker Wiens

Livestream Tech: Jonathan Wenger

INVITATION TO ENGAGE WITH CREATION THIS WEEK

God created a beautiful and good world, and yet we have not always lived in right relationship with it. ***This week creates space for lament.*** Spend some time outside again to observe the ecosystem and landscape in which you live:

- What are observable signs of how human disruption of natural relationships has negatively impacted your environment?
- Who or what has suffered from this impact? (*This may be indicated by either the presence or absence of something.*)
- Do you see signs of distress or death caused by visible pollutants?
- Are there plants, animals, birds, or insects that used to live in your area but no longer do?
- Has the built environment disrupted natural systems, like the flow of water through your environment, and what living beings have benefited or suffered due to this?
- Are there signs of historically unusual fire, flood, drought, heat, or cold in your landscape?

Name the losses by writing them down and (if you wish) bringing them with you to worship next Sunday (September 20) where you will have opportunity to offer up prayers of lament.

Read Psalm 74. *Then, if you feel moved to do so, write your own psalm of lament.*

You might consider this basic outline (based on Psalm 74):

God, why have you abandoned us? Write about what is broken and lost...

How long, God...? Write about your longing for God to act...

Yet God...! Write about your trust in what God has done and yet will do.

Amen. End with a word of praise, or a simple AMEN.

Include both words of distress and words of trust in our God who promises to remain faithful, even when we stray. Say a prayer for any people or creatures you have identified as suffering. Commit them to God's care and healing.

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 16 – Interfaith Housing – Open House @ Unruh's (3:30-5pm), 600 South Elm
September 20 – 11am-2:30pm Confessional Bible Study retreat for any at FMC (lunch + childcare provided)
September 24 – Congregational Ministry Team (CMT) meets at 6:00pm
September 26 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen
September 27 – 12pm Safe Sanctuaries training for all Sunday School teachers, nursery, M&M, etc. Lunch is provided – please sign up in the foyer to help us plan!
September 30 – Book group begins fall study – 1:00pm in Common Grounds
September 30 – Pastor Congregation Relations Committee meets 5:15pm
September 30 – Faith Formation Coordination Team meets 6:30pm
October 4 – Mentors & Mentees meet 12noon-1:30pm
October 11 – FMC leads worship at Mennonite Friendship Communities, 10:00am in the chapel
October 11 – Reno County CROP Walk, Rice Park, 1:30pm registration
October 12 – Craft Night, 6:30-8:00pm
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 next meets on the 4th Thursday of September (Noon-1pm) and then will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in October and November. The schedule will be re-evaluated as we head into December.

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 October 13 @ 1:00pm

The evening group's October date is TBD.

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). You can watch the [recording of the August 30 Worship service](#) to get a taste of the process, and **be sure to join us for an introductory retreat on September 20** beginning at 11:00am, breaking for lunch (provided) and then continuing till about 2:30pm. If you are planning to attend and haven't signed up in the foyer, please let Pastor Tonya know so we can better plan for lunch and childcare, if needed!

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.

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. We'll begin with a shared dinner (provided – if you would like to prepare a meal, or help with meals, please let Joretta Martens know) followed by the adult program 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.

FMC BOOK GROUP begins fall study of Kate Bowler’s book, JOYFUL, ANYWAY

New participants are invited to join us for our fall read beginning with our first session on September 30 at 1:00pm in Common Grounds Room. Each participant buys or borrows their own book. If you need help, check with the church office. Our fall group will meet every Wednesday for 8 sessions, ending November 18. Our winter book selection is Searching for Sacred Ground: The Journey of Chief Lawrence Hart, Mennonite, by Raylene Hinz-Penner. We will begin this study early in 2027. All are invited to join us!

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 commissioned 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

Sun., Sept. 20 – Kauffman Museum annual meeting and student presentation, 3 p.m., museum auditorium. Following a brief update on the museum's past year, Bethel College sophomore Faith Peterson will present "Building Bethel: Before, Between and Beyond," a snapshot of the college in the 1930s through its buildings and those who lived in them, with refreshments after.

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 jvklaassen@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.

Hesston College 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!

CENTRAL KANSAS MASTER CHORALE . . . Concert on Sunday, October 4

The Central Kansas Master Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Joel Garber, will present a Choral Festival concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4. Please join us for this special event held at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S Main St, Hesston, KS. Admission is free, donations accepted. For more information, visit the chorale website at www.centralkansasmasterchorale.org.

ANABAPTIST DISABILITIES NETWORK . . . Children as Docents in a World of Wonder

Webinar on Wednesday, October 14, 1:00pm on Zoom; Dr. Benjamin Conner, presenter. How might our engagement with children of all abilities and animals (specifically horses in this presentation) awaken in us wonder? In what ways can engaging in wonder enrich our ways of knowing and our ways of witnessing to the ongoing creative and redemptive work of God in the world? Information here: <https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/resources/education-awareness/webinars/>

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-ihykkyuril-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

Fully online seminary Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies. Choose your own adventure! Develop a customized plan of study that matches your interests in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's fully online 21-credit-hour certificate program. Designed to help you strengthen the biblical and theological foundation for your work, the program is ideal for church leaders, bivocational pastors and other professionals. ambs.edu/certificate

Online Short Course: Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology: Oct. 28 – Dec. 15. Join Jamie Pitts, PhD, to explore the birth and development of the Anabaptist movements in the 16th century in this six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. You'll be challenged to draw connections between the 16th century and your own life or ministry. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Oct. 7 to save \$50! ambs.edu/short-courses

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>