

THIS WEEK @ FMC

September 30-October 6, 2026

This week we're invited to **engage with creation** by *listening*:

*Go out in nature and find a sound you love—birds, wind in the trees (e.g., the singing of a grove of trembling aspens), burbling water, rain falling, a purring cat, laughter, rain, a crackling fire, singing frogs, a howling coyote. What else can you think of? If you cannot identify what is making the sound that you enjoy, see if you can figure it out with the help of a birder, naturalist, or bird-call app. **If you are able, record that sound on your phone and bring it with you to worship.** While you are out, join in the song of creation! Add your voice, sing a song of praise, or listen to music that inspires you. Praise God for this amazing world in which we live!*

One of my favorite things to do is to sit on our back porch with a cup of tea and open up the Merlin Bird ID app on my phone. Then I start recording and the app listens with me, telling me its best guess for the bird songs I'm hearing right there in my back yard. This practice slows me down and connects me with curiosity and joy to the birds I can't usually see, but I can hear, and am sharing backyard space with. They are part of the larger family of creation God has placed me in, and I deeply value their presence.

What member of the community of creation will you listen to this week??

-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, OCTOBER 4

PURSUING GOD'S JUSTICE IN A THIRSTY LAND: GOD'S SHALOM FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Singing With Creation

World Communion Sunday

Our new sense of purpose propels us into expressions of worship and ways of life that bring God's shalom to every corner of our common home.

Isaiah 55:12–13; Matthew 5:13–16

Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger

Worship Leader: Joel Iwashige

Organist: Pauline Buller

Song Leader: TBD

Children's Time: Julie Goering

Scripture Reader: Susan Combs

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

Communion Preparers: Dohn & Jeanette Fast

Communion Servers: Pastor Tonya, Pastor Jim, Joel Iwashige, and others

Ushers: Jay & Stephanie Gehring

Nursery Attendant: Joy Miller & Sky Miller

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 30 – Book group begins fall study – 1:00pm in Common Grounds (chapters 1-5)
September 30 – Pastor Congregation Relations Committee meets 5:15pm
September 30 – Faith Formation Coordination Team meets 6:30pm
October 2 – Playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers meets 9:00-10:00am on 1st & 3rd Fridays
October 4 – Mentors & Mentees meet 12noon-1:30pm
October 4 – Blessing of the Pets 1:30ish pm
October 7 – WNAF begins (1st of 4 sessions), 5:30 dinner, 6:30 sessions for adults & for children
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 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: upstairs in the youth room

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

CONFESSIONAL BIBLE STUDY – FALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

All adults are invited to participate in the **Confessional Bible Study (CBS)** during the Sunday School hour this fall. Each week we consider a different scripture passage and follow a 3-step pattern as follows: 1) study and engagement with scripture, 2) artful/creative response, and 3) worship response. All are invited to join us whenever you are able.

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

October 4 is the final Sunday in this series. We'll celebrate World Communion Sunday as we gather around the Lord's Table together, and continue to remember our dependence on the whole web of creation God has created.

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 Wednesday hours on September 30)

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) – September 30 (no office hours this Wed)

PLAYGROUP for toddlers & preschoolers begins October 2

Playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers will be on the first and third Fridays of every month from 9 am-10 am. Typically, it will be downstairs in the fellowship area near the air hockey table, but sometimes we are at a park. Feel free to share with your neighbors, friends, and relatives and invite them to join. Feel free to call or text Joy with any questions [\(717\)471-4503](tel:7174714503).

OCTOBER 4 – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS @ 1:30PM

Directly following the M&M Gathering on October 4 will be an opportunity to bring pets/animals for a blessing! More details will be coming soon, but this will be a short and fairly informal event celebrating and giving thanks for the animals who make our lives so much better.

FALL WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST (WNAF) BEGINS OCTOBER 7 – *The Inner Work of Aging*

In October we'll gather for four Wednesday evenings 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 between 5:30-6:30pm (provided) followed by the adult program and activities for kids from 6:30-7:30pm.

This four-session series provides opportunity for participants to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of growing older and the invitation to live fully now. Topics will include:

- **Oct 7: Coming to Terms: Moving toward acceptance** (Dawn)
- **Oct 14: Refocusing priorities and purpose** (Dawn)
- **Oct 21: The Harvest of our Lives: how might I bless those who follow?** (Dawn)
- **Oct 28: Dying Well** (Anita)

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 . . . Wednesdays at 1:00pm in Common Grounds Room. It’s not too late to join! Each participant buys or borrows their own book. If you need help, check with the church office. Here is our reading/discussion schedule:

- September 30 . . chapters 1-5
- October 7 . . chapters 6-14
- October 14 . . chapters 15-19
- October 21 . . chapters 20-25
- October 28 . . chapters 26-35
- November 4 . . chapters 36-40
- November 11 . . chapters 41-44
- November 18 . . chapters 45-48

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!

October: Canned soup

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: LISTENING PHASE is underway!! Over 100 listening sessions are being throughout Central Kansas. Through personal storytelling we will identify 4 potential issues for us all to work on together. We have hosted 5 listening sessions in our congregation – thank you for participating!!! At the **OCTOBER 31 Covenant Assembly**, 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. ***Beginning this fall, Cindy Kroeker will be taking Pastor Tonya's place on the board.*** 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).

Plan to attend a Chili Supper fundraiser for Salthawk Community Support at Trinity UMC (on 17th) on Tuesday October 6 between 5:30-7:00pm. Tickets are \$10/each and you can dine in or carry out. Thanks for your support!

BETHEL COLLEGE announcements

Bethel College is offering a new **Math Problem-Solving & Test Prep Series** for high school juniors and seniors looking to prepare for the ACT, build confidence, master new strategies and tackle tough math challenges. Fall dates are **Sat., Oct. 10, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**, with different topics and activities each time and with lunch provided after. There is no cost to attend (one, two or all three) but [registration](#) is required.

Now in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College – “This is Bob: Student, Teacher, Artist,” a career-spanning review of work by Bob Regier, through Oct. 17. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 9-5, Sun. 2-4.

Thurs., Oct. 1 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert, Dr. Jonathan Poquette, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center

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

Features include music, food, class reunions, football (Bethel vs. Tabor), the musical *The Spitfire Grill* by James Valcq and Fred Alley, and a 75th-anniversary celebration of the Bethel-Wuppertal student exchange.

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.

HESSTON COLLEGE announcements

Hesston College Homecoming 2026

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

Join us for an elegant evening of philanthropy and celebration at the Crystal Ballroom at The Burt (3 West Avenue B). This is a wonderful time for the community to gather for a delicious catered dinner, good fellowship, silent auction and a presentation by Trooper Ben Gardner. Single tickets are \$200 and a table for eight is \$1,500. For more information, please talk with the board members from our church (Russ Wedel or Jonathan Wenger) or contact Susan Mueller at [620-663-7175](tel:620-663-7175). Your support will help fund renovation in the south healthcare neighborhood – carpeting, wall covering and redesign of the central nurse’s station.

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.

KANSAS COALITION ON THE DEATH PENALTY . . . annual Abolition Meeting

Join us at **1 p.m. on Saturday November 21st to hear from persons with first-hand experience of the death penalty.** This is a virtual event so persons all over Kansas or elsewhere are welcome to join us! There is no charge to attend. We hope you can join us!

Panelists will be:

- **Celeste Dixon** is a murder victim family member. The man who murdered her mother was executed in TX.
- **Dale Baich** is a **death penalty attorney**. He witnessed 16 executions.
- **Gary Mohr** is a **corrections professional**. He supervised 15 executions.

Time: 1 p.m. conference, 2:30 annual meeting. **Location:** Zoom

Registration: <https://forms.gle/MPewj5RkuMxTfv1PA> for Zoom access.

CAMP MENNOSCAH announcements

Dam removal on October 18 at 2:30pm! Spectators and helpers are welcome. This task involves heavy boards and rushing water, so younger ages should plan on watching the process, not helping. Wear appropriate clothing for the task and weather. Watch Facebook for any changes or text/call [316-293-7313](tel:316-293-7313).

Camp Mennoscah will have a booth at Bethel College's Fall Fest, October 17, through mid-afternoon. There will be a silent auction for a Camp Mennoscah tee shirt (tied) comforter. Timothy Schrag, the new Development Director, will also be there to meet you.

ANABAPTIST DISABILITIES NETWORK . . . two webinars and the fall fundraiser 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/>

Thy Tender Care: What Caregiving and Disability Can Teach Us about the Kingdom of God

Webinar on Wednesday, October 28, 10:00am on Zoom; author John van Sloten, presenter.

In this intimate portrait of parenthood, a driven father discovers the life-transforming presence of God through his relationship with his son Edward, a young man with Down syndrome who is also nonverbal.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network fall fundraiser calls us with this scripture from Isaiah 55:1: "Let all who thirst come to the water." The heart of our mission at ADN is to help every congregation to become a place where all who thirst for God find belonging. AND supports congregations to become more accessible through Barrier-Free Grants, curriculum for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, webinars on various disability topics, congregational accessibility audits, consultations, and more. We have raised \$7,500 toward a goal of \$15,000. Send your check: Anabaptist Disabilities Network, 3145 Benham Avenue Suite 5, Elkhart, IN 46517-1970 or give online:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E55WVD6NEDA9A

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK announcements

Secure your place early for the 2027-28 service term. Whether you are finishing high school, leaving college, or anywhere in between, these two programs offer young adults a meaningful way to serve, learn new skills, and grow. Visit MennoniteMission.net/Serve to learn more.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE announcements

Sign up to participate in the **Conscientious Objection: understanding the legacy and what it means today** webinar, **Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. CDT/6 p.m. MDT**. This webinar will provide space to reflect on what it means to be a Conscientious Objector (CO), remember its history, learn about how to declare CO status, and how to connect with MCC Central States and other churches around the topic of CO. Register at mcc.org/co-today and contact beckyteiwes@mcc.org for more information.

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

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

The fall 2026 issue of *Intersections* on "Reproductive Health," compiled by MCC health program lead, Laena Maunula, is now on the MCC website. See the link to the issue [here](#). MCC staff reflect on learnings from MCC-supported reproductive health efforts in Chad, Kenya, Burundi, Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria, and Bolivia.

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

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

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. Encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this distance-friendly undergraduate-level program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Journey helps participants nurture their leadership abilities, grow in spiritual practices, and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with the guidance of a dedicated pastoral mentor and experienced facilitators. The Winter 2027 cohort begins Jan. 22; those who apply by Nov. 13 can save \$100! ambs.edu/journey

Anabaptist Missiology Revisited . . . *Anabaptist Witness* 13.1 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. *Anabaptist Witness* is a publication of AMBS, Mennonite Central Committee (U.S. and Canada), Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Mission Network. anabaptistwitness.org

MENNONITE CHURCH USA announcements

What does it mean to “hold space” for someone? In her Menno Snapshots blog, spiritual director Jane Hooper Peifer explores what it means to “hold space” for someone living with deep trauma. She reflects on how compassionate presence, listening and trust can help create room for healing. Read “A ‘holding space’ story” here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/holding-space/>

Now available: Fall issue of Equipping. Check out the fall issue of Equipping, Mennonite Church USA's quarterly digital resource digest for upcoming events, congregational resources and learning opportunities. Read it (and subscribe) here: <https://bit.ly/4qzriOB>

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE . . . On the Level – September issue

Our September edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares his personal trauma following a biking accident, learn about three generations of MDS volunteers, meet the new year-long volunteers, and read about some recipients of the "Golden Hammer" award. Plus we have new information about the Annual Celebration coming in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/4iqKRqo>