THIS WEEK @ FMC - November 18-24, 2026

This past Sunday we received a video recorded message from Talibah Aquil, who was to be our Mission Festival speaker. She was not able to be here in person, but she was kind enough to record a message for us titled **"Seen by God, Welcomed by Us: Radical Empathy and the Journey Home."** Her entire message is available for you to watch and was sent out on our FMC email list on Sunday. She raises so many good questions for us to ponder, especially as we hold in our awareness those who are affected by our criminal justice system right here in Hutchinson KS. As the benediction to our worship service Sunday, I read Talibah's closing prayer (which is much better in her voice, so I'd encourage you to go to minute 55 in her video recording and listen to her offer the prayer!). And, I will offer it here in print as it summarizes so beautifully the themes of her message to us.

-Pastor Tonya

El Roi – God who sees, we come before you with stories too large for labels.

You know what we have done and what has been done to us. You know what we regret, what we fear, and what we have not found words to name. Thank you, God, that your attention is not limited by prison walls congregational doorways, or the boundaries of our understanding. Meet those who feel unseen today. Give them care that is not only spoken but experienced.

We pray for people who are incarcerated, for those preparing to return home and those preparing for life after release. We pray for families carrying separation and uncertainty.

We pray for people who have experienced harm. Protect their dignity, honor their choices, and surround them with trustworthy support.

We pray for those who have caused harm. Give them courage for honest responsibility and opportunities for meaningful change, God.

We pray for people working within prisons and alongside returning neighbors. Grant wisdom and integrity and humility and sustained care, God.

Forgive us for the times we have treated a person as a problem before recognizing a neighbor. Forgive the promises we have made too easily and kept too casually. Teach us to listen without taking possession of someone's story, God. Teach us to respect boundaries without building walls of contempt. Help us God examine the practices and systems that prolong exclusion, strengthen our willingness to repair what is ours to repair.

Give us patience O God for the work that cannot be completed in a single conversation.

Now send us out with one faithful step to take. Let our seeing becoming listening, let our listening become responsible action, let our action be guided by love, O God. And in the name of Jesus … who calls us into lives of neighbors. AMEN"

(prayer offered at the close of a sermon prepared by Talibah Aquil at FMC Hutchinson on Nov 15, 2026)

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, NOVEMBER 22, 2026
Faith as a Way of Life
The prophet, grieved by injustice/suffering, watches for God's reply. Faith is a way of life, not an answer.

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19
Preacher: Tonya Ramer Wenger
Worship Leader: Anita Kehr
Pianist: Peggy Stucky
Song Leader: Pauline Buller
Children's Time: DeAnna Goering
Scripture Reader: Shane Miller
Prayers of the People: send prayer concerns to Pastor Tonya @ 620-513-2828
Ushers: Kris Lindenberger & Marlene Thode
Nursery Attendant: Susan Combs
Sound Tech: Shane Miller
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.

Offerings on Mission Festival Sunday (November 15) were received to support the Transformative Justice Program of Mennonite Central Committee. If you would still like to contribute toward this offering, please do so by next Sunday, November 22. Designate your checks for 'Mission Festival 2026.'

CALENDAR – LOOKING AHEAD
November 18 – Book Group, 1:00pm (last session this fall)
November 18 – 5-7pm *"We'll Leave Our Lights On"* Thanksgiving fundraiser for Food Bank of Reno County
November 28 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen Ministry – sign up in the foyer to help!
November 29 – First Sunday of Advent – *Carols for Coming Hope* (5th Sunday – No Sunday School)
December 6 – Winter Sunday School Quarter begins; Annual Congregational Meeting (including Sr. Youth fundraiser lunch and silent auction) + Photo booth for directory pictures
December 13 – FMC leads 10am Worship at MFC – talk to Pastor Jim if you can help! Also photo booth for directory pictures

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 December 8 @ 1:00pm
No Wednesday evening gathering this month – will resume January 13.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

No Sunday School on fifth Sunday (Nov 29); extended fellowship time with drinks and cookies
The fall Sunday School quarter has something for all ages!

- Preschool-8th grade: Shine curriculum
- Senior Youth: upstairs in the youth room
- Adults: Confessional Bible Study last session is on November 22. Beginning December 6, for the winter quarter, adults will return to the ***Salt & Light*** Bible study. Our winter theme is "Power to the People." The guide provides a spiritual practice, thought-provoking commentary, and discussion prompts that draw on the biblical story and Anabaptist theology and practice. Plan to join us for the beginning of this study December 6 in person or on Zoom. Pick up a study guide from the table in the foyer.

2026 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP– CAROLS FOR THE COMING CHRIST

Like notes on a music staff, we are called to join together to sing songs that proclaim the renewed creation of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. This year throughout the Advent and Christmas season, we will encounter familiar and new ***Carols for the Coming Christ*** and pause to consider their messages in fresh ways. This series, created by Worship Design Studio and used by permission, is inspired by a new Advent devotional book by Adam Tice (published by Herald Press).

A specific invitation to you as we prepare for Advent: in the foyer (and attached to the Nov. 10 FMC "This Week" email) is a ***"Study Your Own Carol" guide***, inviting you to choose a favorite carol of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season, spend some time reflecting on why it's important to you, and do a little research about its history. **Please return your responses to Pastor Tonya anytime between now and Dec 6,** and she'll try to include your favorite carol and, if possible, some of your reflection (with your permission!) in one of our worship services this season.

Our worship themes are as follows.

- **November 29** – Advent One: ***Carols for Coming Hope*** (Tonya preaching)
- **December 6** – Advent Two: ***Carols for Coming Peace*** (Jim preaching)
- **December 13** – Advent Three: ***Carols for Coming Joy*** (Tonya preaching)
- **December 20** – Advent Four: ***Carols for Coming Love*** (including Lessons and Carols)
- **December 21** – Longest Night/Blue Christmas: ***Carols for Coming Comfort***
- **December 24** – Christmas Eve: ***Carols for the Coming Christ*** (7:00pm)
- **December 27** – Sunday after Christmas: ***Carols for Coming Justice*** (Tonya preaching)

- **January 3** – Epiphany: ***Carols for Coming Light*** (2026 Star Word reflections and Star Words for 2027)

2026 STAR WORDS … HOW DID THEY GUIDE YOU?

Now is the time to look back and consider how your 2026 Star Word was part of your journey through the past year. Were there ways it challenged or invited you? When it came to mind or you saw it, what stirred in you? Was your word in any way a guiding light for you? On Sunday January 3 we'll share your 2026 Star Word reflections in worship, and this is your prompt to start thinking about what you'd like to share! Please submit your responses (could be a sentence or two or a paragraph or two) to Pastor Tonya by Wednesday December 30. On January 3 you'll also have opportunity to draw new Star Words for 2027. If you can't be there that Sunday, Star Words will be available for you to draw when you are able to be here, or you can ask me to send you one!

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

- *UPPER ROOM*
- *Rejoice!*

STRENGTHENING Community Connections…

CHURCH OFFICE REGULAR HOURS

- Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 12 noon – 3:00pm (No Wednesday office hours November 18)

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) – none scheduled in November or December. *Instead, Tonya is planning to participate in a Silent Advent Retreat at Sophia Spirituality Center (in Atchinson KS) beginning the evening of Nov 30 and ending after lunch on Dec 4.*

FMC PHOTO DIRECTORY . . . photo ops on December 6 & 13

Say Cheese! It's Photo Directory time & we want your smiling faces in our First Mennonite Church book. The directory is one way to get to know people who attend our church. We are thankful for each of you!! On December 6 & 13 a photo booth will be set up to take your picture. You can come early or between worship service & Sunday school so the photographers can snap your photo. Your personal information will be checked and updated at that time as well. Please plan to come and add your smile to our book. A signup sheet is on the table in the foyer.

December 6 – FMC ANNUAL MEETING . . . Sr. Youth fundraiser lunch & silent auction

- Bring silent auction donations by Friday, December 4, or perishable items by 8:45am on December 6. Place them on the tables in the basement. Bidding is 9:00-9:30am, after worship until 11am, and 12-12:45pm. *Suggestions for silent auction items: baked goods, craft items, lightly-used decorative or home items, toys/games/crafts geared toward children, etc.*
- Proceeds from the silent auction and the lunch go to support youth group activities.
- Lunch begins at Noon

- Annual meeting begins at 12:45pm; annual report book will be sent to FMC email list by November 22.
- "The Year in Review" slide show – send your pictures of FMC life to Delon by November 30.

PLAYGROUP for toddlers & preschoolers – call Joy for dates and information (717)471-4503.

***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!
November: Canned fruit **December: Pasta**
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.

HEARTLAND UNITED
This fall ***over 25 congregations in Central Kansas*** (including First Mennonite) are organizing for justice. At our church, our Justice Ministry Team is being led by Peggy Stucky, Carol Moore, Susan Combs and Jane Wagler. And many of you have agreed to be part of our Justice Ministry Network, attending the upcoming events and considering making a yearly financial donation of $200 to support the work.

On October 31, a group of 600+ folks from member organizations (including many from FMC!) voted on a new name (Heartland United) and, based on the **LISTENING PROCESS** already completed, the first two community problems we'll work together to find solutions for (affordable healthcare and mental healthcare). Next is the **RESEARCH PHASE** (spanning Dec 2026-April 2027) where two committees of lay leaders and clergy will meet to shape solutions to the identified problems. The kick off for this process is **Tuesday evening Dec 1 on Zoom**. If you are interested in serving on one of these research teams, let one of our Justice Ministry Team leaders know! On April 2, 2027, 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. On **MAY 1, 2027** we'll 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. Cindy Kroeker serves as a board member from FMC. 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).

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH of HALSTEAD . . . Annual Mission Supper – November 21

Serving 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Stauffer Hall in the church (427 W. 4th, Halstead). The meal consists of German sausage, fried potatoes, green beans, chicken borscht, sauerkraut, zwieback and pie. Cost is by donation and proceeds from the supper will benefit Care Portal and the church's mission partner families: the Woodward-Breckbill family, who serve in Paris, France; and the Givens family, who serve in Calais, France. Both dine in and carry out.

GIVING TUESDAY opportunities

Give back on Giving Tuesday at MCC! Join us at MCC in North Newton on Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 6:30-8pm (come and go) for a fun evening of packing hygiene kits, comforter tying and completing an MCC scavenger hunt for a prize. We need you to bring as many dark colored hand towels as possible! Find out more at mcc.org/giving-tuesday! **AND double your donation on Giving Tuesday when all monetary donations will be matched up to $100,000!** Join us for a fun evening and get your Christmas shopping done through the MCC Giving Guide (mcc.org/Christmas) also available completely in Spanish this year Regalos de Navidad del CCM - Elige tus regalos (mcc.org/es/regalos-navidad)!

Interfaith Housing and Community Services

Because of early supporters like you, Lighthouse is carrying forward the momentum of Giving Tuesday—and we are deeply grateful. For a young adult navigating homelessness, support can begin with something simple: a warm coat, hygiene supplies, a meal, or help addressing an urgent need. Those essentials communicate something powerful: *you matter, and your community has not forgotten you.* **Our Giving Tuesday campaign continues through Tuesday, December 1**. Join this effort and help Lighthouse meet urgent needs for young adults experiencing homelessness. **Choose the way you would like to help:**

- Make a financial gift to Lighthouse to help meet emerging needs and provide flexible support where it is needed most.
- Select an item from the Amazon Wishlist to provide a requested essential directly to the program.

Thank you for believing in the young people Lighthouse serves. With continued support, we can offer practical help today and hope for what comes next.

BETHEL COLLEGE announcements

Bethel College Women's Association invites us you to their annual holiday celebration of **Five Places of Christmas** on Saturday, December 5, from 10am-3:00pm, at Goerz House (2512 College Ave., North Newton, KS). We will be selling candy by the pound, baked goods, craft items and poinsettias, all while enjoying live holiday music. Please consider donating homemade candies zwieback, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts, poppyseed rolls, pies, cookies, etc. Bring to **Goerz House on Friday, December 4, from 2-5 pm or on Saturday, December 5, from 9:30-10 am**. Thank you for your continued support of Bethel College!

Now open: The Humanities Kansas traveling exhibit "Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy" at Kauffman Museum

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.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA . . . MENNOCON '27, July 6-10, 2027 in Cincinnati, Ohio

At our biennial convention we will gather to worship, learn and reconnect. Registration opens early 2027.

ANABAPTIST MENNONITE BIBLICAL SEMINARY announcements

Try an AMBS Short Course! Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture runs Feb. 3 – March 16 with Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, Ph.D., and David Cramer, Ph.D. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register today!

Take a spring seminary course! Jan. 12 – April 30: Distance-friendly AMBS courses include Introduction to Peace Studies and Nonviolence; The Power of Empathy in Faith Communities; Public Faith and Christian Nationalism; and many more. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first two courses for credit! Learn more here.

Online Practical Leadership Training modules. Grow your leadership skills through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's affordable short-term online modules! Offerings include Discernment in the Face of Big Tech and Leadership Practices for Spiritual Vitality. CEUs available. Learn more and register: ambs.edu/plt

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK announcements

A generous donor has committed to matching contributions up to $300,000 made by December 31, 2026, in support of Mennonite Mission Network's **Mobilize for Peace Fund**. The matching gift challenge is to inspire individuals, congregations and partners to invest in active peacemaking efforts across the United States and around the world. Donations to the Mobilize for Peace Fund support our general fund, which finances the full scope of Mission Network's initiatives, and allows the flexibility to apply funds where they are needed most. This fiscal year, Mission Network aims to raise an additional $1 million above its annual budget to meet increased needs.

The Mobilize for Peace Fund helps:

- build emerging faith communities
- equip grassroots peacemakers
- support ministries of reconciliation and Anabaptist education

Mission Network partners with people and agencies in more than 50 countries and across the U.S. to embody Christ's call to peace, justice and mutual transformation. Mission Network helps individuals and congregations discover, develop and fulfill what God has called them to do as peacemakers.

If you plan to mail a year-end gift, allow extra time and keep proof of the mailing date.

As the end of the year approaches, we want to remind you about a change that the United States Postal Service (USPS) made to how postmarks are applied that may affect your 2026 taxes.

USPS generally applies postmarks at regional distribution centers rather than at each local post office. So, a check mailed on December 31, 2026, may not receive a postmark until January 2027. If that happens, that gift cannot be claimed on your 2026 taxes.

To document your year-end gift, here are three suggestions:

1. Mail your check at least a week before Dec. 31.
   Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370
   Check memo: Mobilize for Peace
2. Visit a USPS retail counter and request a manual postmark when you hand over your envelope for mailing.
3. Give online at www.MennoniteMission.net/Mobilize

Want **to stay connected to the heart of the mission in a powerful way?**
Subscribe to Mennonite Mission Network's Prayer Vine, a monthly newsletter containing daily prayer requests for our workers, participants, and partners. Thank you for your prayers! Visit **MennoniteMission.net/Prayer** to subscribe and see all our prayer materials. Let's lift them up together!

Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples Just Peace Pilgrimage to Navajoland, near Bluff, Utah
Focused on contemporary Indigenous realities, the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations, this pilgrimage is co-hosted with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and led by Coalition Executive Director Sarah Augustine and Joe Hubbard of the Coalition.

- Dates: May 10-14, 2027.
- Registration deadline: March 1, 2027
- Contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net or visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace to learn more!

MENNONITE WOMEN USA

This week we get to talk to Shannan Martin. Shannan is the author of multiple books exploring faith, community, and what it means to live with intention. She will tell us about a practice for holding hope in a heavy world. We'll talk about embracing our actual lives with guidance for holding grief and gratitude in tandem. Come to find strength amid the uncertainties of life. **November 18** at **noon Central**. Learn more and RSVP for the Zoom link here https://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/events-1/coffee-and-conversation-counterweights

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE announcements

IN TOUCH – a monthly newsletter of Mennonite Central Committee. Read the November *In Touch* here: https://sl1nk.com/8tj9u03 Sign up to subscribe https://mcc.org/impact/newsletters

The fall 2026 issue of *INTERSECTIONS* on **"Reproductive Health,"** compiled by MCC health program lead, Laena Maunula, is now on the MCC website. See 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.

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE (MDS)

Our October edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares his gratitude for 23 years of volunteers bringing people home, a volunteer shares her inspirational story of how God called her to serve with MDS, and a local community says "Thank you" to MDS Summer Youth volunteers. Plus we have the latest information about the Annual Celebration coming in February.
Click on this link to read more: https://conta.cc/4s67Qtq

WINTER / CHRISTMAS FESTIVALS and CONCERTS

Prairie Lights: Prairie's Winter Song @ Dyck Arboretum . . . TWO WEEKENDS ONLY!

- November 27, 28, and 29 – 5:30 to 8 pm
- December 4, 5, and 6 – 5:30 to 8 pm

$7 Admission for ages 13 years and older
$5 EARLY BIRD admission dyckarboretum.org/prairie-lights
FREE for ages 12 and younger

McPherson Brass Choir . . . *Joy to the World* https://mcphersonbrass.com/

- **Peabody – Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 pm,** St. Paul Lutheran Church, **213 E Division Ave,**
- **McPherson – Monday, December 7 at 7:00 pm, The Cedars, 1021 Cedars Dr, McPherson, KS**
- **Goessel – Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 pm,** Alexanderwohl Menn Church, **1304 K-15 Hwy**
- **McPherson Opera House – Friday, December 18 at 7:30 pm, 219 S Main St, McPherson, KS**

Stephanie Gehring and Trae Gehring perform with this group.

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WIDER CHURCH & COMMUNITY

- **MCC gifts that change lives.** This Christmas season, give gifts that bring joy and comfort to your loved ones and your neighbors around the world. Plus, send a customized e-card to surprise and delight your friends and family. Consider a life-changing gift from clean water to goats. Visit https://sl1nk.com/fzkqgum

- **First Call for Help, Inc. Teen Christmas 2026.** Donations of new, unwrapped gifts, gift cards, or monetary contributions help ensure that every teen experiences a brighter Christmas. Three ways to help:
  - Sponsor a Teen - $85
  - Make a Monetary Donation – every gift helps (all gifts through Dec 18 will be matched)
  - Donate New Gifts – pajamas & fun socks, blankets, board & card games, puzzles, body care gift sets, etc.

  Drop off donations Tuesdays or Thursdays, 9:00am-3:00pm, 921 East 4th Avenue, Suite A.
  Mail donations to First Call for Help, PO Box 2203, Hutchinson, KS 67504-2203.

- **Salthawk Community Support (SCS):** Between now and December 1st SCS is collecting **$25 gift cards** for ***a Christmas Gift Card Gala*** event for students. Bring your gift cards to First Mennonite (place in the offering box or bring to the church office) by November 29 OR drop off at Trinity UMC (16th and Main) by December 1.