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# HOPE HEADLINES

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH

Volume 36 Number 3

March 2021

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## Reading Scripture as Jesus Did

Recently, the Faith Seekers and I read through a pamphlet entitled, “Who are the Mennonites?” It is a well-done, glossy, photo-enhanced summary of our core values and practices. The pamphlet is designed to acquaint new people with our faith and life.

The brochure is arranged as a series of answers to the title question. The answers are paragraphs under the broad heading, “Mennonites are Christians who ...” and then a particular value or practice is elaborated. For example, the first answer in the series says, “Mennonites are Christians who ... strive to follow the example and teachings of Jesus in daily life.” The next answer is, “Mennonites are Christians who ... believe we should read Scripture as Jesus did.”

So, how did Jesus read Scripture? Answer: He did not read the Bible (his was roughly our Old Testament) in a “flat” or one-dimensional way where each text has the same level of importance as every other. Rather, Jesus *prioritized* certain texts and their values, while relegating others to a level of less significance.

We observe this from the earliest days of his ministry. As he journeyed through Galilee, Jesus performed healings *on the Sabbath*. In the Fourth Commandment (**Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15**), God demanded that Israel “Remember/observe the Sabbath to keep it holy,” which meant all work stops. This was taken with utmost seriousness. For many faithful people in Jesus’ day, “healing” qualified as an act of “work,” and therefore prohibited on the Sabbath. However, Jesus interpreted healing as an opportunity to “save life” (**Mark 3:4**). And he *prioritized* saving life over stopping work. Therefore, healing was appropriate even on the Sabbath. Indeed, on another occasion Jesus pointed out that faithful people themselves regularly “de-absolutized” the rest requirement for the seventh day, noting that anyone would “work” to save a child or ox that has fallen into a well *on the Sabbath* (**Luke 14:5**).

In **Mark 10:2-9**, Jesus prioritizes what he considers God’s original *intention* for permanence in the covenant of marriage (**Genesis 1:27, 2:24**) over God’s later

*allowance* for divorce as a concession to human “hardness of heart” (**Deuteronomy 24:1-4**).

In his argument with scribes and Pharisees, Jesus once again asserts his biblical priorities. He objects to their diligence in tithing even herbs (mint, dill, and cumin), while neglecting what he calls “the *weightier* matters of the law, namely, justice and mercy and faith” (**Matthew 23:23-24**).

Six times in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus uses the language, “You have heard that it was said ... but I say to you ...” (**Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44**). In each case he references biblical commandments, but then prioritizes a higher level of their appropriation; for example, not only “love your *neighbor*,” but “love your *enemy*.”

Finally, a scribe explicitly asked Jesus was for his biblical priorities (**Mark 12:28-34**): “Which commandment is first of all?” Jesus response included both a *first* and *second* commandment of priority, essentially, love God and love your neighbor. **Matthew 22:40** further accentuates the priority status of these commandments, remembering Jesus saying, “On these two ... hang all the law and the prophets.”

As Christians who ... “believe we should read Scripture as Jesus did,” it is not enough to ask, “What does the Bible say?” We must ask, “What are Jesus’ biblical *priorities*?”

How might Jesus’ biblical priorities apply to the challenging issues of our day?

~~Dave Stevens

## Discipleship News

Sunday School will not take the traditional summer break, from Memorial Day to the middle/end of August. Sunday School will be offered for all ages through the month of June. There will be a 6-week adult series after Easter (TBA), followed by a series on racism, May 23-June 27, led by Pastor Dave. The youth will meet May 2 & 16, June 13 & 27. The preschool class will continue to have input.



## DEACON INFORMATION

Deacons support Pastor Dave in addressing care concerns in the congregation. Here is an updated list of our deacons and their groups. Dianne Birkey replaced Connie Luty, and Leona Adrian replaced Natalie Hand.

### Dianne Birkey

Byron & Leona Adrian  
Chris & Amy Bellar; Sabrina, Luke  
Donna Bradbury  
Clinton & Katie Chlumsky; Ellie  
Ruthie Goering  
Charlene Grinsell & Sara Moesel  
Jason Jantz; Isabelle, Daniel  
Heidi Johnson  
Karin Koch  
Dave & Lori Miller; Katrina, Elisha  
David & Sharon Morford  
Steve & Sharon Pankratz  
Jordon & Emily Regehr; Hudson, Haydon  
Justin & Tiffany Regehr; Logan, Landon  
Alan & Joan Stambaugh  
Dave & Carole Stevens  
Bob & Delaine Stolzle  
Kim & Mike Voth  
Margaret Wiebe  
Jan Worley

### Marcus Loganbill

Lowell & Dianne Birkey  
Eldon & Annette Chlumsky  
Mary Ford  
Randy & Shirlyn Graber  
Leon & Treva Greaser  
Patrick & Lisa Jaberg; Oliver, Eli  
Rod & Charla Kremer; Lauren  
Cecil & Brenda Lilliston  
Scott & Connie Luty  
Larry & Linda Miles  
Trent & Angela Preheim; Silas, Max  
Laura Quezada  
Jessie Randall  
Donovan & Laurie Regehr  
Dave Schmidt  
Marvin & Lee Schmucker  
Jim & Barb Voth  
Wendy Wiens  
Karen Zehr

### Wendy Wiens

Jim & Twila Blakely  
Greg & Dawn Epp; Alex, Isaac  
Michelle & Brad Ernt; Brigdon, Tatum Ernt, Emily & Chase Ingram  
Galen & Cindy Fast  
Marlo & Ruby Goering  
Tammy Goering  
Russ & Renetta Gooden; Josh, Kendra  
Leslie James  
Gary & Natalie Hand  
Scott & Stephanie Harder; Sam, Lily  
Carol Howell  
Marcus & Cynthia Loganbill  
Bethany Miller  
Jared Regehr  
Myron & Lori Regier  
David Schmidt, Madelynn(granddaughter)  
Greg Shelly  
Gordon & Sherry Tolle  
Dave & Karen Zumwalt

### Leona Adrian

Grant Bellar  
Travis Cox  
Jerald & Donna Heide  
Steve & Vicki Howard  
Arlene Jantz  
Michelle Jantz  
Heidi Johnson-Laws  
Todd & Debbie Kasitz; Rylan, Adam, Kyle  
Tyler & Shelby Kaufman  
Mick & Kathleen Lehman  
Carol Matulka  
Mike & Val Mayta  
Randy & Joanna Pinkerton  
Russ & Berni Ronnebaum  
Bev Seyfert  
Sharon Stucky  
Chris Teufel  
Audrey Unruh  
Kendal & Marjie Warkentine



### Zoom reminder...

When you get onto the Hope Zoom account to set up a meeting, please take note if there's already a meeting for that same day/time. If there is, a second meeting cannot be scheduled on the same account. Only one meeting is able to run at a time. We have a second Zoom account which you are able to access. Contact the church office for login information. Scheduling is on a first come/first serve basis on both accounts.



### Wichita CROP Walk 2020

The CROP Walk committee thanks Hope heartily for their sponsorship and participation in the 2020

walk. The walk raised almost \$10,500, through a combination of virtual walks and in-person walks – some downtown, some in neighborhoods and some at Sedgwick County Park on October 4.

Local recipients of the funds raised were: City Life Church Neighborhood Fellowship, United Methodist Open Door, St. Paul Lutheran's Community Breakfast and HumanKind Ministries Food Programs. One-quarter of the funds raised go to local agencies working to alleviate hunger.

The 2021 walk will be held on October 3. There is not an entry fee for walk participants. The work is through congregations gathering teams of walkers and their sponsors who support them. Walkers who raise \$100 or more get a Crop Walk t-shirt.

The CROP walk is a ministry of Church World Service (CWS) which was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level through collaboration with partners abroad and in the US.

You can get more information at [cropwalkwichita.org](http://cropwalkwichita.org) or find them on Facebook.



**Reminder to Spring Forward on March 14!!!**

### Worship Participant reminders for March:

#### Scripture Reader

March 7-Lee  
March 14-Brad  
March 21-TBA  
March 28-TBA

#### Worship Leader

March 7-Amy  
March 14-Mike V  
March 21-Mike V  
March 28-Lori M

#### Pianist

March 7-Ruthie  
March 14-Vicki  
March 21-Amy  
March 28-Cynthia

Tech person for March-Randy P

Zoom host for March-Michelle J

# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Zoom small group	2 10am women's Bible Study 7:00pm worship Com.	3 Zoom small group 7:00pm Faithseekers	4 7:00pm women's Bible Study	5	6 Cecil Lilliston
7 Audrey Unruh	8	9	10 Youth group	11 7:00pm women's Bible Study	12 Chris Teufel	13 Sandwich Saturday
14 Faithseekers	15	16 Lori Willer	17 Youth group	18 7:00pm women's Bible Study	19 Ryan Kasitz	20 
21 Faithseekers	22 Leon Greaser	23 10am women's Bible Study	24 Jim Voth	25 7:00pm women's Bible Study	26 Delaine Stotzle David E. Schmidt	27
28 	29 6:30pm Music Comm. 6:30pm Deacons	30 10am women's Bible Study 6:30pm Music Committee	31 Faithseekers			