

---

---

# HOPE HEADLINES

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH

Volume 36 Number 7

July 20

---



## Tenderheartedness and Trust

*“Trust in the LORD with your whole heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God and the LORD will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6). “Rather, be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).*

I find myself of late reaching for these verses, and I find these verses reaching for me.

Tenderheartedness and trust. The text says these qualities are *transcendent* qualities. *Trust* is an act that transcends our own understanding. *Tenderheartedness* is demonstrated in Christ’s own act of forgiving us. It is because *tenderheartedness* and *trust* are transcendent qualities that we reach for them, and they reach us from beyond in times like these.

As divine attributes, tenderheartedness and trust have the capacity to *reach* us and also *guide* us, even at those times when we are not sure what is the right thing to do. Proverbs commends trust in the LORD, acknowledge or know God in all your ways, and the result will be not just calm or confidence, but *guidance*—the LORD will direct our paths.

During the pandemic, we at Hope have respected each other’s discernment about whether or not to attend in-person. We have been tenderhearted with each other, and trusted that the LORD is directing each of our paths, even though our paths are not identical.

What if we practiced trust and tenderheartedness towards each other about the different paths we discern with respect to “welcoming”? While we have our opinions, do not the Scriptures encourage us that there’s something more important than our opinions?

Can we resist the culture around us which tells us the only thing that matters is being right? Can we resist the culture around us which tells us affirming Christians and traditional Christians are each other’s *personal injury*?

Can we resist the culture around us which shoves polarization down our throats as the only option? If we think *tenderheartedness* and *trust* are too flimsy for an impactful social ethic, let us ask ourselves if we can

imagine the cultural scenario of disagree-separate-blame-stockpile weapons leading to “a future with hope” (**Jeremiah 29:11**). Doesn’t the teaching and example of Jesus encourage us that we are capable of more?

Perhaps it is more possible than we think to work at peace and practice forbearance (another transcendent quality) with each other (**Romans 2:4, 3:25, 12:18**).

Perhaps conflict among friends is a normality to manage rather than a cancer to excise. Perhaps tenderheartedness and trust are precisely the navigation tools we need for such a time as this.

I believe they are within Hope’s reach and reaching out to Hope from beyond.

~~Pastor Dave



## DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION NEWS

Our 2020-21 Sunday School year concludes on June 27. It was a challenging year, but we were able to offer Sunday School for all ages. The pre-school class, under the leadership of Ruthie Goering and Carol Stevens, were able to zoom with the preschoolers. The youth class, under the leadership of Dawn Epp and Debbie Kasitz, tried both in-person and zoom, but quickly moved to in-person only. The adult class used the hybrid method and through trial and error made it work. In fact, our attendance in adult Sunday School far surpassed our usual numbers.

Our summer hiatus will run through July and August and Labor Day weekend. We will resume classes for all ages on September 12.



## SANDWICH SATURDAY

Hope’s participation in Sandwich Saturday, a program coordinated by St. John’s Episcopal Church to the homeless. Linda Ewert, who was our associate pastor helped us get involved back in the early 2000’s. Ever since then, we have packed lunches the 1<sup>st</sup>

Saturday of each month, deliver and distribute at 11:00 am. That part only takes about 15 minutes.

Originally, we packed 200 lunches and those who helped were also in charge of purchasing the food items and paper supplies. Our lunches include a ham & cheese sandwich, a bag of chips, a banana, two cookies and a bottle of water. We also offer mustard and mayo packets as condiments.

Starting in 2015, a purchasing group was organized and is currently comprised of Joan Stambaugh, Cindy Fast, Kim Voth and Michelle Ingram. This has helped with consistency of items and also makes it very easy for the groups putting the lunches together. We now pack 150 lunches.

Sign-ups have included individual people from our congregation; small groups, our youth groups (who also distribute gloves during December), outside groups like basketball teams, the FCA from Andale (who have continued to come even though Marcus Loganbill no longer teaches there), and others.

Originally, the lunch packers delivered and distributed at 11:00 am at St. John's Episcopal Church downtown. During the first year of COVID 19, we dropped off the lunches and did not distribute as per their guidelines. Now, we are able to distribute once again.

We are so grateful for the many people who have signed up and everyone who has made cookies during all of these years. It couldn't be done without you.

We still have September and October open. If you have never participated, Marcus Loganbill is more than happy to be part of your group to 'show you the ropes.'



## **SUMMER TRIP** **July 5-11**

Remember our youth and sponsors as they travel to Portland, OR for their combination trip – spiritual adventure and service project. The youth participating are Elisha Miller, Chase Ingram, Daniel Jantz, Kyle Kasitz, Isaac Epp, Maddie Guerra, Lily Harder and Ari Harder-Krehbiel (Lily's cousin). Our sponsors are Scott Luty and Donna Heide. Pray for their interactions as a group, a deeper awareness of God and their faith through creation and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Following the trip, they will share with the congregation later on in the summer.



## **July Reminders...**

### **Worship Prep:**

July 4-Heidi  
July 11-Cynthia  
July 18-Joanna  
July 25-Connie

### **Memorial Garden:**

July 4-17-Connie  
July 18-31-Karin

### **Coffee**

July 4-Gary & Natalie  
July 11-Dave & Karen  
July 18-Marcus & Cynthia  
July 25-Travis

### **Worship Tech**

All of July-Galen

### **Zoom Facilitator**

All of July -Michelle J.

### **Scripture Reader**

July 4-Randy P.  
July 11-Connie  
July 18-Brenda  
July 25-Ruthie

### **Worship Leader**

July 4-Amy  
July 11-Mike V.  
July 18-Mike V.  
July 25-Lori M.

### **Pianist**

July 4-Vicki  
July 11-Amy  
July 18-Laurie  
July 25-Ruthie

### **Song Leader**

July 4-Galen  
July 11-Kendrick  
July 18-Galen  
July 25-Galen



# July 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Sherry Tolle Kendal & Marjie Markentine Marcus & Cynthia Loganbill	2	3
					8 Adam Kasitz	9	10 Annette Chlunsky Scott & Connie Latty
4	5 Natalie Hand	6	7 Jordan & Emily Regehr				Sandwich Saturday
							
	Cynthia on vacation thru July 11	MCUSA thru July 11					
11	12	13 Greg Shelly	14 Mick Lehman	15 Berni Ronnebaum	16 Travis Cox	17 Daniel Jantz Brenda Lilliston	
		10am women's Bible Study 7 pm worship Commission	7:00pm Choir				
18	19	20 Galen & Cindy Fast	21	22 Todd & Debbie Kasitz	23 Eldon Chlunsky Dave Zumwalt	24 Grant Bellar	
Choir sings							
25 Chris & Amy Bellar	26 Charlene Grinswell Debbie Kasitz	27	28 Justin & Tiffany Regehr	29	30	31	
Family Promise Hosting week thru August 1		10am women's Bible Study			WDC Assembly	WDC Assembly	