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# HOPE HEADLINES

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Pastor Dave's article will return next month.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 12 FOR ALL AGES**

## CONGREGATIONAL VOTE



Vision Council met on July 20th with the Deacons to discern the process and language of the decision related to the welcome statement. In addition to a review of the constitution and bylaws the group crafted the question to be put forth to the congregation and discussed congregational care as we prepare for this important decision.

In September, we will conduct a ballot process related to whether or not we move forward with a welcome statement. The ballot will be available in both paper and electronic formats. The decision period will be open from Sunday September 12th through Sunday September 19th. Paper ballots will be available after the Sunday Service on both the 12th and the 19th and available at the church office throughout the week. An electronic ballot will also be distributed via email. Members and regular attendees, including youth are invited to complete the ballot. We ask for one ballot per person.

The Vision Council and Deacons will meet the week following the ballot process to review the results. On Sunday, September 26th after the morning service a short congregational meeting will be held to announce the

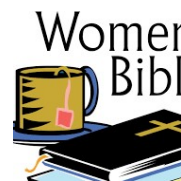
As a congregation we have been discerning the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community (non-heterosexuals) for the last two years, some would say it has been even longer. This decision will center around whether or not Hope will be fully inclusive of the LGBTQ+ (non-heterosexual) community including same sex marriage.

**Preschool-K Class:** This class will return to meeting in person. Ruthie Goering & Carole Stevens will be sharing teaching responsibilities.

**Elementary Class:** We are excited to offer this new class this year. To date, Wendy Wiens & Val Mayta will be sharing teaching responsibilities. We are still looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> person to add to the team.

**Youth Class:** We are initiating a new rotation this year which will include a Old Testament study, a New Testament study, a book study and a topical study. Marcus Loganbill will begin the year with a Generation Why? study *God is a Warrior?* and will look at what the Bible says about violence and armed conflict? That will be followed with a shorter series on our Anabaptist theology of peacemaking. Chris Bellar will teach later on in the semester.

**Adult Class:** We have numerous things planned for the fall semester, starting with two Disciple's Studios on September 12 & 19. Come and listen to Mick Lehman, Margaret Wiebe, Jerold Heide, and David E Schmidt as they share their spiritual journey. Family Promise will hold a training on October 10. Beginning October 31, there will be a six weeks series "What is the Church and why does it exist?" from The Jesus Way: Small Books of Radical Faith series.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
OPTIONS THIS FALL**

**Tuesday Morning option.** We will meet **September 7-November 30** (no class November 23) at 10:00 concurrently in the church library and on Zoom. We will be studying, *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today* by Meghan Larissa Good. Many people, Christians and non-Christians alike, have questions about the Bible that they are too afraid to ask. In the book, *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of*

*Scripture Today*, Meghan Larissa Good helps readers consider why the Bible matters. The book tackles dozens of difficult questions about passages in the Bible, drawing from the best of contemporary biblical scholarship and the ancient well of Christian tradition. Good invites readers to faithful reading, communal discernment, and deep and transformative wonder about Scripture. Leonard Sweet, bestselling author and scholar, says about *The Bible Unwrapped*, “Do not let this unique gift pass by unopened and unenjoyed.” Dottie Escobedo-Frank, pastor and author, adds, “You need this book in your church, and in your work with people who are searching for answers. It is the missing piece for our discussions on the Bible.” Please contact Brenda Glanzer Lilliston at 316-644-7690 if you have any questions.

**Thursday evening option.** We will meet Thursday, **September 9-December 9** (no class November 25) at 7 pm on Zoom. This fall we will be discussing the book, *Dear White Peacemaker: Dismantling Racism with Grit and Grace* by Osheta Moore. Race is one of the hardest topics to discuss in America. Many white Christians avoid talking about it all together. Michelle Ami Reyes states in her book review, “After reading this book, you’ll feel all the more equipped to seek shalom and healing instead of hate and retribution in our racially torn world.” Rooted in the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus, this book is a challenging call to transform white shame, fragility, saviorism, and privilege in order to work together to build the Beloved Community as anti-racism peacemaking. Please contact Brenda Glanzer Lilliston at 316-644-7690 with your questions.

## Reflections by Ruthie Goering

Growing up in a small, rural, Mennonite community in central KS, I didn’t have much opportunity to meet or interact with people of color. What I knew about them came from the news or entertainment on TV. I never knowingly discriminated against anyone because of the color of their skin, used derogatory language referring to people different from me or participated in segregation. So how could I be racist? As I moved away from my sheltered, white community, I was around African and Asian American folks at college, but much like the community I was raised in, I continued to stick with people who looked like me and had much the same background as me. I didn’t seem to have any reason to really interact with people of a different race beyond attending the same classes with some of them. And, if I’m honest with myself, that is pretty much the way I have

lived much of my adult life – not *acting* racist, but also not making any effort to learn about the history or the day to day lives of people of color.

When the Covid pandemic shut everything down in Spring of 2020, I found myself with plenty of time on my hands and when a women’s Bible study group from Hope began meeting on Zoom on Thursday evenings, I joined. The first book we discussed was *The Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew Hart. As I read this book along with Hart’s 2<sup>nd</sup> book, *Who Will Be a Witness?*, I was transformed from someone who believed that racism had nothing to do with me to someone who now believes that racism has everything to do with me. As one of the authors we read said (I wish I could remember who!), “It is no longer enough to NOT be racist, I need to be ANTI-racist.” In the last year and a half I have learned so much history about the laws, the attitudes, the customs that were set up and continue to keep people of color subservient to the dominant white culture that I am a part of. It has boggled my mind to hear of so many horrifying examples of how people of color have been treated by my race over the history of time. Yes, I knew about slavery, but I had never heard of red-lining, the Tulsa race massacre, the Native American children who were forcibly taken to white schools to “educate” their culture out of them, the differences in incarceration rates for white and black males... and the list goes on.

Not only did I begin to learn more about the true histories of people of color, Drew Hart has reminded me of what Jesus has to say about how we are to treat people – ALL people. Not only those who are like us, but especially those who have become marginalized in our society mainly because of their race or skin color. They are the very ones Jesus stood up for and loved when others wanted to exclude. That is MY responsibility, too. That’s also the hard part that I continue to work on -- what actions can I take to make sure that I am treating those who have suffered racial injustice in the same way that Jesus would?

I have been so blessed to have the other women in our Thursday night group give their insight and continue to struggle through these issues and questions together. We have read, shared, gotten angry, prayed and hoped together. I would invite any women who would like to join in this discussion to join our group on Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 on Zoom. You don’t have to have read any of the previous books, just join us as we continue to seek God’s guidance as we face issues of injustice in our time. If the experience of most of us who

have participated is any indication – you will be transformed.

## HOPE FRIENDS STARING SEPTEMBER 8

After a year and a half hiatus due to Covid, we will be resuming Hope Friends, our Wednesday night programming. The evening begins with a delicious meal prepared for our own Hope cooks and is served from 6:6:30 pm. Suggested donations are \$3.50 for those 12 and older and \$2.50 for under 12. This meal is open to all! It is a great time for informal fellowship. **If you plan to eat on a regular basis, please sign up on the bulletin board. There will be a minimum number needed in order to offer meals.**

Our adult choir rehearses from 7-8:00 pm. If you love to sing, you are invited to join us this year. Participate as your schedule allows. The first rehearsals will be on September 8 & 15 to prepare to sing on September 19. If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Loganbill, the choir liaison.

Our youth group meets following the meal under the leadership of Donna Heide, Scott Luty, Michelle Jantz, Greg Shelly and Randy Pinkerton. This year we have 9 youth.



## CAMP MEMORIES

### Donna Bradbury –

I went to camp twice. The first time must have been a good experience or I would not have wanted to go back. However, that second one did not have positive memories of the week! Actually, it was so unfortunate that I thought I should have spoken with someone about it but never did. The best part was going home day. Clyde came with Dad to get me when the week ended and I was thrilled to show him the camp grounds and the river, to share what had been important to me about Mennoscah. We encountered a small sand rattler. Clyde wore cowboy boots back then. Clyde did not like snakes. We had a brief discussion about how nothing on campgrounds was to be killed! He was not of that opinion/belief when it came to any kind of snake! I don't think my memories are what are wanted, but thought I'd give you a bit of something to chuckle (?) about. Clyde so disliked snakes that years later, I was pregnant, we lived off of 55<sup>th</sup> St South (country, then), he worked 2<sup>nd</sup> shift and was still sleeping. I went out one morning to feed the dog and found the biggest snake I'd ever seen across my

path. I did not want to deal with that being killed and disposed of in the yard. It took me some time and several of his garden tools but I got that thing over the fence and headed toward the stables on the other side. I amazed myself that morning! Have never seen one that large or long again and hope not to! I don't like snakes either!

### Karin Koch –

Camp Mennoscah was always a highlight of my summer as a camper. One summer that is memorable is when the staff pulled one over on the campers. There was a national crisis. I don't remember what it was, perhaps a drinking water contamination? It was a big city, perhaps NYC. We'd be in the dining hall with radio playing music and suddenly "breaking news" would come on. And as we were at camp, we spent time processing what the right response as a country should be. At the end of the week, they let us know it was just a drill. I also remember a summer that the theme was, "Walk a mile in my shoes." I have to believe that was life-shaping for how I think. When I disagree, I do spend time trying to put myself in the other person's shoes to discern what would make them think that way. Would I do that without the Camp Mennoscah experience? No way to know.

On the just for fun part of the memories, the Goessel girls who knew how to spike a volleyball, playing sand volleyball on the sand bar, the swimming pool for sure! One summer they had a bag of bricks in a gunnysack at the bottom of the deep end. When I started the week, I couldn't swim it to the surface. By the end of the week, sure I could! Singing camp songs, popcorn cooked over the open fire, campfire devotions, awesome counselors, new friendships - fond memories all. Then there was the summer my mother sewed my swimming suit. We'll call that a failure but she sure meant well.

I was lucky growing up in Kingman where the camp directors churched with us. First the Doerksons and then the Stuckys were school-age friends. Jonita became one of my best high school friends so Camp Mennoscah became my backyard playground with her. To say I have a fondness for Camp Mennoscah is an understatement.

### Mike Voth-God cares about chocolate pudding, and me.

In recent years I have helped one week per summer in the kitchen. During one of my first summers, my task was making the chocolate pudding for dessert. Basically, you make four gallons of pudding in a large stainless-steel bowl and let it chill prior to serving. I happened to cover the large bowl with a couple sheets of plastic wrap, something I was told later was not necessary. As I put the

large bowl into the refrigerator, I didn't notice that a shelf bracket had fallen off and the shelf was only supported on three corners. The shelf tipped and the bowl of pudding started sliding out toward me. Besides the split-second thought of "I wonder how big of a splatter four gallons of chocolate pudding make?", somehow, I dropped to my knees and caught the bowl. The pudding "sloshed" but the plastic wrap held it in. It had to be a "God thing" that I put the plastic wrap on and that I caught the bowl. And, now when I make the pudding, I check the shelves first.

A benefit of working in the kitchen, is that often a hymn, usually "606," will be sung just for the kitchen staff. It's special to sing and/or listen to the Doxology, but to have it sung to you by a large group of joyous youth is absolutely moving. So, whether it's chocolate puddings or the amazing singing at camp, "Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!"

**Tammy Goering**

Tammy remembers deciding to take her sleeping bag and sleep out under the stars on the tennis courts. About 15 minutes after settling in, she heard coyotes. That did it, she grabbed her sleeping bag and put it in her SUV and slept there the rest of the night.

**Cynthia Loganbill**

After years of being prodded by Patrick, Marcus finally decided to volunteer as a cook out at Camp. He headed out there on Sunday afternoon. Much to my surprise, I received a call from him mid-morning on Monday saying he was home. During one of his breaks on Sunday, he decided to walk across the river, stepped in a deep hole and broke his foot. What were the chances of that? There was no way he could work on his swollen foot all week, so he was sent home. Really - he couldn't even make it one day at camp without having to come home!?!



**ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME**

Join at Sedgwick County Park to walk together to stand up against hunger and help raise

funds for neighbors near and far so they get the meals they need this year. Gather family and friends and walk as a team or as an individual! One fourth of the funds raised stay local.

Walk Day sign-in begins at 1 pm at the park's Horseshoe Shelter. There is no charge to walk. All ages

are welcome and so are pets. Walkers who raise \$50 or more will receive a T-shirt.

To register as a team or an individual for on-line donations go to [crophungerwalk.org/wichitaks](http://crophungerwalk.org/wichitaks). The website also has information on how CROP Hunger Walks around the world help many.

Hope Mennonite Church is a sponsor of the walk (our name will be on the T-shirt back) and our coordinator is Clinton Chlumsky, a member of Witness & Outreach. He has information and donation packets.

This is the same Sunday as our Re-Dedication service. What a wonderful way to put actions to our vision statement.... *As an Anabaptist community of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit, Hope Mennonite Church is calling and making disciples who bring Christ's love and peace to our world.* We are truly the hands and feet of Christ.

**September Reminders:**

**Scripture Reader:**

- Sept 5-Mike V
- Sept 12-Greg
- Sept 19-Brad
- Sept 26-Joanna

**Worship Leader:**

- Connie
- Connie
- Marcus
- Lowell

**Pianist:**

- Sept 5-Vicki
- Sept 12-Amy
- Sept 19-Cynthia
- Sept 26-Laurie

**Song Leader:**

- Lowell
- TBD
- TBD
- Galen

**Tech:** Scott

**Zoom:** Michelle

**Memorial Garden:**

- Aug 29-Sept 11-Connie

**Worship Prep:**

- Sept 5-Joanna
- Sept 12-Connie
- Sept 19-Lori
- Sept 26-Ruthie

**Coffee:**

- Marvin
- Mike & Kim
- Chris B.
- Eldon & Annette

**Mowers:**

- Sept 5-Clinton
- Sept 12-Grant
- Sept 19-Randy G.
- Sept 26-Scott



# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Sandwich Saturday
5	6	7 10:00am Women's Bible Study	8 Hope Friends	9 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	10	11
12	13	14 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	15 Hope Friends	16 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	17	18
19 Family Promise Additional Hosting week	20	21 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Vision Council	22 Hope Friends	23 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 Hymnal Dedication	27	28 10:00am Women's Bible Study	29	30 7:00pm Women's Bible Study		