
HOPE HEADLINES

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“The Well”

In my view, we went to the well this summer.

As I considered my upcoming time with you as a congregation, I knew that you had come through a careful stretch of discernment conversations these last months and years. I knew also that this fall there would be more congregational conversation. I knew the pandemic had come to you as the uninvited guest that had “stayed on”, just as it has for all congregations, creating an unending season of uncertainty regarding even basic operations like communion.

During the spring, already holding you as a congregation in prayer, the idea that came was that the summer could be a “going to the well”. Wells hold cool waters, wells take you deep to places of renewal, wells bring people together for a spell, drawn by a common thirst.

Now that time with you has come and is nearly gone, my view is that our well this summer has been God, the well has been God asking us to Make Ready so that God might come and dwell among us (Exodus 25:8). “Take . . . an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them . . .” (Exodus 25:2). I understand an offering to be metaphorical as well as literal. What better offering than for us to ask this summer, how do we make ourselves ready? What better stop for us than have asked ourselves, what is my heart prompting me to do?

We have seen that God is a Keeper God, keeping our longings and our unfolding futures in love and good care. We have seen that we can be loyal to God because God will always be loyal to Godself. We have learned that for several thousand years people have struggled to pray regularly, but that many have found a rhythm in morning and evening prayer. We have learned that meeting God face to face is a conversation, there is back and forth. We have seen how the seed close to the fruit is as important as the fruit itself. We have been encouraged to bring children to the front of the action in our church life.

We have seen Jethro model intergenerational support. We have taken communion together.

As you head back into congregational work, I hope our summer stay at this well (God) runs as deep in your lives as it has in mine. Together, we can believe that God means what God says – God gathered us together so we are not alone in this business of being church. We speak of Jesus being present where two or three are gathered. We say, in the Spirit we, as many, are One. This summer we heard that even God wants to be with us. Putting away our skeptical leanings, all that is left for us to do is to enter the fall with tended hearts and thirst-quenched trust.

Thank you, Hope Mennonite Church! This has been a delight! Keep drinking deeply. Be well!

~~Susan Jantzen, sabbatical pastor



Pastor/Congregation Review Coming in September

Every five years, our church does a review of our pastor and the congregation. This is the year for that review. The Western District Conference has assigned Kathy Goering Reid to be the advisor for this process. Kathy is a retired Mennonite pastor living in Waco, Texas. The process we will use for the review is called, “The Appreciative Way” and involves surveying various groups within the church in a group setting. The Appreciative Way is a process developed by Western District Conference.

Group interviews will take place during the Sunday School hour in September. Members of the Pastor Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC) will conduct the interviews with the help of three recorders. Members of PCRC are, Bob Stolzle, Debbie Kasitz and Myron Regier. Recorders are Renetta Gooden, Margaret Wiebe and Delaine Stolzle.

Please note the following schedule for the group surveys:

May 1-Youth. (Already completed)

September 11-Women’s bible study groups, Tuesday group and Thursday group.

September 18-Vision Council and Young Adults.

September 25-All others.

All Hope attendees are encouraged to take part in the review process. If anyone prefers to do the survey privately, feel free to do so. Those surveys can be turned in to the church secretary. If you are homebound, just let Myron Regier know and your survey will be picked up at your convenience. Survey questions will be sent to all attendees via email the first week of September. Paper copies of the survey questions will also be available in the church office.



All women are invited to join either one or both of these Bible studies this fall.

1) Tuesday Morning Bible Study on September 13, at 10:00 am. The first class and last class will be in-person (9/13 and 10/25) and the other sessions will be on Zoom. We will be studying, The Gospel on the Ground - Bible Study Book with Video Access: The Grit and Glory of the Early Church in Acts. Please contact the church office for a book to be ordered for you. The cost per person is \$10. A special church fund is subsidizing the books.

Come along with biblical culturalist Kristi McLelland as she unpacks the life of the early church in the book of Acts and shows us that the kingdom of God is always on the move, always looking outward to bring meaning and joy to a world searching for true fulfillment and hope. Explore the call of Jesus to His disciples then and to us today. See how God's Word can sustain us even in the most difficult of times and embrace the transformative grace we experience as children of God in His kingdom of celebration.

2) Thursday Evening Women's Book Study starting Thurs, **September 8** at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will be studying Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah. Please order the book yourself. The church does have a fund to help with the cost of the book. Contact the church office for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Glanzer Lilliston. This study will enhance the two programs that will be offered at Hope Mennonite in the fall. The first presentation is "Chief Lucy" given by Pauline Sharp, Thursday, October 6, 7 pm. The second program, "We Own This Now," will be offered by Ted and Company Saturday, November 5 at 7 pm at Hope Mennonite Church.

"Injustice has plagued American society for centuries. And we cannot move toward being a more just nation

without understanding the root causes that have shaped our culture and institutions. In this prophetic blend of history, theology, and cultural commentary, Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah reveal the far-reaching, damaging effects of the "Doctrine of Discovery."

In the fifteenth century, official church edicts gave Christian explorers the right to claim territories they "discovered." This was institutionalized as an implicit national framework that justifies American triumphalism, white supremacy, and ongoing injustices. The result is that the dominant culture idealizes a history of discovery, opportunity, expansion, and equality, while minority communities have been traumatized by colonization, slavery, segregation, and dehumanization.

Healing begins when deeply entrenched beliefs are unsettled. Charles and Rah aim to recover a common memory and shared understanding of where we have been and where we are going. As other nations have instituted truth and reconciliation commissions, so do the authors call our nation and churches to a truth-telling that will expose past injustices and open the door to conciliation and true community.

Sandwich Saturday in September

We are looking for people to help with Sandwich Saturday on September 3, Labor Day weekend. If you can be part of a crew of 5-6 people, please contact the church office. We also in need of 18 dozen cookies.



FELLOWSHIP MEAL – SEPTEMBER 11

Everyone is invited to our fellowship meal on Sunday, September 11. This is a way to kick off our fall activities, including Sunday School, as well as celebrating Susan Jantzen's time with us and thanking her for her ministry during these past 3 months at Hope. You are invited to bring food to share.



Don't forget!

Pictures will continue to be taken after worship August 28 and September 11. If you need to make special arrangements, let Kim know, and we can figure a time out to get your photo! Cynthia will be helping by tapping shoulders of those we need new photos of! If you want a new photo you can come down too!



Discipleship Commission news

The new Sunday School year is just around the corner. Sunday School is a place where spiritual formation occurs and faith is grown no matter what your age...2 to 100.

All are invited to participate. Classes begin on September 11.

*PreK-1st grade: Room 8/9; Ruthie Goering & Carole Stevens

*Middle School: Room 7; Wendy Wiens, Val Mayta, Arlene Jantz plus one more teacher TBA

*High School: There will be no high school Sunday School this year. They will meet as a youth group with our sponsors – Scott Luty, Donna Heide, Randy Pinkerton.

*Adults: The Sundays in September will be led by the Pastor Congregational Relations Committee as they led us in Dave Steven's review process. Detailed information is in the bulletin and this newsletter.

*Starting in October, there will be a young adult class meeting in Room 7 and an adult class meeting in the sanctuary. The October newsletter will have more information.

Are you working with children or youth in Sunday School, youth group, or the nursery? If so, as per our child protection policy, you will need to take the online training session. If you haven't received the link, please contact the church office. The link is only good for 14 days.

Have you taken the library survey yet? We encourage everyone to participate regardless of the frequency of your library use. The information garnered from the survey will help in making decisions about the library and more effectively serving the congregation. If you can't find the link, contact the church office.

Check it out! The August issue of *Villa Vista*, a Schowalter Villa Bluestem Communities newsletter, features our own Larry Miles in

"Residents living well: Memories of BMX. The article is posted on the bulletin board. Larry and Linda moved to Hesston this past summer.



News from Mary Raber – our former mission partner

(Mary Raber retired this past year and has moved back to St. Louis.)

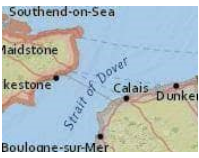
I'm learning a different rhythm being in St. Louis. It's kind of hard to keep to a schedule sometimes. I box twice a week (no kidding!), which is therapy for Parkinson's. I spend a fair amount of time at the computer. My health is good, although sometimes the advancing Parkinson's symptoms have to be taken into account. I hate it when new things crop up and I have to adjust.

I continue to chip away at editing projects. Right now, I'm trying to get ready for a presentation to the Mennonite Historical Society in Illinois, coming up in September. They're interested in hearing something about Ukraine, so I'm trying to hook some contemporary reflections together with the story of one of their own-- Arthur Slagel of Flanagan, Illinois--who was one of the three men who made the original trek to Soviet Russia in 1920 under the auspices of the brand-new Mennonite Central Committee. Slagel eventually oversaw all the MCC relief kitchens in the territory of Ukraine.

The war is awful and depressing. I'm in touch with quite a few people fairly regularly, but it's painful. When this latest phase of the Russian invasion began, I promised myself I would stay close to my friends and not look away, but that's a hard promise to keep. By now, everyone's tendency is to sort of hunker down and endure; sometimes I wonder if my attempts at making contact are more irritating than helpful. During the summer I taught a class on-line, which didn't go too badly. This was through Odessa Seminary. The students were scattered all the way from England to central Ukraine. Most of them have produced at least one homework assignment; the next one is due in mid-September and I wonder what I'm going to get?

I've joined the board of trustees of a charity/mission organization in the UK that has been working in and out of Ukraine since before this latest phase. I'm glad to be able to help with communication with partners on the ground.





Our mission partners to Calais, France

One way we can stay connected with our new mission partner – Joseph & Rachel Givens and their sons Elijah and Micaiah – is to have ongoing communication with them. The Witness and Outreach Commission invites you to stay in touch with them, by signing up and committing to a month of

'staying in touch' via email or even snail mail a couple of times a month and then sharing news with the congregation. Thank you to those who are already participating. The months of September, October and December are still open.

Below is the latest Newsletter from the Givens...

Dear Friends,

Hello from France! We landed safely in Paris on August 1 and were driven to Calais by our new friend Èloi. We somehow managed to fit twelve bags, our backpacks, and ourselves in Maria Skobtsova House (MSH) van, and Èloi took us on the three hour trip to our new home. We are slowly getting settled and adjusting to life in France.

Another friend we met is Alex. He is a regular volunteer at MSH. He comes for several weeks, then returns to his home in Scotland. This has been his pattern for years, and he shows no signs of slowing down. He is wise concerning the migrant situation in Calais and will be an excellent resource as we learn how the house runs and learn about the resources for refugees.

We also want to share how MSH is already making a difference in the lives of some individuals in the short time we've been here. During our second week in Calais, a local nonprofit informed Alex of a young Angolan woman and her four children while they waited to return to Portugal, where they've been living for the last three years. They were attempting to move to the UK to find better work, but were turned away by border control, stranding them in Calais without money. They needed a place to stay while a nonprofit raised money for their return tickets. Alex said they were welcome at the house for as long as they needed to stay.

Martha* and her three sons and one daughter arrived at the house while we were there, and we had the privilege of welcoming them with Alex. Martha was extremely grateful for a safe space for her family to stay. We were truly blessed by her delicious cooking, and the relationships her children were able to build with our boys. Martha spoke only Portuguese, so we communicated through an app on our phones. Most of the time it went well, though there were occasions for hilarity.

Martha also joined our prayer times at the house. We have a daily rhythm with morning, noon, and evening prayer. We sing songs, read a Scripture passage, and pray. We read the Scripture in English and asked Martha to read it in Portuguese. We even managed to find a Portuguese song in our songbook. Martha was so excited she kissed the page!

We mention Martha's story to illustrate how important the role MSH plays in the lives of some of the most vulnerable people here in Calais is. We explained to Martha that she should treat the house as her own home while she is here, and that she should take time to rest and recuperate before her trip back to Portugal. Meanwhile, we were blessed by her presence and the kindness she showed our boys, as well as the mutual benefit of a prayer time that broke down the cultural barriers we so often build in our churches. Martha is a beloved child of God and was truly a privilege to accompany her on her journey.

The money was fully raised last week. We will keep her in our prayers as she continues on her way, and we sent her in peace. Our lives have been bettered for having known her, and I know she feels the same.

*Martha's name has been changed to protect her identity

Praises

- We have arrived and are settling in!
- We are able to practice and continue to learn French.

We got to spend several weeks learning from Alex.

Prayer Requests

- More volunteers for the house. The next few weeks are covered, but volunteers are lacking throughout the city. Elijah and Micaiah through this transition - they start school next week, Sept 1st.





September Reminders...

September 4-new Voices Together songs

Worship -Connie
Scripture-Marcus
Pianist-Laurie
Song Leader-Lowell
Tech-Galen
Zoom Host- Lee

September 11-Long Trajectory of Healing

Worship-Amy
Scripture-David S.
Pianist-Vicki
Song Leader-Galen
Tech-Michelle
Zoom Host-Brenda

September 18-Prepare the Way of the Lord

Worship-Amy
Scripture-Donna H.
Pianist-Cynthia
Song Leader-TBD
Tech-TBD
Zoom Host-TBD

September 25-choir sings

Worship-
Scripture-Lori M.
Pianist-Amy
Song Leader-Trae
Tech-TBD
Zoom Host-TBD

Memorial Garden

Aug 28-Sept 10-Connie
Sept 11-24-Ruthie
Sept 25-Oct 1-Karin

Sanctuary Prep

September 4-Russ G.
September 11-Joanna
September 18-Heidi
September 25-Connie

Preschool Helpers

September 4-No SS
September 11-Alison
September 18-Renetta
September 25-Jared

Nursery

September 11-Clinton & Katie
September 18-Donovan & Laurie
September 25-Lee & Lori R.

Coffee

September 4-NO coffee
September 11-Greg & Dawn
September 18-Eldon & Annette
September 25-Bob & Delaine

*****Due to lack of volunteers, coffee will not be served on Holiday weekends for remainder of year*****

Mowers-for..,

September 4-Randy P.
September 11-Randy G.
September 18-Travis
September 25-Jim B.