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# HOPE HEADLINES

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## Randy's Ramblings

Some of you know that I have a personal goal of reading at least one book a month from a variety of genres. Some months I have no trouble reaching my goal. Other months I find myself plodding through books filled with dense writing. Some books are short, and some are long. Some are books I'm glad I read and some I'm glad when I finish. For 25 years or more, I have shared snippets of what I'm reading in a format I call my "Weekly Quips and Quotes." (If you are my friend on Facebook, you know that's where I currently post them.)

One thing I've found consistent among the various books I've read is the notion of chapters. In some novels, it is merely the author's invitation to let the reader rest, to set the book down and do something else for a while. In most non-fiction books, chapters delineate new ideas and topics, often arranged in a progressive order.

That sense of ideas broken into chapters is imposed on the Biblical narratives (with a few exceptions, notably the Psalms and Lamentations). You may or may not know it, but the chapters in the Bible were assigned by scholars in the early thirteenth century. And they were simply imposed based on where they showed up on the pages of the translation. It makes for some interesting break points (for example, look to see how Genesis 1 seems to flow into Genesis 2 before what looks like a natural break in topic at Genesis 2:4). There are also times when it is clearly the right place to stop one story and start another one (for example, notice how clearly Matthew 2 and Luke 2 end and how natural it feels to begin at chapter 3 of both Gospels).

In a similar fashion, chapters in our lives are sometimes imposed on us and sometimes intentionally planned. Sometimes they make sense and sometimes they leave us wondering what happened. We plan to graduate, for example. Or to get married. Those are points in our lives where new "chapters" are intentionally set. They feel natural and normal. Then there are the sudden changes brought on by national disasters or international events. And of course, the chapters that end suddenly when someone we love dies. Nothing could prepare us for those transitions.

When I wrote my memoir in 2020, I used the chronological transitions in my life as chapter breaks. Almost all of them were connected to a time when I physically moved from one home to another.

I often think of those chapter breaks in my life when I approach the end of a calendar year. I know I will turn the calendar and see a new month, a new year. Before the age of computers, I had to intentionally remind myself to write the new year every time I wrote the date. It feels like a new chapter every year.

As we enter 2023, I am keenly aware that we are preparing for a new chapter of life for Hope Mennonite Church as we begin the process of finding a new pastor. In some ways the last chapter ended in September. My time with you feels like it belongs between two different chapters, an interlude of sorts.

What I will hold onto as I turn the page of the calendar is the assurance that God is the one telling the story, that I don't need to know when the next chapter will begin or end. I just know that God has always been present...and always will be.

And so, I give thanks. Randy Quinn



## Adult Sunday School January 8, 15, 22

What do you know about the Mennonite Church (USA) Disability Resolution? How does it relate to the Americans with Disability Act? Randy Quinn will lead us in a three-part discussion about accessibility and help us explore how welcoming we are to guests who have disabilities. He will use a few biblical stories to help us consider what might be our best responses to the Disability Resolution. Based on his personal experiences, he will also invite us to consider ways to make plans for being a more welcoming church. The first week (January 8), he will explore the definitions of disability. The second week (January 15), he will lead us in a discussion about specific accommodations we can make. The three-week session will end with an informal survey of our congregation's accessibility and how it aligns with our welcoming statement.

## Congregational Meeting



### Annual congregational meeting

Everyone is invited to participate in this important meeting in the life of the congregation. We will affirm new commission members and vote on the 2023 spending plan. There will be information on steps moving forward following Pastor Dave's death. Following the meeting, we will join together for food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.

### 2023 Women's Bible Study news

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible starts **January 10**. Back by popular demand, we will be studying a book by Kristi McLelland, Jesus and Women in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century and Now. **Come and join us** as the author takes us back to Jesus' first-century world, explaining the historical and cultural climate of His day to help you know Him more dearly. "Take Heart, daughter" (Matt. 9:22) is encouragement from the lips of Jesus that surely comforted a hurting woman's soul thousands of years ago and offers a similar gospel hope to you today too. It is a thoughtful look at several of Jesus' interactions with women in the Bible that will fuel your worship of the Living God.

This 7-session study will begin on Tuesday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet concurrently in the church's library and on Zoom. The study will be led by Brenda Glanzer Lilliston. The cost of the book is \$25, (you also have video access to the teaching sessions by Kristi). The books will be handed out at the first class and your payment will be collected then. If this will be your first time attending, please inform the church office so a book can be ordered for you.

The Thursday evening Bible study group resumes on **January 19**. More information will be forthcoming.



Please consider joining our winter/spring choir. Rehearsals are scheduled on three Wednesdays a month and we sing once a month.

Don't worry if you can't make it every time, come when you are able. We would love to have you. If you need more information, contact Cynthia Loganbill, the choir liaison.

Rehearsals January 4, 11, 25 – sing January 29

Rehearsals Feb 1, 8, 15 - sing February 19

Rehearsals March 1, 8, 15 – sing March 19

Rehearsals March 22, 29, April 5 – sing April 9 (Easter)

Rehearsals April 12, 19, May 10 – sing May 14

### New Website news...

Hope's new designed website is up and running! Since none of us put it together, I am having to tweak some stuff along the way. Please be patient! Even though it's WordPress (as the old one was), it is extremely updated and doing things on it is a bit different. I'm quickly learning. Just know the 2022 items like bulletins and newsletters will be removed next week. I will be inquiring about archiving those items.

The "Live Stream" button on the top portion on the page that shows up on opening page is for **Sunday Morning worship only**. All other services or meetings will need the link sent out from the office.

**Starting next Sunday, January 8**, the service zoom link and bulletin will **no longer be sent out** for Sunday services. You will need to access those two things via the website, [www.hopemennonite.org](http://www.hopemennonite.org). A reminder will be sent out on Fridays for a few weeks to help you remember.

We hope you find the new website easy to use. It is a simplified site, and is compatible with all mobile devices. No app, but use your browser with the above address. We want good use of our new site!!!

~~Kim Voth (administrator of website) and Shelby Kaufman, & Lori Miller (website committee)

### THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ...for the mature set!

Julie Andrews is reported to have done a concert for AARP at which she sang her hit from the Sound of Music, but the words were changed.

"These are a Few of my Favorite Things"

"Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up with string.  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs, cataracts, hearing aids and eye glasses,  
Polydent and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings.  
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad.  
I simply remember my favorite things  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,

No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heats pads and hot meals they bring.  
There are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinin',  
And we won't mention our short-shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had  
And then I don't feel so bad."



January Reminders...

**January 1**

Worship-Natalie  
Scripture-Randy P.  
Pianist-Cynthia  
Song Leader-Lowell  
Tech-Scott

**January 22**

Worship-TBA  
Scripture-Ruthie  
Pianist-Ruthie  
Song Leader-Galen  
Tech-Michelle J.

**January 8**

Worship-Connie  
Scripture-Barb  
Pianist-Amy  
Song Leader-Lowell  
Tech- Mike V.

**January 29**

Worship-TBA  
Scripture-Lori M.  
Pianist-Vicki  
Song Leader-Trae  
Tech-Galen

**January 15**

Worship-Connie  
Scripture-Lowell  
Pianist-Laurie  
Song Leader-Galen  
Tech-Randy P.

**Sanctuary Prep**

January 1-Connie  
January 8-Lori M.  
January 15-Russ G.  
January 22-Ruthie  
January 29-Joanna

**Preschool Helpers**

January 1-NO S.S.  
January 8-Cindy  
January 15-Alison  
January 22-Jared  
January 29-Renetta

**Coffee**

January 1-NO coffee-holiday  
January 8-Marcus & Cynthia  
January 15-Eldon & Annette  
January 22-Galen & Cindy  
January 29-Randy & Joanna

**Nursery**

January 1-Alison, Kloie, Hailey  
January-8-Eldon & Annette  
January 15-Justin & Tiffany  
January 22-Shelby & Tyler  
January 29-Clinton & Katie

**S.S. Superintendent**

January 1-NO S.S.  
January 8-Cynthia  
January 15-Delaine  
January 22-Cindy  
January 29-Justin

**Worship Coordinator**

January 1-Galen  
January 8-15-Chris T.  
January 16-29-Lori M.

**January Head Usher-Scott**

