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# HOPE HEADLINES

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## Randy's Ramblings

Last month I found myself complaining about the construction on Maize Road. It was confusing at times, and it was harder than usual to access or leave the church parking lot.

But then it was done, and I found myself really pleased with how the road looks and feels. I really liked the bright colors of the fresh paint on the smooth surface of the road.

It made me realize that there are times in my life when things were rough, when things were confusing, when I was frustrated with how hard it was to accomplish little things. But as I look back on them, those times never seem as rough or confusing or frustrating as they were in the moment. In fact, some of those difficult times helped create significant growth in my life.

The years I spent in college where all I had time to do was study and work and sleep, comes to mind. Or the hours of sleep lost as a newborn baby seemed to take over my life, depriving me of sleep and keeping me constantly on alert during my waking hours. There were times of agonizing prayer as I was discerning the next step in my life. Each of those seasons and events in my life brought forth amazing fruit, for which I found myself grateful.

The truth is, I never like the work involved in growth, but I'm almost always happy when I see the outcome.

As a Methodist, it reminds me of one of the hallmarks of the Methodist belief system, one that comes from the founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley. He works from Hebrews 6:1 as he calls us to continue working towards perfection in this life as we draw closer to Christ, day by day. At times it means there is hard work involved, but always, the goal is to become Christlike.

I did stop to watch a road crew once. I was amazed at the various layers of gravel and concrete that were put in place below the surface, layers I never notice as I'm driving along, each of which makes the road safer to drive. It was a good reminder that there is much more involved in making the roads safe than meets the eye. And I know that sometimes the construction I encounter on the road needs to address the sublayers rather than the surface.

The only way to make a smooth surface is to address the underlying issues, just like the roots of a tree help create a large canopy, and the foundation of our faith results in a Christlike life.

So maybe the next time I'm driving down the road and encounter road construction, I will use it as a time to give thanks for how God works in my life. (Probably not, but I'll try and see what happens!)

Mark your calendar...

**November 1** – Meal provided by Care & Nurture followed by peppernut baking and preparations for our Fall Festival on November 5.

**December 3** – Annual holiday fellowship meal; please bring a main dish and a side of veggies, fruit or dessert. Bread and drinks will be provided.

Our yearly congregational pre-annual meeting will be held during Sunday School prior to the meal.



## New Library Books

\*All Our Grievs to Bear: responding with resilience after collective trauma

By Joni S. Sancken (Herald Press)

\*Godbreathed: what it really means for the Bible to be divinely inspired

By Zack Hunt (Herald Press)

\*Stuck Together: the hope of Christian witness in a polarized world

By J. Nelson Kraybill (Herald Press)

\*Thriving families: a trauma-informed guidebook for the foster and adoptive journey

By Jenn Ranger Hook and Joshua N. Hook (Herald Press)

\*An Untidy Faith: journeying back to the joy of following Jesus

By Kate Boyd (Herald Press)

\*Thirty-one Miles from Nowhere: memoir

By our own Twila Tuttle Blakely

These new books are on display in the library. Check them out by signing the card in the card pocket indicating the due date as four weeks from check-out, and place the card in the black box on top of the card catalog. More new books to come in the near future.



The Conway Springs girl's tennis team took third at the 3-2-1a state tournament on October 14. Congratulations to our own Chris Bellar (head coach) and Justin Regehr (assistant coach) and their team's accomplishments.



### Eight Front Doors

It was something I had thought about doing many times but had never accomplished. I had heard from friends and family about

neighborhood get-togethers they had often – cookouts, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, etc. but my own neighborhood had not done anything like that. This fall, when Pastor Randy challenged us to learn to know our neighbors better, I thought this might be the time I could follow through on my idea. Randy invited us to find the 8 front doors closest to our own front door. I live in a neighborhood that consists of 5 and 10 acre lots so the front doors are not very close together, but when I sat down to start counting, I discovered that there are 8 houses – EXACTLY 8 – on East Point Road where I live. Was that a coincidence? Maybe not.

I still found all kinds of reasons to put off doing anything– it was too hot, I was too busy, would anyone even come? Finally, one Wednesday afternoon in October I decided to go for it! I would invite people on a Sunday afternoon for Drinks on the Deck. I whipped up paper invitations and set off to deliver them. It would have been a lot more comfortable for me to just stick an invite in everyone's door, but somehow, I convinced myself to actually ring doorbells and meet my neighbors face to face and personally invite them. About half of them were at home so we talked and I handed them the invitation, the other half were not at home so I left invitations in their front doors.

The day before the gathering I had only heard from 2 households and wondered if this was actually going to happen. But I decided it didn't matter if only a few folks came, it would be a start on getting to know my neighbors. I also realized too late that the Chiefs were playing during the time I had scheduled so I figured I would definitely lose some folks to that game. As it turned out, all except 1 family (huge Chiefs fans!) showed up that Sunday afternoon – 20 people in all! Including 7 kids that I had never met other than the occasional wave from the end of the driveway! Two of the kids recognized

each other because they went to the same preschool and parents didn't even know. The kids all quickly bonded and, as kids do, had a great time playing together. The event was scheduled from 4 – 6pm. I provided simple appetizers and drinks - it was almost 7:00 before everyone left.

The whole experience was just amazing! I learned that my newest neighbors, whom I had never met, are from Cuba and still have family there. They moved here from Florida. The mom brought a delicious Cuban dessert to share. Another couple whose front door is farthest from mine are a retired couple that moved here from upstate New York. My neighbor, Shuvai, whom I knew was from Africa (Zimbabwe to be exact) brought her adorable 3-year-old twin boys who loved meeting the other kids. The young couple who live just across the road are relative newlyweds just celebrating their 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

As the gathering wound down and people started leaving, I heard moms arranging play dates, guys offering help with home projects and the Cuban family promised to have us all over for an entire Cuban meal. Everyone thanked me for hosting and said we need to do it again. Above all, I realized that, as my son Jeremy commented, I have a veritable United Nations of culture right in my own backyard! How lucky I feel that I have neighbors who may look and speak differently than I do but it doesn't matter – we are all neighbors and what a blessing that is for all of us!

~~Ruthie Goering

**Hope Mennonite Fall Festival**  
**November 4 9 am – 2 pm**

**We need your help!** There will lots of ways to get involved in this event to bring honor to God and assistance to those in need beyond our walls. Here are key dates with basic information. PLEASE feel free to talk with any committee member if you have questions.

- **Wednesday, November 1-** meal provided by Care & Nurture, peppernut baking and other preparations
- **Friday, November 3** – Bring donated baked goods to church between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (or bring them Saturday morning)
- **Saturday, November 4** – Bring your friends and families and come have breakfast and/or lunch and enjoy the day – and enjoy A Cuppa Hope coffee!
- **Sunday, November 5** – Celebration Lunch at church – everyone is invited!

**Committee:** Laurie Regehr, Connie Luty, Leona Adrian, Emily Regehr, Tiffany Regehr, Katie Chlumsky, Renetta Gooden, Shelby Kaufman



## DART UPDATE AND INVITATION

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19*

God is at work in Sedgwick County! Hope Mennonite has joined other faith communities to join together to seek justice in our community. Scores of listening sessions have been conducted by leaders in over 40 congregations, identifying issues and asking where people are experiencing suffering and hardship. Together, we are committed to building this ministry to do justice on the issues that most impact our community! Our next step is to proceed to identify the top two issues, and research some viable and proven solutions to fix those problems.

Next Spring, we will gather together to use the power of a large group of people to ask our elected leaders to implement those solutions. What might God accomplish if 40+ congregations worked together to end homelessness? expand mental health care? reduce gun violence? or create affordable housing?

When our collective voices are gathered into one loud voice, we become too big to be ignored, and change will happen. This model of faith-based organizing has been used by faith communities throughout the U.S., and the results are incredible. If you want to learn more about the DART process (Direct Action and Research Training), you can read more at [www.thedartcenter.org/](http://www.thedartcenter.org/).

Our first collective meeting of all multi-faith groups will be **Thursday, November 9th, from 6PM - 8PM, at First United Methodist Church** (330 N Broadway, Wichita) for our inaugural assembly. We will name our justice ministry organization, vote on the top two priorities that will be the focus of our justice work this year, and announce next steps we will take together!

Thank you to all who have participated in our listening sessions at Hope and committed to joining our chapter of the Justice Network. **Please mark your calendars for this important November 9 meeting!** Please register to attend and help cast your preliminary ballot at [tinyurl.com/firstjusticeassembly](http://tinyurl.com/firstjusticeassembly)

**Note: Child care will be provided.**



## Creation Care

There are many ways we can play our part in reducing, recycling, reusing, and restoring, as we begin to focus on "Creation Care" at Hope. Many of us are beginning our fssall garden/yard cleanup.

Here are some suggestions regarding your fall task.

One of the best ways to reduce greenhouse gases and benefit your garden is to *leave the leaves* and clippings. Leaves and grass, thrown into our landfills, will not decompose and produce more soil. The oxygen and micro-organisms necessary for breaking down these organic products are not present.

Leaves create a natural mulch that helps to suppress weeds while fertilizing the soil as it breaks down. The leaves also serve as a habitat for wildlife including lizards, birds, turtles, frogs, and insects that overwinter in the fallen leaves. The more leaves left on your garden, the more nutrients for micro-organisms that make soil healthier and plants grow stronger. As the leaves decay, they add organic matter back into the soil, which lessens the need for fertilizer.

As you complete your final mowing's of your yard this fall, consider spreading the clippings and mulched leaves over your garden beds. Mulching has many benefits. Mulching can protect the soil surface and help stop erosion from rainfall. Mulch also helps to moderate temperature extremes by keeping roots warmer during the winter and cooler in the summer, and helps to keep moisture in the ground, which is especially helpful during times of drought.

Perhaps you have limited space, minimal garden beds, and too many leaves. **Feel free to mulch your grass and leaves, bag them, and bring them to church. Bring a rake with you and spread them out under the cedars in the southeast corner of our property.** (Feel free to do this throughout the summer as well!!) Keeping clippings and leaves out of our landfills is a great step toward caring for the beautiful environment God provides. At the same time, we enrich our soil and provide habitat for future generations of creatures. ~submitted by Marcus Loganbill



**November reminders..**

**November 26**

Worship-Jim V.  
Scripture-Vicki  
Pianist-Ruthie  
Song-Lowell  
Tech-Michelle  
Host-Barb

**Greeters**

November 5-Greg & Dawn  
November 12-Jan; Wendy  
November 19-Lori & Myron  
November 26-Travis & Charity

**Sanctuary Prep**

November 5-Connie  
November 12-Lori M.  
November 19-Russ  
November 26-Ruthie

**Nursery**

November 5-Kevin & Taylor  
November 12-Justin & Tiffany  
November 19-TBD  
November 26-TBD

**Coffee**

November 5-Scott & Connie  
November 12-Bob & Delaine  
November 19-Travis & Charity  
November 26-NO Coffee-Holiday weekend

**Mowers**

November 5-Grant  
November 12-Travis

**November 4-Fall Festival**



**Worship Services**

**November 5**

Worship-Natalie  
Scripture-Jim V.  
Pianist-Ruthie  
Song-Lowell  
Tech-Scott  
Host-Brenda

**November 12**

Worship-TBA  
Scripture-Joanna  
Pianist-Vicki  
Song-Galen  
Tech-Mike V.  
Host-Lee

**November 19**

Worship-TBA  
Scripture-Ruthie  
Pianist-Laurie  
Song-Trae  
Tech-Randy P.  
Host-Kendal & Marjie

