
HOPE HEADLINES

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Randy's Ramblings

I did something I've never done before. Last fall I planted some bulbs in my yard. And then throughout the winter I waited, and I wondered.

I no longer remember how many I planted. I know some are crocus. Some are daffodils. Some are tulips. (No lilies because of my allergies.) I planted them around the three trees in our front yard. I remember miscounting how many I had when I began, so there are more around one tree than the others two.

But I've been wondering, did I plant them correctly? I mean, I have been known to say, "if you can't mow it, I don't want it in my yard." And the only times I've tried to plant things that survived were trees – and even a couple of those died. So, my track record hasn't been so good.

One day, I noticed that a squirrel had dug up one of the bulbs, making me wonder if any of them will survive. How many others suffered similar fates? Did I plant them too early? Too late?

I've been waiting and wondering for quite a while now – and my wait is almost over!

You can't imagine my surprise – and delight – when I saw something green starting to peek through the soil in early March. First one, then another. At last count, I could see 12 plants coming up. I don't remember which ones I planted where, but I'm recognizing some of the differences as they are growing.

It's giving me something to look forward to as Spring unfolds and Easter approaches.

I was telling someone about my anticipation of seeing how many flowers bloom when they told me the story of someone they had known. The person was a gardener, who planted bulbs in the fall, knowing their health was failing. The person died while the bulbs were still in the ground. In the spring, when those bulbs bloomed, the family recognized their loved one had been plotting resurrection.

Plotting resurrection. I like the sound of that. It's a marvelous way to think of what I was doing last fall! I was plotting resurrection, not just planting bulbs.

And as Easter approaches, I am looking forward to seeing what God does with my plot!

And I'm also wondering in what other ways we are plotting resurrection. How are we planting seeds in the lives and hearts of others as we share the good news of God's love? Where are we cultivating a new kind of world with our witness for peace? What does the plotting of justice look like?

The angel tells the women at the tomb to "Go, tell" the story (Mk. 16:7). God plotted resurrection, too. And we are the beneficiaries.



CARE & NURTURE EVENTS IN APRIL

You asked for it, so here it is - More social and fellowship time together!! In the spirit of Easter time, we are "resurrecting" a Hope Friends evening. This will be Wednesday, **April 17** at 6:00 pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan for the meal of Mexican delights. Choir, you plan to meet that night, so come early and enjoy the meal. For those not in choir, please come for dinner and stay to visit, bring a craft to work on, or bring a game to engage with someone. We hope to see you there!

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, **April 25** at 6:30 pm. The evening will focus on "Eating to Promote Mental and Physical Health." This evening is open to the congregation and any friends and family you wish to invite. Four of our congregational members will share actions they have taken in modifying their dietary habits to improve their health. It will be educational, positive, and enlightening as we listen to ideas to minister to your health and well-being. Innovative snacks will be served for you to sample with the recipes provided. Be curious

and brave! Please sign up for this event. Contact Annette Chlumsky or Treva Greaser if you have any questions.

Vision Council Roadmap 2024

In February, Vision Council set a roadmap of topics to review in 2024. We wanted to ensure that we tackled topics for which we wanted Pastor Randy's assistance. We also wanted to prepare ourselves for the needed work. Below is a summary of the plan. We will also leave room for emerging congregation needs. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Michelle Jantz at moderator@hopemennonite.org.

Mo	Policy Review	Other Topics
Jan 24		Final Budget Review Annual Meeting
Feb	Memorial Garden	Strategic Priorities Dave Stevens Memorial Discernment Survey Prep
Mar	Bylaws and Constitution	
Apr	Safe Sanctuary	Administer Discernment Survey
May	Finance (endowment, gifts to receive, fundraising, tracking unbudgeted giving, etc.)	
Jun		Randy's last Sunday and Retirement Party
Jul		Pastor Transition
Aug		Discernment of Moderator position
Sep		Begin Commission Discernment Brainstorm total giving (time and money) - non HMC budgeted
Oct		
Nov		Draft Budget Review
Dec		Congregation Meeting
Jan 25		Final Budget Review Annual Meeting

Discernment and Volunteer Form: Please complete the Discernment and Volunteer Ministry form by **April 15**. Indicating your interest in the work of our congregation will help Vision Council fill positions and engage individuals in areas of interest. Complete the form online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXM858D> or pick

up a paper copy from the literature table and submit to the church office. All members, associate members, and regular attendees, age 12 and above are invited to fill out a form.



Please join Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus at

one or both of our concerts this year: The first is **April 7th**

at Bethel College 4 PM. The second is **April 21st** at Tabor College 4 PM. Please note that these are afternoon concerts at 4 PM this year.

This year we are including the Newton Community Children's Choir, the Flannelbacks and the Menno Brass. The singers from Hope are Marvin Schmucker, Lowell Birkey and Ron Headings. The brass ensemble includes Nate Kroeker and Adam Kroeker.

Want to visit someone in prison?

OVM s(Offender/Victim Ministries) has been visiting inmates at Hutchinson Correctional Facility for 50 years, and we are looking for new volunteers. M-2 is a visitation program for inmates with few outside visits; volunteers are paired with an inmate and visit one evening a month for conversation and encouragement.

Apply for M-2 at www.ovmks.org/m2 and mark your calendar for one of the upcoming volunteer trainings: May 20, or July 15, 12:30-4pm. Contact Kenzie Brister to learn more (prison@ovmks.org or 316-281-4721).



COMING!
Commemorating **500**
Years of Anabaptism in
Zurich + Swiss Alps 9-Day
Tour in May 2025. Tour

sites: Lake Geneva, Murren – the Swiss mountain village accessed by cable car, and Mennonite heritage in Bern and the Emmental Valley. On May 29 we will join Anabaptists from around the world in Zurich in worship and celebration of the 500 Year beginning of Anabaptism. Details and registration coming soon. Preview the tour at www.tourwithweldon.com

To join the "Interested List" contact Weldon Martens at weldon.martens@gmail.com / 402-202-9276

April Reminders...

Worship

April 7
Worship-Mike V.
Scripture-Ron
Pianist-Vicki
Song-Lowell
Tech-Michelle
Host-Brenda

April 14
Worship-TBA
Scripture-Lowell
Pianist-Amy
Song-Treva
Tech-Mike V.
Host-Lee

April 21
Worship-Connie
Scripture-Donna B.
Pianist-Ruthie
Song-Lowell
Tech-Randy P.
Host-Kendal/Marjie

Worship-Kendal
Scripture-Margaret
Pianist-Cynthia
Song-Trae
Tech-Scott
Host-Barb

Greeters

April 7-Jim & Barb
April 14-Jerold & Donna
April 21-Jared
April 28-Marcus & Cynthia

Sanctuary prep

April 7-Ruthie
April 14-Joanna
April 21-Connie
April 28-Lori M.

Nursery

April 7-Mike & Val
April 14-Jordon & Emily
April 21-Clinton & Katie
April 28-Eldon & Annette

Coffee

April 7-Bob & Delaine
April 14-Chris B.
April 21-Galen & Cindy
April 28-Scott & Connie

Mowers

April 7-Jerold
April 14-Randy G.
April 21-Travis
April 28-Grant

