



*The Season of
Creation*

Hope Mennonite Church

September 1, 2024

9:30 am Worship

To Hope and Act with Creation: Kinship

All who are led by the Spirit of God are the children—the kin—of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear; but you received the Spirit of Kinship, with whom we cry, "Abba, Father! Mama, Mother!" -Romans 8:14-15, translated by Victoria Loorz

Gathering to Worship

As we gather for worship, please silence all electronic devices.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship Based on Psalm 148, Craig Janzen Neufeld

Leader: God is great and worthy to be praised.

**We give thanks for all that God has done;
for all that God has created.**

South: You made the sun to light the day and the moon to watch over the night and stars to decorate the night sky.

**Give thanks to God, you sun, moon, and stars,
thanks be to God.**

North: You established the earth on its foundations, and made mountains and flat land.

**Praise God, you mountains, valleys, deserts, and hills,
thanks be to God.**

South: You covered the earth with the watery deep.

**Praise God, you oceans and seas, lakes and rivers,
thanks be to God.**

North: You filled the waters with all kinds of swimming things, fish, whales, and crustaceans.

**Give thanks to God, all you creatures of the deep,
thanks be to God.**

South: Overhead, the birds in the sky make their home, chirping loudly in the trees.

**Give thanks to God, all you birds that fly,
thanks be to God.**

North: On the land, animals, wild and tame, live and move and have their being.

Give thanks to God, all you creatures of the earth, thanks be to God.

Leader: And on earth, people, young and old, dwell.

Give thanks to God, everyone, thanks be to God.

Leader: God, you have done so many things! You made them all so wisely! The earth is full of all your creations!

We give thanks to you and sing praises to you as long as we live.

*Songs of Gathering

“For the Beauty of the Earth” #120

“Shout to the Lord” #125

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s Time Sara Dick

Scripture Reading Psalm 148; Matthew 3:31-35

“Praise Be to God” #115

Message “Brother Sun, Sister Moon” Sara Dick

Responding to God’s Word

*“Planets Humming as They Wander” #175

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting our Guests (Please pass the attendance pads)

Seeing and Seeking God

Work of the Church

Sharing our Praises and Concerns

Prayers of God’s People

Sending

*“All Things Bright and Beautiful” #177

*Benediction

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*Stand as you are able

Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church
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phone 722-0903
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www.hopemennonite.org

Interim Pastor

Sara Dick (316) 821-0577 pastor@hopemennonite.org

Secretaries

Cynthia Loganbill 721-8807 secretary@hopemennonite.org
Kim Voth 721-1250 secretary@hopemennonite.org

Church Office Hours

Sara Dick This week: Tuesday 9-1 pm; Thursday noon-4 pm
Cynthia Monday-Thursday 9 -1:30 pm
Kim Friday 9-1 pm
Staff meeting Tuesday 9:30 am

Hope on Facebook: Follow the link at hopemennonite.org and “like” Hope Mennonite Church to see pictures & updates on church life.

First Fruits Giving

Giving the first and best of what we are given.

August 25

Attendance 81 (Hope 69; zoom 12)

Offering \$2,320

Year to date \$139,274

Spending plan year to date \$170,000

Hope offers an electronic option of giving through **Tithe.ly**.
Contact the church office for instructions.

Our Purpose: *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*

Hope Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

We believe all people are created in God's image and we covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we seek to follow Jesus. We gather around God's table as an open and affirming congregation, embracing all people to full participation in the life and ministry of our church regardless of age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, gender identity, citizenship, ability, ethnicity, or any other factor subject to discrimination or exclusion in our world. We recognize and give thanks for the diverse opinions among us and are united as we strive to model a community of faith offering justice, peace, love, and compassion in the name of Christ.

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us this morning in person or on Zoom. Today we begin our series on Creation with a focus on Kinship.

Worship Participants

Worship leader: Kendal Warkentine
Pianist: Amy Bellar
Song leader: Steve Pankratz
Scripture reader: Leslie James
Worship tech: Scott Luty
Zoom host: Brenda Glanzer Lilliston

Upcoming Worship Services

September 8 To Hope and Act with Creation-Interdependence
September 15 Guest speaker
September 22 To Hope and Act with Creation-Revealing

MEETINGS THIS WEEK (September 1-7)

Wednesday -7 pm Choir
Saturday -Sandwich Saturday
-Fellowship hall reserved all day

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Chris Bellar



Mower this week: Randy Graber



NURSERY (birth through age 4)

Today: Val & Mike Mayta

Next Sunday: Shelby & Tyler Kaufman

September 15: Jordon & Emily Regehr

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (September 8-14)

Sunday -Congregational picnic; please sign up
Tuesday -1:30 pm Deacons
Wednesday -7:00 pm Choir

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Guests & visitors last Sunday: Polly Carlson; Alex & Tavian Cruz; Lois Birkey; Marcia Weaver; Matt Stucky; Chywonna Gonzalez

Beginning this Sunday, we will be joining Christians all over the world in marking the Season of Creation. The series “To Hope and Act with Creation” is a resource developed by the Climate Justice Ministry of Mennonite Church USA and created to support congregations as they seek justice and peace for all creation.

You may remember the image on the bulletin. It was originally created for a series on the Psalms in 2019 and represents the many Psalms celebrating the God of all creation. Its organizing element is the Golden Ratio, also known as the Divine Proportion because it so often appears throughout creation. It is emblematic of balance, harmony, reconciliation, mystery, and wonder as we ponder the ways of our God in creation. At the center is the Hebrew word, "You," the word used for God throughout the Psalms. On the outer borders are attributes of God. At the top, steadfast love. Clockwise around, righteousness, wonder, and faithfulness.

Did Ya Know???... that the meetings over the summer between Justice Together representatives and our elected officials on the Mental Health Proposals have been so successful that Justice Together is considering putting those proposals on a "monitoring status". This means meetings will still keep happening to hold officials accountable. So that does open space to add more Mental Health related proposals or choose another topic to develop other "justice seeking" proposals. Justice Together wants to hear what people say in the Fall Listening Sessions to determine the next steps.

The progress on the Mental Health Proposals include:

- when an **ICT team (Integrated Care Team** - including a mental health professional, police officer and EMS member) answers an emergency call, issues are resolved 65% of the time. Before Justice Together, there were 2.5 ICT teams in Sedgwick County and did not operate on weekends; now they are 6 ICT teams and are answering calls 24/7.
- the \$200K offered to **SACK (Substance Abuse Center of Kansas) has helped train and hire case managers** who help individuals navigate the transportation system and make their appointments.
- continue to work with **ComCare to provide Psychiatric Care during weekend times** plus the current Monday through Friday times.

To be continued...next up: update on Homelessness proposals...

Jared & Natalie Regehr invite you to join them in celebrating their recent marriage on August 3 at Rocky Mountain Camp. A come-and-go dessert reception will be held at Hope on Saturday, **September 7**, from 2-5. Your presence is the only gift they want.

Care & Nurture news: On September 8, the new playground will be dedicated. We will have a kid-friendly picnic style lunch to commemorate the fun. Meat, chips and beans will be provided. We are asking the congregation to help by bringing a vegetable or fruit side dish or dessert (**NOTE:** those items only) Please sign up.

Sunday School news: On September 8, following our playground dedication there will be an informal intergenerational time with games – adults and children - prior to our congregational picnic.

Bethel College Women's Association needs your donations of baked goods and craft items! Home-made pies, poppyseed rolls, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, other baked goods and treats for Market-in-the-Round at Fall Festival are welcome. In addition, home-made jams/jellies and craft items are needed. All of these items can be delivered to the Music Library in Luyken Fine Arts Center from 1 - 5 p.m. on **Friday, October 4.** All proceeds will benefit Bethel College. Questions? Email bcwa@belhelks.edu. Volunteers are needed as well to staff the booths. To sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA8A72FA3F58-50920044-fall/102465998#/>

The Schowalter Singers, a resident choir from Schowalter Villa, will present its fall concert, "Our Journey to Heaven," at 7 p.m., Sunday, September 8, at Whitestone Mennonite Church, 629 Crescent Dr., Hesston. The concert is free and open to the public. Another opportunity to see the concert will be 3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Schowalter Villa chapel, 200 W. Hickory, St., Hesston.

Prayers for the Wider Church:

...Pray for Western District Conference Commissions beginning the new program year, and give thanks for new commission members.

...Pray for wisdom and patience for the new Service Adventure unit leaders, as they welcome new participants for the coming year. Samir Knego will serve the Alaska unit, and Christian and Leigha Stoltzfus will serve the Colorado unit.

...SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala, provides biblical and theological education for 13 conferences in Central America and Mexico, as well as online resources for Spanish speakers around the world. Pray that God and God's people will provide all the resources needed for this important ministry.

Sharing Prayers & Praise
August 25, 2024

Work of the Church

- * We will be updating our picture directory this fall. New picture taking will begin on September 8 during fellowship time. Contact Kim Voth for more information.
- * Margaret Wiebe shared thanks from Mennonite Central Committee for our donations toward school kits. The Hope kids packed 30 complete kits and Hope donated several basketfuls of other much needed supplies. The goal is 24,000. Check out the flyer on the Witness & Outreach bulletin board where the kits have been sent in recent months.
- * Connie Luty brought the first round of information for our Craft Bazaar and Peppernut Sale on November 9. Mark your calendars for the bierock baking day on October 4.
- * Wendy Wiens provided an update on Justice Together and thanked the congregation for their support this past year. Our county and city officials are being held accountable for their positive responses to the goals for homelessness and mental that were presented to them in May. There will be another round of listening sessions in this second year. If you are interested in helping with these sessions, please contact Wendy Wiens or Brenda Glanzer Lilliston.
- * Karen Zehr gave an update on her Executive Board meetings with MC USA. The next convention in 2025 will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- * Kendal Warkentine gave an update on the Western District Conference Assembly and thanked Hope for financially supporting church delegates. Three churches were welcomed to WDC; one church was released and one church was closed. There are 3 new church plants including one in Guatemala. The budget and new fiscal year, October-September (beginning in 2025) were approved as well as the slate of leaders.