



*The Season of  
Creation*

Hope Mennonite Church

September 8, 2024

9:30 am Worship

To Hope and Act with Creation: Interdependence

*Spirit bears witness with our own wild souls, reminding us that we care co-inhabitants, living in utter interdependence with All. And as kin, we inherit our place in the land, participants in Christ, if indeed we feel the pain together, so that we, with all beings, may be celebrated together. Romans 8:16-17 (translated by Victori Loorz)*

Gathering to Worship
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*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

To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars,  
before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand.

**To worship is to be silent, receptive, before a tree astir  
with the wind, or the passing shadow of a cloud.**

To worship is to work with dedication and with skill;  
it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

**To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth;  
it is to listen through storm to the still small voice within.**

Worship is the mystery within us  
reaching out to the Mystery beyond.

\*Songs of Gathering

“What Is This Place”

#22

“Could It Be That God Is Singing”

#42

Hearing God’s Word
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Scripture Reading

Psalm 8; Matthew 6:25-34

“God, Be with Us”

#613

Message

“Becoming Naturalized”

Sara Dick

## Responding to God's Word

\*"God the Sculptor of the Mountains" #423

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"I Saw a Tree by the Riverside"

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

Children's Time

Greg Shelly-Unruh

## Sending

\*"Come and See" #282

Playground dedication

"You Shall Go Out with Joy" #427

\*Benediction

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Stand as you are able

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us this morning in person or on Zoom. Our creation series continues with a focus on Interdependence.

## Worship Participants

Worship leader: Kendal Warkentine

Pianist: Vicki Howard

Song leader: Galen Fast

Scripture reader: Leah Shelly-Unruh

Worship tech: Mike Voth

Zoom host: Lee Schmucker

## Upcoming Worship Services

September 15 Guest speaker

September 22 To Hope and Act with Creation-Revealing

September 29 To Hope and Act with Creation-Freedom

Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church  
868 N. Maize Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67212

phone 722-0903  
fax 722-5173  
[www.hopemennonite.org](http://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 9-4 pm; Thursday 9-4 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.

September 1

Attendance 79 (Hope 68; zoom 11)

Offering \$4,507

Year to date \$143,781

Spending plan year to date \$175,000

Hope offers an electronic option of giving through **Tithely**.  
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.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK (September 8-14)

Today -Congregational picnic; all are invited  
Tuesday -1:30 pm Deacons  
Wednesday -7:00 pm Choir

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Chris Bellar



Mower this week: Travis Cox



NURSERY (birth through age 4)

Today: Shelby & Tyler Kaufman

Next Sunday: Jordon & Emily Regehr

September 22: Kevin & Taylor Sechrist

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (September 15-21)

No meetings scheduled

\* \* \* \* \*

Guests & visitors last Sunday: Jeremy, Zoya, Amelia Koop

New mailbox: Annie Carlson

These next weeks, 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. During the series, our call to enter into worship will be our chimes along with bird songs.

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.

**The Women's Thursday evening Bible Study will begin meeting on Sept. 19 at 7 pm on Zoom.** We will be studying **JESUS TAKES A SIDE: Embracing the Political Demands of the Gospel** by Jonny Rashid. Please purchase your own book. Please let the church office or Brenda Glanzer Lilliston know if you plan on attending. For the first class, please read chapter 1 in **JESUS TAKES A SIDE** and also read or listen to **LETTERS FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL** by Martin Luther King Jr.

**The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study begins September 24 at 10:00 am through November 19.** We will meet for approximately 1.5 hours each time. We will be meeting concurrently which gives you the option of joining us via Zoom or in person in the church library. We will be studying the book, **Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus** by Kristi McLelland. Please purchase your own book.

Pick up your copy of the September issue of *Anabaptist World*. The focus is on food and how it enriches our life and faith.

Did Ya Know... At the Justice Together's May Nehemiah Assembly, one of the commitments made by city and county leaders was to work together, along with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services, to come up with a braided funding approach to fill the gap in the annual operating budget of the proposed **Multi-Agency Center (MAC) a one-stop location for people experiencing homelessness to access emergency shelter, affordable housing, and support services all in one place.**

Justice Together's Homelessness Research Committee knew that there would be a gap in the funding of the proposed Multi-Agency Center (MAC). That is why They secured commitments at the Nehemiah Assembly from Mayor Wu, City Manager Layton, County Commissioner Chair Baty, and County Manager Stolz to work together on a braided funding approach to ensure that the operations at the MAC would be fully funded.

In recent follow up meetings with the aforementioned officials, **Justice Together learned that the gap in the MAC budget is much greater than they were told: It is estimated that the gap in the MAC budget is between \$3 million - \$4 million.** They also learned that, even as the projected budget gap grows, the City of Wichita has no plan to increase its annual contribution beyond

\$500,000 and Sedgwick County will not be designating a financial offering to support the budget of the MAC.

On a positive note, according to an August 26 Wichita Eagle article, plans by the Wichita Homelessness Task Force include development at the former Park Elementary School to be used as an emergency winter shelter that will be ready by Thanksgiving 2024.

Justice Together continues to meet with city and county officials monthly to make sure that they follow through on their promise to fully fund the MAC, which would also be located at the old Park Elementary School. **Justice is often a slow process but we have hope because now Hope Mennonite is a part of a larger organization that will hold our leaders accountable to help “the least of these” in our community.**

The 2024 CROP Walk will be held on **October 6**, Sedgwick County Park. You are invited to participate by walking and/or making a donation toward the goal of “ending hunger one step at a time.” An email was sent out with registration information. There will be a lunch at the park prior to the walk. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

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](mailto: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 youth sponsors in Western District Conference congregations, and for meaningful conversation and fellowship at this afternoon's youth worker resourcing and appreciation event sponsored by WDC on the theme of Building Community.

### Sharing Prayers & Praise

September 1, 2024

- \* Scott Luty wished Connie a very Happy Birthday (yesterday).

### Work of the Church

- \* Marcus Loganbill, in conjunction with the offertory bird songs this morning, shared the app Merlin with the congregation.
- \* A big thank you to all of our Family Promise volunteers. The three families were very grateful for our hospitality. This time around, Aldersgate will display the Wesley-Simons volunteer plaque as they out did us 40-23. The next hosting week is December 1-8.
- \* Please sign up if you plan to participate in our congregational picnic next Sunday. You are invited to bring a vegetable or fruit side dish or dessert. The meat, chips and bean will be provided.
- \* The service next Sunday will conclude outside as we dedicate the new playgroup. Following the dedication there will an informal time with games for adults and children.
- \* The second anniversary of Pastor Dave Stevens' death is this week. Flowers will be taken out to the place where his accident occurred. If you wish to participate, please meet Dianne Birkey at Hope on Tuesday, September 3, 6:00 pm.



## Craft Bazaar & Peppernut Sale

Our annual event will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at church. **And, as always, we need your help!** There will be lots of ways to get involved – baking for the bake sale, helping bake peppernuts, browning meat/onions for bierocks, grilling sausage, working in the kitchen the day of, helping at the kids' booth, and of course, prayer for the 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 or need more information.

- **Sunday, September 22 and September 29** – pick up meat/onions and instructions to brown for bierocks. Also, we will take congregational pre-orders for bierocks. We will have a limited number available for first-come, first-served orders in our congregation (limit one dozen for pre-orders). We will not be advertising pre-orders outside of Hope. We will also have bierocks available for lunch on that day but don't plan to sell them in bulk the day of the sale at this time (pending how many get made!).
- **Sunday, October 6, 13, 20, November 3**– peppernut baking during Sunday School
- **September 25 & October 16** – Care & Nurture meal followed by peppernut baking
- **Wednesday, October 2** – deadline for returning meat to church **AND** deadline for pre-orders (call or email church office).
- **Friday, October 4** – bierock baking (if you pre-ordered bierocks they must be picked up at church between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. that day)
- **Sunday, October 20, November 3** – sign up to work on the 4<sup>th</sup>
- **Friday, November 8** – Bring donated baked goods to church between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (or bring them Saturday morning)
- **Saturday, November 9** – Bring your friends and families and come have breakfast and/or lunch and enjoy the day – and enjoy A Cuppa Hope coffee!
- **Sunday, November 10**– Celebration Lunch at church – everyone is invited!

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