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# HOPE HEADLINES

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH

Volume 40 Number 1

January 2025

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Since November, I've been sharing reflections about Hope from the AMBS class I took on congregations in transition. The

instructors recommended five focus areas for congregations during a **pastoral transition (time between settled pastors)**:

1. **Heritage:** review how the congregation was formed and shaped
2. **Mission:** clarify identity & discern vision
3. **Leadership:** watch for new leaders/review organizational structure (note a correction to the order of the tasks)
4. **Connections:** relationships beyond congregation
5. **Future:** apply what is learned in developing congregational profile for search

In November, I reflected on what kinds of work I see the congregation doing and having done on heritage and mission. In December, I reflected on the work of leadership I've seen and promised to pray for all the commissions and committees when you met during December. Since almost none of these groups met during December, I simply prayed for each group and its members several times during the month.

As we start a new year, I'll reflect on Hope's **connections**. A pastoral transition can be a good time to review, renew or discover relationships with a variety of groups. A church can benefit from assessing how active these connections are, letting go of connections that no longer serve the church's mission well, and adding new connections that do.

\*\*Here are some of the connections I see at Hope:

## **Western District Conference (WDC)**

Hope has been a member of WDC since it began in 1985, and these connections are especially helpful during a pastoral search process such as the one you're in now. Associate Conference Minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn is the church's liaison with the conference, and has been in regular contact with the search committee and also with your interim pastors throughout the past two years. Hope has a special relationship with the WDC Resource Library

through Jennie Wintermote, daughter of Marjie and Kendal Warkentine.

## **Mennonite Church USA (MC USA)**

WDC is part of MC USA, so Hope is, too! Hope is connected with MC USA's executive board through Karen Zehr, and some of you have attended MC USA's biennial conventions. Now called MennoCon, the next one will be this summer, July 7-12, 2025, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Will Hope send folks to connect and learn there? Hope uses many resources provided by MC USA's publishing house MennoMedia: worship guides, books for group study, bible commentaries, children's bibles, and additions to the church's library.

## **Other Mennonite church-related organizations**

Hope attenders and groups have connections with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Camp Mennoscah, Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Housing, Everence, Mennonite Central Committee, Newton Et Cetera Shop (an MCC Thrift Shop), and probably others that I'm not aware of!

## **Other Mennonite and Brethren churches in**

### **Wichita**

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Mennonite Church of the Servant, Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto and First Church of the Brethren are nearby sister (or cousin?) churches. There are formal and informal connections between these churches, and some members of Hope previously attended one of these other churches and vice versa.

## **Other churches on Wichita's west side**

Hope's closest partnership is with nearby Aldersgate United Methodist Church as the two churches collaborate to provide a week of overnight housing for Family Promise participants. There are easily a dozen other churches within a couple of miles of Hope. Are there churches in addition to Aldersgate with whom Hope collaborates in worship or ministries?

How do you observe churches forming communities—sharing resources, worshiping together, supporting each other when difficulties, and celebrating when wonders arise?

## **Community ministries**

This is a long list for Hope! The church is collectively involved with Family Promise, Justice Together, Sandwich Saturday at St. John's Episcopal Church,

Operation Holiday (through HumanKind Ministries), CROP Walk (through Church World Service), fundraising for various ministries through the Craft Bazaar, and Jeremiah House. I'm probably missing some things here for the church as a whole, and I *know* I'm missing all the ways Hope attendees support various community (and international) ministries.

**Other faith traditions**

Wichita's Islamic Center, synagogues, temples and other places of worship aren't on my radar through Hope. Are there ways the church has engaged or dreams of engaging other faith traditions?

~~Interim Sara Dick



Thank you to the following people/groups who coordinated Sandwich Saturday this year.

January	Marcus Loganbill & Working Men of Christ
February	Charity Cox & group
March	Conway Springs National Honor Society/tennis team
April	Thursday night Bible study
May	Travis Cox & group
June	Marcus/Cynthia Loganbill small group
July	Lowell/Dianne Birkey family
August	Marcus/Cynthia Loganbill small group
September	Donovan/Laurie Regehr family
October	Marcus/Cynthia Loganbill small group
November	Randy/Shirlyn Graber small group
December	Travis/Charity Cox small group

A big thank you to our purchasing group in 2024 – Kim Voth, Linda Headings, Joanna Pinkerton, Wendy Wiens. They utilize online ordering/pick up with Sams and then deliver the items to the church. If you are interested in this ministry opportunity, contact Kim Voth.

The schedule for 2025 is posted and Hope is responsible for the first Saturday of each month. The food for the 80 sack lunches is purchased for you. You put the lunches together and then distribute them at St. John's Episcopal church at 11:00 am. There are St. John's parishioners who are there to help out. This is a great opportunity for families, friends, small groups and more.



**Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival**  
**Sunday, January 19, 3:00 pm**  
**Hesston Mennonite Church**

You are invited to a celebration of faith, music and heritage on **January 19**. The Hymn Festival will feature historical narrative by Ken Rodgers tracing the evolution of hymns and texts central to Anabaptist worship over the past 500 years. Central to the event will be congregational singing led by Dr. Russell Adrian and Karen Unruh. This community-wide event is part of the worldwide celebrations commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anabaptism, a faith movement that began with the first adult baptisms in Zurich, Switzerland, on January 21, 1525. Those baptisms sparked the spread of Anabaptism across Europe and eventually around the globe, shaping religious history and traditions for half a millennium. The Hymn Festival also coincides with the release of the Anabaptist Community Bible, a significant new publication that reflects the shared theology and values of Anabaptist communities. Gather for an inspiring afternoon celebrating this significant milestone in history through music and storytelling.

**HESSTON COLLEGE** Hesston College  
**January events**

A Celebration of Dr. King – January 20  
 8 am prayer breakfast  
 10-noon Worship, Word and Action featuring Jerrell Williams, pastor of Shalom Mennonite Church, speaker, plus students will present art & poetry to honor Dr. King.  
 Learn more at [hesston.edu/king](http://hesston.edu/king)

Melva Kauffman Lecture Series – January 26-27  
 January 26 7-8:30 pm  
 January 27 11-11:30 am & 7-8:30 pm  
 The series features Greg Boyd, pastor of Woodland Hills Church and author of the book *Myth of a Christian Nation* addressing the problem of Christian Nationalism in three plenaries at Hesston Mennonite Church. Sessions are free to the public. Learn more at [hesston.edu/melva](http://hesston.edu/melva)  
 Flyers for both events have been posted on the bulletin board.



Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is calling for volunteers to help host the 2025 MDS Annual Celebration **February 14 –**

**15**, at the Ridgepoint Church, 8000 W 21<sup>st</sup> St, in Wichita, KS. MDS is celebrating 75 years of disaster recovery work, which began right here in Kansas. Volunteers are needed to help with meals, (which will be catered), welcome and hospitality, driving shuttle vans between hotels and church, as well as to Goessel to the MDS cabinet making shop, and helping with meeting room preparation. Please contact Eldon or Annette Chlumsky for more details. The organizing committee would like to have a list of volunteers by January 11.



**January Reminders...**

**Worship Service Participants**

**January 5**

Worship-Mike V.  
 Scripture-Justin  
 Pianist-Ruthie  
 Song-Steve  
 Prep-Lori M.  
 Tech-Scott  
 Host-Brenda

**January 12**

Worship-TBA  
 Scripture-TBA  
 Pianist-Cynthia  
 Song-Galen  
 Prep-Russ G.  
 Tech-Mike V.  
 Host-Renetta

**January 26**

Worship-TBA  
 Scripture-TBA  
 Pianist-Amy  
 Song-Trae  
 Prep-Joanna  
 Tech-Michelle  
 Host-Barb

**Coffee**

Jan 5-Bob & Delaine  
 Jan 12-Jerold  
 Jan 19-Clinton & Katie  
 Jan 26-Travis & Charity

**January 19**

Worship-TBA  
 Scripture-TBA  
 Pianist-Vicki  
 Song-Adam K.  
 Prep-Ruthie  
 Tech-Galen  
 Host-Michelle

**Nursery**

Jan 5-Donovan & Laurie  
 Jan 12-Clinton & Katie  
 Jan 19-Mike & Val  
 Jan 26-Ben & Grace



**Preparing For Your Doctor's Visit**

An average visit at your family practice doctor is 15 minutes. That short

time flies by! So to maximize that precious time with your doctor, prepare your thoughts and records in advance. The doctor will appreciate you being prepared and you won't have any regrets forgetting questions.

1. Write down your symptoms and questions.
2. Bring a pen and paper to take notes or, if it is a crucial discussion, take a family member with you for another "set of ears" to listen.
3. Write down any changes since your last visit.
4. Make an updated list of all your medications and how you are taking them, even over the counter meds and supplements.
5. Take copies of any test results from other providers.