
HOPE HEADLINES

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“A Good Word”

Happy Easter! Feel free to say this to me and others in church for the entire month of May!

Easter tide begins with Easter Sunday and lasts until Pentecost Sunday (June 8 this year). You don't have to leave the pastel-colored bunnies out, but you're welcome to keep eating holiday chocolates as long as you'd like!

Most importantly, we continue to live into the life and story and way of Jesus.

We worshipped on Easter Sunday by reading Luke 24:1-12, and I encourage you to read the rest of chapter 24 [here](#) or in your favorite printed version. Reading the rest of the chapter, we see how the disciples encounter Jesus on the road, at the table, in a home—doing ordinary things in extraordinary circumstances, and continuing to teach.

In an email from Western District Conference (WDC), Sandra Montes-Martinez, WDC Associate Conference Minister (TX-Based), wrote a beautiful reflection called “¡Jesús ha resucitado... y sigue caminando con nosotros!” or “Jesus is risen... and He is still walking with us!”

I've enjoyed getting to know Sandra in the WDC pastor peer group for interim and transitional pastors, since I hadn't had an opportunity to know her earlier. Her article moved me, and I want to share part of it with you here:

After the Resurrection, we don't go back to “normal.” We move forward, guided by the One who conquered death. The road ahead may still include uncertainty, sorrow, or moments of deep weariness, but now it is lit by the presence of the Risen One. Jesus doesn't promise a path without difficulty, but He promises to be with us on the way. Just as He walked alongside the discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus, He walks with us in our pastoral fatigue, in our community struggles, and in our personal doubts.

But Christ's resurrection also calls us to walk not just with Him, but like Him especially toward those the world often leaves behind. The Risen Jesus walks with los extranjeros [foreigners], the marginalized, the ones living

in fear of being forgotten or deported, the families torn apart by violence, and those losing hope in the face of injustice. In their company, our hearts begin to burn too, not just with inspiration, but with **holy urgency**. The road to Emmaus becomes the road to our neighborhoods, our borderlands, our detention centers, our urban corners and rural communities.

And in that sacred walk, hearts are revived. Faith is renewed. Hope is reborn not only for us but for those who most need to know they are not alone. The burning heart of the Emmaus disciples becomes a shared fire when we sit at the table with others, break bread in community, and listen deeply to one another's stories. The Resurrection was never meant to be a one-day celebration. It is a lifelong journey of walking with Christ and walking like Christ—side by side with those who suffer, so that all may know:

Jesus is risen... and He is still walking with us!

You can read the full article in the Western District newsletter at <https://mennowdc.org/jesus-ha-resucitado-y-sigue-caminando-con-nosotros/>.

~~Sara Dick, interim pastor



“Living Life with an Asterisk”

As I sit down to write this, rain is falling outside my open window and the temperature is about 49°. It's hard to believe that just two days ago, Wichita was heading towards a record high temperature for the day and the mercury topped out at 90°. No air conditioning in my car and an afternoon drive home from work had me looking forward to the days of summer when swimming pools are open and relief from the heat is just a dip away.

Thinking about swimming prompted a Google search and I had the opportunity to read about Eric Moussambani Malonga, also known as “Eric the Eel”. At age 22, in the 2000 Summer Olympics, Eric won his heat of the 100-meter freestyle; because of false starts, both of his competitors were disqualified from the race. Eric had trouble finishing and he did not qualify for the next round of races.

This race, from 25 years ago, will forever be marked with an asterisk noting Eric's time of 1:52.72, the slowest

time in Olympic history. Eric continued to swim but never competed again at the Olympic level. In 2012, Eric became the coach for the national swimming team of Equatorial Guinea. For those focused on the Olympics for the medal count, Eric's performance may never be remembered. For those who delight in the journey of an athlete through the trials and progress of competition, Eric's story has "Winner" written all over it.

This morning, I read an article by Heather Cox Richardson, who noted that yesterday, April 18, 2025, was the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's famous ride to warn of the English army's movement from Boston Island. Ms Richardson went into great detail about the events leading up to the day when two lanterns were hung from a church bell tower to warn that the Redcoats were moving by sea.

None of us know what any given day will hold for us. Eric the Eel did not know that on September 19, 2000, he would become a part of Olympic history. Richardson, near the end of her article, states: "Paul Revere didn't wake up on the morning of April 18, 1775, and decide to change the world... Revere simply offered what he could to the cause".

Each day, we are given the opportunity to act in love and service to others. When the results of my efforts in the "race" I'm running are recorded, I hope that you find that God has included an asterisk, indicating not whether I was the best or the worst, fastest or slowest, but instead stating that Ryan "simply offered what he could to the cause".

~~Submitted by Ryan Henneberg



**Mennonite
World Conference**
A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

Dear Friends: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus

prayed for his followers to be one. This Easter, I am pleased to share this message from leaders of Christian communions across twelve distinct traditions. Through my work with various world communion leaders, I consider these individuals as colleagues and friends. Please accept this message in the spirit of unity for which Christ prayed.

—César García, general secretary of Mennonite World Conference

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

As representatives of 12 Christian World Communions, present in every nation on earth, we are moved and grateful to speak with one voice and one

heart about our Lord's resurrection, which we have witnessed and profess together.

Together – from East and West, North and South – in this year of our Lord 2025, we have been given by God the great gift of a shared date of Easter. Devout Christians have prayed for generations that this may be possible. Though we have not yet achieved agreement on the date of Easter in perpetuity, we have no doubt that the Lord calls us to agreement, and unified *witness*, so that the world may believe (John 17:21).

As a further summons, God in his mercy has enabled us this year to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and its Creed. We are humbled and amazed that we can, on this Easter, profess together the fact that

*On the third day he rose again
In accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

In the light of these gifts, we call upon the Holy Spirit to move our Communions to live and walk together, in obedience to the call of Jesus' that all of his disciples may be one. We hope to hear his 'words' anew, just as when he appeared to his disciples after his resurrection and 'opened their minds to understand the scriptures,' namely, that the Messiah must suffer and rise, 'and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nation' (Luke 24:44-47). At this time of great political instability in the world, when so many live with fear, suffering, persecution, famine, and other forms of instability and vulnerability, we would seek together to 'witnesses of these things' of God, accomplished by our Lord and Saviour (24:48). For this purpose, we pray over and over again with eager expectation and hope that we may all be one, 'clothes with power from on high' (24:49)

May the Lord grant us his Spirit of cooperation and obedience, forgive us our sins, and use us as his instruments of reconciliation and healing in the world.

And may God bathe our hearts and minds in the cleaning light of his resurrection from the dead.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



SAVE THE DATE

October will mark the 40th anniversary of Hope Mennonite Church. Please save October 11 & 12 for our celebration. A committee is working on more details and will keep the congregation informed with the plans as they develop.



YOU'RE INVITED

To the most important night for justice in Sedgwick County!

WHAT: Justice Together 2025 Nehemiah Assembly

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 2025

6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)

WHERE: WSU Metroplex [5015 E. 29th Street N.](#), approximately one mile north of the University's main campus

General Directions:

- Please arrive early as the event will start promptly at 6 pm.
- This is a ticketed event. Tickets are free and extras will be available at the door.
- **At Hope, tickets will be available after worship in the fellowship hall on April 27 and May 4.**
- We will offer carpooling options closer to the event.
- Childcare is provided.
- For more information, brochures are available on the literature table by the front door.
- We gather with our fellow Justice Seekers to provide a powerful voice by calling on our local officials to make doable changes that help the poor and marginalized among us. Last year, we were 1,400 strong and want to make the 2025 Assembly even larger to encourage our local officials to continue the positive progress made this past year!!!

Justice Together will seek the following doable changes in the areas of homelessness and affordable housing:

1. Homelessness:

We're calling on the **Sedgwick County Commission** to catch-up to the City of Wichita and follow through on commitments made at last year's Nehemiah Assembly

- Match the City of Wichita's financial commitment to the **Multi Agency Center** in their 2026 budget.
- Ensure all Sedgwick County residents are eligible for the new **no-cost, low-barrier photo ID program**.

2. Affordable Housing:

We're urging the **City of Wichita** to:

- Expand its existing Affordable Housing Fund into a permanent **Affordable Housing Trust Fund** and build on its success of the 88 affordable homes created last year by establishing ongoing funding.

Hope to see lots of Hope Mennonite folks there!

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any one of Hope's Justice Leadership Team: Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, Grace Parker Sutter, Wendy Wiens



Creation Care Corner

A lot of times, when we hear the phrase creation care, we think big, potentially expensive, and disruptive of life as we are accustomed to living it, which usually leads to thinking there's nothing we can do today. The truth is there are a lot of things we can do today, inexpensively, and that will be life enhancing, that will go a long way toward helping us be faithful to our very first assignment to care for God's Creation. Here's one we can do right now, as we plant in our yards and gardens this spring.

If you regularly plant flowers in the spring and have been trying to rethink what to plant in the face of hotter, drier summers, there are plants for that. Explore plants native to our place, the prairie. These are plants that have adapted to heat, drought, and wind over millennia. They put down roots deep into the ground. Their leaves are adapted to conserve moisture. They flower.

There are lots and lots of plants native to our prairie and that can be a bit overwhelming at first, especially when what we most want to do is get things in the ground. So perhaps this year, we concentrate on those plants that have been identified as keystone species for this prairie. Keystone plants are the ones necessary for

balance, for habitat, for essential food sources for beneficial insects, pollinators, and birds.

The keystone plants around here are milkweed; sunflower; liatris or blazing star; goldenrod; and asters. Consider looking for some of each as you plant this spring. They are essential. They are uniquely equipped to withstand our harsh summer conditions. With one or two or more of each, you will have a succession of flowers to see you through summer and fall to brighten your garden. (Note: the first year will be a little sparse, blossom-wise, as the plants concentrate on putting roots deep into the ground, so don't get discouraged.)

And, you will have done one important, absolutely essential, thing to care for the Creation we've been given. Happy planting. *~~submitted by Leslie James*



For May...

Worship

May 4

Worship-Natalie H.

Scripture-Kendal

Pianist-Vicki

Song-Lowell

Prep-Ruthie

Tech-Galen

Host-Brenda L.

May 11

Worship-Sara

Scripture-Jared

Pianist-Laurie

Song-Trae

Prep-Joanna

Tech-Mike V.

Host-Lee

May 18

Worship-Natalie H.

Scripture-Joanna

Pianist-Cynthia

Song-Adam

Prep-Connie

Tech-Grant

Host-Kendal/Marjie

FRIENDLY
REMINDERS

May 25

Worship-Jim V.

Scripture-Chris B.

Pianist-Ruthie

Song-Galen

Prep-Lori M.

Tech-Michelle

Host-Barb

Front door greeters

May 4-Travis & Charity

May 11-Jerold & Donna

May 18-Heidi J/Natalie H.

May 25-Donovan & Laurie

Sanctuary greeters

May 4-Emily & Jordon

May 11-Joanna/Carol P.

May 18-Mike & Val

May 25- Donovan & Laurie

Nursery

May 4-Justin & Tiffany

May 11-Donna H./Lily

May 18-Greg & Leah

May 25-Jordon & Emily

Coffee

May 4-Travis & Charity

May 11-Clinton & Katie

May 18-Mike & Kim

May 25-Holiday weekend-Any volunteers?

Mowing

May 4-Grant

May 11-Eldon & Clinton

May 18-Jim B.

May 25-Scott

May