
HOPE HEADLINES

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My chosen newsletter column title, *Rev'd Up*, came to me recently while walking through the Wichita Botanical Gardens. Suddenly, from across the street, the sound of racing vehicles pounded in my ears—squealing

tires, revved up engines, tires skidding—not sounds associated with most gardens, and thank goodness. My 19-year-old niece Ari thought it sounded cool, the adrenaline-seeker that she is. The adults, on the other hand, her aunt chief among them, were extremely displeased and perhaps a bit scared. I went home with revved engines still in my head as I reached for the Tylenol.

AI tells us that to be revved up, is, “to become or make someone excited, enthusiastic, or energized, often in anticipation of an activity. It can also mean to increase the speed or intensity of something, like an engine.” In many ways, I feel revved up as I begin this new chapter with y’all. I’m rested and ready, more energized than I have felt in a long time.

Revved up Reverend = Rev’d

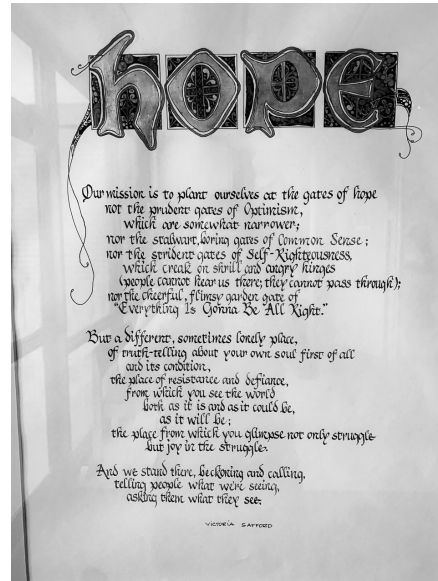
Lest you are already reaching for the Tylenol, please know that I don’t operate in a revved state all the time. I am actually an introvert who loves (and protects) her alone/quiet time. You won’t find me spinning donuts in the church parking lot or anywhere. If you do, please contact the Conference Minister and my spouse (not necessarily in that order).

What gets me most revved these days is the pursuit, to borrow language from a seminary professor, of **human emergence in the light of Christ**. I trust this pursuit revs many of us. And if this pursuit of human emergence in the light of Christ pursuit is not a familiar one to you, or if you are among the tired, bored, extremely displeased and perhaps a bit scared segment of the church, I hope you will still come along for the ride. Believe it or not, I have had seasons of life when church life has left me displeased, slamming on the breaks, and reaching for Tylenol.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing my revved energy for this pursuit with you, with hopes that your own energy will be enlivened and deepened. I also recognize that some of you need rest—a time to

quiet your engines. I trust that there is a way for us to support each other through these different seasons.

For now, I’ll share one of the many places in the church that both stopped me in my tracks and revved me up simultaneously. What an exquisite view of the Christian pursuit of hope.
~~Ruth Harder



Our mission is to plant ourselves at the **gates of Hope**—
Not the prudent gates of Optimism,
Which are somewhat narrower.
Not the stalwart, boring gates of Common Sense;
Nor the strident gates of Self-Righteousness,

Which creak on shrill and angry hinges
(People cannot hear us there; they cannot pass through)
Nor the cheerful, flimsy garden gate of
“Everything is gonna’ be all right.”

But a different, sometimes lonely place,

The place of truth-telling,
About your own soul first of all and its condition.

The place of resistance and defiance,
The piece of ground from which you see the world
Both as it is and as it could be

As it will be;

The place from which you glimpse not only struggle,
But the joy in the struggle.

And we stand there, beckoning and calling,
Telling people what we are seeing

Asking people what they see.

~~By Reverend Victoria Safford

Framed art inside the front entrance gifted by former Hope pastor Doug Luginbill and his wife Paula

Pastor office hours for the time being

Monday-Thursday: 8:30-11:30 am* | 1:30-5 pm**

Friday: Sabbath

*Staff meetings occur every Monday morning starting at 9:30am

**Afternoon times may vary depending on meetings scheduled.

Please feel free to email me or call the church office (316.722.0903) to check my availability any given day or week.



Care and Nurture events

*Sunday, **August 3** will be Pastor Ruth's installation service. During coffee time there will be a light breakfast reception to welcome her and celebrate a new beginning for Hope.

*Sunday, **August 10**, come early at 8:45 to enjoy Cuppa Hope. They will be serving scrumptious cold or hot drinks after the service through coffee time.

*Sunday, **October 26** will be our Hope church retreat to Camp Mennoscah. This will be only a Sunday event as the retreat center is not yet completed. Stay tuned for more details!



The next **Women's Coffee with Friends** date will be on Friday, **August 8**, 8:30 a.m. at Cocoa Dulce, 2441 N. Maize Road (in New Market Square). All Hope women and any guests of any

age are welcome. Drinking coffee is not even a requirement! In past groups, we have had women bring their own drinks, snacks, creamer, sweetener, and even mug! It's the together time that is important! Please consider joining us (the group has varied each month) for a very informal time of fellowship, getting to know each other better, and just plain fun!



Witness & Outreach Update

Over the past couple of months, Witness & Outreach distributed \$3,000 more of the 2024 budget surplus funds that were allocated to our committee. We contributed \$1,500 to MC-USA Executive Board. As with many non-profit organizations, MC-USA has been facing reduced contributions over the past few years. We are grateful to have the funds to make an additional contribution to support the work they do to support and resource all of the congregations in the denomination.

We also contributed \$1,500 to Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church. They had been receiving funds for food boxes that they distributed to families in their communities. Due to cuts from US-AID, the amount of food they were able to include in the boxes was limited to canned meat and other proteins. With additional contributions, they can include items like fruits, vegetables, rice, and other pantry staples. Susan Hart, the pastor of Koinonia, says "she cannot express enough your Church's generosity for us... What I can give you and your Church is our prayers for you... and our peace in Christ together." Let us remember to keep the Koinonia Church in our prayers as well!



CHURCH LIBRARY

New Books

**Sam's Place by Randy Quinn

**Drawing Near: a devotional journey with art, poetry and reflection edited by Eileen Koch

**CEB Student Bible edited by Elizabeth Corrie

**A Light to Share by Natalie Frisk (picture book)

**Sparkling Peace by Teresa Pecinovsky (picture book)

**Kofi and His Magic by Maya Angelou (picture book)

**Reuben and the Blizzard by Merle Good (picture book)

**Reuben and the Quilt by Merle Good (picture book)

**Stitched together by Aimee Reid (picture book)

**The Little Liar by Mitch Albom

**Many Hands: being good neighbors in times of disaster (MDS) edited by Julie Kauffman

Faith After Doubt by Brian McLaren



Justice Together Helps Make Huge Breakthroughs in Wichita

The Justice Together Organization has been busy this summer working with officials to make excellent gains for the Wichita community. Here are some of the huge breakthroughs Justice Together has won since May's Nehemiah Assembly:

New Low-Barrier ID Program:

The **City of Wichita** officially launched a **no-cost, low-barrier photo ID program** on June 30. This new **i9-eligible ID** can be used for applying to **jobs, housing, and critical services**. It's a direct result of our collective action and a breakthrough for people who've faced barriers to basic stability.

On homelessness:

Wichita is investing in a **new building** at Second Light (MAC), with **25 non-congregant shelter units and 50 permanent affordable homes**. The city has also committed 500,000 annually and millions in COVID relief funds to ensure success. The Wichita Eagle featured Second Light on the July 21st edition's front page!

On affordable housing:

Three City Council Members have committed to introducing a **\$10M/year Affordable Housing Fund** by November. Experts from Louisville and Lexington — cities with successful funds — are helping shape the policy right here in Wichita.

These wins are proof: **our faith, when organized, can change our city**. Thank you for being part of this group of organized people of faith!

-submitted by Wendy Wiens

Doctrine of Discovery

Hope Mennonite Church has studied and discussed Indigenous Rights and injustices suffered by Native Americans in several settings over the last few years.

The Women's book study group spent several sessions discussing the book, *"The Land is not Empty"*, by Sarah Augustine, co-founder and director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. In November of 2022, Hope hosted the play, ***We Own this Now***, by Ted and Company. Proceeds from the play were used to benefit the Kanza Heritage Society. Most recently, Ben Parker-Sutter led an adult Sunday School series on Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery.

We agree that the injustices were real and unfortunately continue to be real today. Such issues trouble us, and move us to action, but it is often difficult to know what one person, or one church can do. However, God is at work and hundreds of people across the nation are united to do what they can to expose violations of Indigenous rights, and to change the systems which perpetuate these injustices.

I was recently invited by Raylene Hinz-Penner, professor, author, life-long supporter of Indigenous Rights and member of Bethel College Mennonite Church to a meeting in North Newton. BCMC is a member of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery (Repair Coalition). The purpose of the meeting was to encourage other area churches to join the Coalition and form a larger group.

The Repair Coalition calls on the Christian Church to address the extinction, enslavement, and extraction done in the name of Christ on Indigenous lands. It was founded (2014) on Anabaptist faith tradition; the

Mennonite Church was instrumental in forming the Coalition. Visit **"dofdmennon.org"** for more information on the Coalition.

There are several steps to joining the network:

- **forming a committee or team**. This team leads the congregation/community in reparative action and the following processes:
- **education and lament**
- **truth telling**
- **restitution in budget**
- **response to calls for solidarity with Indigenous Peoples**
- **connection to the work of creation care with Indigenous land recovery**
- **commitment to organizing grassroots**

Visit **"dismantlediscovery.org"** for more detailed information on these seven steps.

Vine Deloria Jr. wrote the book, *Custer Died for Your Sins* in 1969. The title, alone, exposes the uncomfortable truth that the United States has profited from oppression and marginalization of Indigenous Peoples. We often sidestep any blame for or connection to past sins of commission and omission.

Nikki Sanchez (Pipil/Maya/Irish/Scottish) addresses us (settlers) in the book, *Healing Haunted Histories*, **"This history is not your fault, but it is absolutely your responsibility"**. Raylene responds, "I had always intuitively known this. I am where I am by design of my forbears. I can neither blame them nor stick my head in the sand. I am required by my commitment to my Anabaptist faith to respond."

What does this mean - for me, for us, for the church?

Would now be a good time for Hope Mennonite Church to seriously consider joining the Repair Coalition, joining with BCMC and others to become allies to those peoples who cared for the land we now live on for thousands of years prior to the construction of our cities, roads, and homes?

In what ways would this alliance fit into our strategic plan, to our vision, and to our mission?

Would this not be an opportunity to not only pray, read, and study justice, but also to DO justice?

~~submitted by Marcus Loganbill

ICT-Immigration Compassion Team

Two Sunday School sessions (April 6 and 13) addressed the immigration/deportation issue. Attendees overwhelmingly supported the idea that Hope should have a "plan of action" in place if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would show up at our doors.

Support was also voiced for placing a sign at our entrance indicating our opposition to law enforcement entering our building for the expressed purpose of questioning, detaining, and/or deporting members or guests at Hope.

As a result of these Sunday School sessions, Vision Council formed a committee dedicated to researching and formulating a comprehensive plan to address the current dilemma involving immigration, detention, and deportation of individuals in our community and country.

Brenda and Ryan Henneberg, Cindy Fast, and Marcus Loganbill make up the committee. We have called ourselves ICT, Immigration Compassion Team. Following is a summary of our activities and progress to this point.

On April 29, we attended a zoom meeting with Western District Conference leadership. Several churches were represented as we listened to Esmeralda Tovar-Mora, founder of Hutch in Harmony and founder/member of Kansas Immigration Coalition, as she reviewed current events in our area, and what churches can do to help. We were introduced to numerous resources – documents, organizations, individuals and nonprofits.

Members have also attended a “lunch and learn” in North Newton with Becky Teiwes, MCC Central State’s Borderlands Program Coordinator, who shared about MCC’s work with partners and churches at the U.S.-Mexico border. Another learning tour to the borderlands is scheduled for October.

We have gathered information and statistics about immigration, undocumented individuals, costs for deportation, current legislation, and other facts related to this issue. We have reviewed the policies of Family Promise regarding immigration status of their families and their toolkit for protecting immigrant families facing deportation.

In June we contacted and began communicating with Sarah Balderas, an immigration attorney with the Balderas Group. When asked what we, Hope Mennonite, a predominantly Anglo church could do to support immigrants facing harassment and potential deportation in our community, her response was – “probably the most meaningful and essential support we can give at the present time would be to support a Power of Attorney Clinic.”

We met with Sarah and others representing the Kansas Immigration Clinic on Friday, July 11. Plans are underway to establish one or more Power of Attorney Clinics in the very near future (August/September). As

we know more details, we will share with Vision Council and establish what our role might be in assisting with the clinic. We have also discussed inviting Sarah Balderas and/or Esmeralda Tovar-Mora for a Sunday to share with us.

Other activities and events which we could participate in collectively or individually have been discussed by the committee: sharing our concerns with our elected officials; offering monetary assistance to those detained; providing child care (foster care) to children whose parents have been detained or deported; designating a team for rapid response at Hope; participation in weekly demonstrations in Wichita; establishing relationships with the immigrant community in Wichita; and assisting with the work of the International Rescue Committee and other organizations working with migrants, immigrants, and undocumented workers in our community.

It is clearly evident that God is at work leading us to participate in this endeavor. We have the privilege and the opportunity to reach out to people in need in our community and make new relationships. We have been granted a specific task for countering what we feel is an injustice in our community and in our nation. We can demonstrate to a vulnerable and targeted population, experiencing discrimination and fear, that they have friends and allies who are willing to reach out and offer comfort, protection, and peace in a turbulent and uncertain time.

ICT welcomes other individuals to join us at any time. We will soon be finalizing our “plan of action” and making recommendations and suggestions to Vision Council and ultimately to the congregation. We welcome your prayers, most importantly for all immigrants, past and present, affected by injustice.

In the words of Esmeralda Tovar-Mora – “We need to be a witness for God loving all people. Our legal system recognizes personhood, not just citizenship... We must shift the question from *Who deserves rights?* to *What kind of society do we want to be?* When we protect the rights of the most vulnerable, we’re actually protecting the foundation of justice for everyone.”

-submitted by Marcus Loganbill

“The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself. For you were foreigners in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:34

Another article and August reminders are on back of calendar with the hard copies.



to reduce the toxic load these products may cause. These easy apps are available to help you make decisions even before purchasing:

1. Yuka - scan the bar codes on food and personal care products. It then gives an overall rating and also a rating and explanation of each ingredient.
2. Think Dirty - very similar to Yuka
3. Clearya - detects toxic ingredients sold online and gives safer suggestions. It lets users filter by specific ingredients to which you may be sensitive.
4. SkinSAFE and CosDNA – specific for people with allergies, eczema, and sensitive skin in general.
5. Detox Me – gives step by step guidance for reducing toxic exposures in cleaning supplies, personal care products, cookware, food packaging, and kids' products.
6. EWG (Environmental Working Group) – has a Healthy Living app and you can also sign up for emails. It's noted for its yearly posting of the Clean 15 and the Dirty Dozen fruits and vegetables. It rates over 120,000 products. It is also politically active and notifies you of bills moving through Congress so you can voice your opinion to your representatives.
7. Lead Safe Mama – a website founded by a mother of four concerned about lead toxicity in children. It rates hundreds of products for their lead content, and you will be surprised by the "clean" products that contain lead, like toothpaste, gum, candy, and crayons

So, go ahead, be informed, and make safer, less toxic choices for your body, house, and environment.

~~submitted by Annette Chlumsky



August Reminders...

Worship

August 3
Worship-Mike V.
Scripture-TBD
Pianist-Cynthia
Song-Adam
Prep-Connie
Tech-Grant
Host- Brenda L.

August 10
Worship-Mike V.
Scripture-TBD
Pianist-Vicki
Song-Lowell
Prep-Lori M.
Tech-Michelle J.
Host-Lee

August 24
Worship-TBD
Scripture-TBD
Pianist-Ruthie
Song-Steve P.
Prep-Ruthie
Tech Mike V.
Host-Barb V.

Front Door greeters

August 3-Marcus/Cynthia
August 10-Jim/Barb
August 17-Chris/Amy
August 24-Scott/Connie
August 31-Bob/Delaine

Sanctuary greeters

August 3-Ruthie/Natalie H.
August 10-Scott/Connie
August 17-Brenda/Cecil L.
August 24-Chris/Amy
August 31-Michelle J/Margaret

Nursery

August 3-Greg/Leah
August 10-Jordon/Emily
August 17-Jerold/Donna
August 24-Eldon/Annette
August 31-Donovan/Laurie

Coffee

August 3-Mike/Kim
August 10-Jerold
August 17-Eldon/Annette
August 24- Greg/Dawn
August 31-Marcus/Cynthia

Mowing

August 3-Travis
August 17-Jerold
August 31-Eldon/Clinton

August 17
Worship-TBD
Scripture-TBD
Pianist-Amy
Song-Galen
Prep-Russ G.
Tech-Grant
Host-Barb V.

August 31
Worship-TBD
Scripture-TBD
Pianist-Cynthia
Song-Treva
Prep-Joanna
Tech-Galen
Host-Renetta

August 10-Randy G.
August 24-Grant