

HOPE HEADLINES



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See you at Camp Mennoscah!

Heidi Johnson-Laws tells me that the first time she came to worship at Hope Mennonite, after driving past it for years, there was a sign on the door saying that worship would be at Camp Mennoscah that Sunday. Fortunately, she gave us a second chance the following Sunday.

This coming Sunday, October 26, that sign on the door will return. And for those who choose not to make the trip out to our annual retreat at Camp Mennoscah this coming Sunday, consider hanging out in the Fellowship Hall to greet those who happen to stop by! 😊

Camp Mennoscah is near and dear to Jesse and me. Jesse attended summer camp as a youngster. I tried, but the homesick bug got me every time. We would later serve on summer staff together (Jesse was the art guy and I was the lifeguard).

Our main point of contact with camp these days is over the annual camp t-shirt design. We love brainstorming what the new design might be every year, but it is entirely Jesse who creates and delivers the final product. Let Jesse know if you have a favorite, or better yet, let us know if you have an idea for next year. Or even better yet, wear your favorite Camp Mennoscah t-shirt to the retreat.

What to expect at Camp this year:

Hope worship at Camp will consist of singing, praying, and creating our own **Psalm for Hope at 40**. Whether you make the drive to Camp Mennoscah or not, consider praying with the words of Psalm 40. And as you pray with this Psalm, what kind of Psalm would you sing, pray, draw, write, or dance for Hope at 40

P.S. It turns out spell check does not like the word Mennoscah. In case you wondered about the name, Mennonites who build a camp along the Ninnescah River=Mennoscah.

P.P.S. The Ninnescah River's name comes from the Osage word for "clear water," and the area was historically a camping ground for various Indigenous tribes, including the Osage and Wichita. Hey Jesse, if you

are reading this maybe you can incorporate this into the next camp T-shirt design!



Care and Nurture News

Dates you will definitely want to put on your calendar:

Wednesday, November 5, 6:00 pm. Join for a pizza dinner followed by peppernut baking and many other Craft Bazaar prep activities. All talents can be used!

Tuesday, December 2, 10:00 am. We need muscles and creativity to decorate the Fellowship Hall for Christmas! Light snacks and coffee provided for nourishment of the body and soul.

Sunday, December 7 - Our traditional Holiday potluck fellowship meal together.



FREE FIREWOOD

The brush pile south of the Hope Home has been chipped. There are larger logs for firewood free for the taking. There is a trailer on the south side of the Hope Home which you may borrow anytime. The key to the lock is in the church office desk. Please help yourself! After November 9, the firewood will be placed by the street for others to take.

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



L-R: Ruth Harder, Carole Stevens, Brett Dewey, Linda Ewert, Matt Friesen, Marvin Zehr

Wow! What a weekend! The long awaited 40th anniversary celebration did not disappoint. From welcoming our former pastors (Doug Luginbill on Zoom) and their time of sharing, open house & reception on Saturday (attendance 109); to the incredible Sunday worship service of words and music (attendance 185 with 13 on zoom); to ending with our Chipotle lunch and fellowshiping together. What a heartfelt and emotional time for many to remember and reconnect. Thanks to everyone who helped make this weekend a highlight in the life of Hope.



Memorial Service
Alden Warkentin's 94 years of life was celebrated at Hope on September 26.



In a tribute to his favorite outfit – overalls – several family members donned their best that day. Alden's ashes were placed in the ground next to his wife, Barb.



Congregational Goals

With the basketball season just around the corner, let's talk goals- congregational

goals, that is.

Pastor Ruth will facilitate three Christian Education sessions the following Sundays: **November 9, 16, and 23**. Ruth will help us to reflect theologically and practically on the results of the last congregational review process in 2023, and how and when we might practice our next moves, aka our congregational jump shots, layups, free throws, rebounds, etc.

~~From the Discipleship Commission re: Adult Christian Education



Sanctuary Remodeling Project Update

We are excited to share that the sanctuary remodeling project is scheduled to begin soon! Our current plan is for the construction window to open Monday, November 17, 2025.

To prepare for this work, we will need the sanctuary cleared and ready by that date. Preparations include:

- Cleaning out closets
- Removing furniture and all décor from the stage
- Relocating the piano and easily movable AV equipment

The Worship Commission will organize the work above and we should expect to need some helpers after Sunday morning worship and Sunday school on November 16, 2025.

While our contractors cannot guarantee construction will start exactly on November 17, our goal is to begin as close to that date as possible.

Originally, the estimate was a six-week timeline for the project. However, because this period includes both Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, an extra week has been added to the schedule to allow for flexibility. This means the sanctuary will likely be under construction from November 17, 2025, through January 2, 2026. The goal is to finish sooner, if possible, but this timeframe accounts for minor delays.

An Advent like never before

It's about to get messy, friends.

Next month, after the Craft Bazaar, our Hope sanctuary is going to be wrapped in plastic—not completely of course, but enough so that everything in the sanctuary will need to be reconfigured, at least for a time.

With renovations come great upheaval. And where there are upheavals, stress and anxiety are usually there, too.

So, friends, let's practice the spiritual gift of embracing the mess. And what better season than Advent to embrace messiness? The act of birthing, whether physical or metaphorical, is often messy; births might be the greatest upheavals of all.

Theologian Debie Thomas, in her book, "Into the Mess and other Jesus Stories," admits that Jesus is much more comfortable with life's messes than most of us. For Thomas, Jesus prefers messes over life that is so-called polished or perfect.

So, with Jesus as our guide, let's have ourselves a Messy, Messy Christmas (and Advent).



Something to Consider

Routines. For some, they are comforting; for others, restricting or boring.

It's easy to get caught up in a routine: always driving or walking the same route, performing morning routines in a certain order, shopping at the same stores or making online purchases.

Some routines provide efficiency and a sense of normalcy. But how many of our routines are not helpful or even harmful?

Example: For the past several years, I've heard nearly everyone say, "Just order it from Amazon". While this may seem efficient or cost-saving, it does not address the fact that Amazon is known for poor labor practices and its founder has used his billionaire status to provide technological surveillance to the Israeli military, among other actions many of us would not approve of.

There are many other organizations that ultimately do more harm than good for the greater population. Until these corporations are held accountable and change these practices, I'm glad there are alternatives to spending our dollars with them.

We've all seen ads, logos, and signs about "buying local". Not only does this support community and local businesses, it helps to channel dollars away from some of the more unethical options that these larger corporations support. Supporting your local Farmer's Markets and local restaurants is another way to make a difference.

Below are a few links to websites or apps that offer alternatives to spending for goods and services. Purchasing power is one of the most effective tools to ultimately bring about a change. It is why strikes and boycotts ARE effective. It's why corporations will make an immediate change IF ENOUGH people speak with their money.

And, choosing to purchase an alternative to soft drinks/sodas/coffee is an easy way to funnel your daily(?) dollars from Coca Cola, Soda Stream, and Starbucks! Local coffee shops (community!) offer a better option for your own health as well. There are plenty of other drink and snack options than the major beverage companies.

While we can't control the effect of every purchase made (and sometimes there are no other options), we can make an effort by starting with one thing. What about cutting out 1 monthly streaming service and instead donating the monthly amount saved to a non-profit or another cause? Use the time to walk, listen to music or a podcast, read or catch up on sleep! (There are also alternative streaming services and independent media outlets to the major ones we all know of. I am in the process of researching these, as well.) Making a change isn't always convenient or easy, but the long-lasting effect often is worth the cost.

Pastor Ruth has referred to people, place, and power prefacing her sermons. Personally, I have felt a need to push myself to follow Jesus as a student of purchasing power.

<https://www.libro.fm> or librofm (audiobooks) OR use local used bookstores to order books

<https://bandcamp.com> (alternative to Spotify); also, Coda Music (newly launched app)

<https://bdsmovement.net/what-bds>

~~submitted Cindy Fast



In the Month of Thanksgiving consider journaling your gratitude. Here are the top 5 physical and mental benefits:

1. Lowers Stress - In 21 days of journaling, you retrain your brain to start automatically looking for the positives. After 42 days, levels of depression and anxiety decrease and levels of happiness increase.
2. Great Self-Esteem - Journaling gratitude helps you appreciate what God is doing for you, rather than comparing your life to others.
3. Better Sleep – Before you go to sleep think of the uplifting things that happened during your day, clearing your mind of anxiety and restlessness, promoting peaceful sleep.
4. Increased Optimism – Instead of focusing on all the negativity in the world, you'll magnify all the amazing things in your life and be a happier person.
5. Mood Boost- As you reflect on previous entries, you see proof that good things are happening in your life and realize God's abundance.

(From Jesus Calling Magazine by Terri Savell Foy)

~~submitted by Annette Chlumsky



Family Promise Our next hosting week for Family Promise will be November 29 - December 6. Please mark your calendars. If you are new to Hope and would like more information about Family Promise or wish to become a volunteer, please see Marcus Loganbill, Vicki Howard, or Travis Cox.



Thanks for our Hope congregation's tremendous support of Justice Together! We had two successful Listening Sessions: one for a pizza lunch and one via Zoom.

Around thirty people joined Hope's Justice Together Network!

Based on the results of the Listening Sessions, the local Justice Together office categorizes and tallies the concerns brought by the participants. Justice Together Network members will then vote on the priorities to be pursued in 2025-2026 at the Community Problems Assembly which will be held on November 6, 6 pm at First United Methodist Church, 330 N. Broadway. Last year's priorities were Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

The local Justice Together Organization continues to grow. This year St. Stephen's Episcopal, Heartland

Friends Meeting, Pleasant Valley, Holy Savior, Christ the King, Congregation Emanu-El and The Alliance of Overlooked Neighbors (not a congregation but participating) were added to the list of participating congregations. We're looking forward to a great year of doing Justice Together!

~~submitted by Wendy Wiens



Mennonite Action

On Friday, October 10, six members of Hope attended the "To Build our Courage" event conducted by Mennonite Action at New Creation Fellowship in Newton. Members attending were: Cindy Fast, Karen Zehr, Marv and Lee Schmucker, Marcus Loganbill and Laurie Regehr.

Mennonite Action (mennoniteaction.org) was formed in 2023 in direct response to the devastating destruction and loss of life in Gaza following the October 7 attacks against Israel's military and Israeli civilians.

Often, we are faced with injustices in our world, our nation and our community. We want to do something, but don't know how. Mennonite Action empowers individuals and congregations to live out their faith by engaging in well-planned and organized action.

Our time at New Creation included a training on responding to and nonviolently resisting law enforcement efforts to detain immigrants. Participants received relevant and useful information based on effective practices in nonviolent protest and resistance. We role played a tense situation in which law enforcement was attempting to confront and possibly abduct a person.

"After being on most of Mennonite Action's monthly virtual calls for over a year now, it was great to be in a room filled with others wanting to learn more about how we can prepare to respond to injustices when we see them in our community and around the world. One takeaway for me was how important it is to have a plan and to even practice for how you will respond to possible scenarios you might see happening around you." (Karen Zehr)

"The evening was one of good fellowship and learning how one can take action in instances where we might feel helpless to stand up for our faith. The experience was moving and powerful." (Marcus Loganbill)

In the words of Mennonite Action, "Our public actions send a powerful message to our political leaders, our fellow community members, and our...loved ones. Together, we offer an alternative to right-wing Christian nationalism rooted in a violent and oppressive vision of

Christian supremacy, antisemitism, and Islamophobia. Together, we are living out our deeply held faith values.”

Each month, Mennonite Action brings together their movement for virtual mass calls, to learn, pray, grieve, and strategize together. Throughout 2024, their monthly calls covered topics including liberation theology, indigenous solidarity, local organizing tactics, the history of Christian Zionism, and the connections between the occupation in Palestine and racial capitalism. To learn more about Mennonite Action or to subscribe to their alerts and newsletters go to: mennoniteaction.org
-submitted by Marcus Loganbill

KANSAS REPAIR COMMUNITIES

On Monday, October 20, Kansas Repair Communities met online. The group includes several area churches seeking ways we can become allies to Indigenous Peoples in our communities. Kansas Repair Communities formed out of the larger movement of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

We are focusing initially on advocacy efforts for the organization, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People during the next Kansas legislative session. Currently, there are an estimated 5,500 missing Indigenous women in the nation. We have made some initial contacts with the Kansas Governor’s Office on Native Affairs (knaa.ks.gov).

The group has begun to list ways in which we can educate ourselves regarding Indigenous Issues and events, agencies, or organizations where we can personally meet individuals from the numerous tribes living in our communities.

The Kansas Repair Coalition is seeking participation from more churches and individuals. Although the coalition has begun with Mennonite churches, we wish to become more diverse, including anyone with interest in efforts to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and seek justice for First Nations peoples.

At our next meeting (Tuesday, November 11), we will be meeting with author Laurie Dove to discuss her book, “Mask of the Deer Woman”. Ms. Dove holds a master’s degree in Creative Writing and Literature from Harvard University and currently lives here in Kansas.

In her first novel, a fictional mystery, an ex-Chicago detective, Carrie Starr, takes a job as a tribal marshal on the reservation her father grew up on. There, she investigates the disappearance of a young woman named Chenoa Cloud, a case that quickly reveals a much larger and deadlier pattern.

A study guide is available for the book. Marcus Loganbill is willing to lead a study group of the book. If you are interested, please let him know.

If you are interested in joining the Kansas Repair Coalition or want more information, please see Marcus. We meet regularly the third Monday of the month, alternating in-person and zoom meetings.

Reminder to:



On Sunday, November 2.



November Reminders...

Worship Participants

November 2

Worship L-Ryan H.
Scripture-Donna H.
Pianist-Ruthie
Song L-Lowell
Prep-Russ G.
Tech-Scott L.
Host-Brenda L.

November 16

Worship L.-Mike
Scripture-Leah
Pianist-Laurie
Song L-Trae
Prep-Joanna
Tech-Grant
Host-Kendal/Marjie

November 9

Worship L.-Ryan H.
Scripture-Leslie
Pianist-Ruthie
Song L-Adam K.
Prep-Ruthie
Tech-Mike V.
Host-Lee

November 23

Worship L- Mike
Scripture-Connie
Pianist-Amy
Song-Steve P.
Prep-Connie
Tech-Michelle J.
Host-Barb

November 30

Worship L-TBD
Scripture-Vicki
Pianist-Cynthia
Song L-Galen
Prep-Lori M.
Tech-Galen
Host-Renetta

Front door greeters

November 2-Michelle J; Jason J.
New schedule coming

Sanctuary greeters

November 2-Mike & Val
November 9- Steve & Sharon
November 16-Jared; David S.
November 23-Justin & Tiffany
November 30-Greg & Leah

Nursery

November 2-Eldon & Annette
November 9-Jared & Natalie
November 16-Justin & Tiffany
November 23-Clinton & Katie
November 30-Donovan & Laurie

Coffee

November 2-Bob & Delaine
November 9-Cuppa of Hope
November 16-Jerold
November 23-Clinton & Katie
November 30-Mike & Kim

Mowers

November 2-Jim B.
November 9-Scott L.
November 15-Randy



