
HOPE HEADLINES

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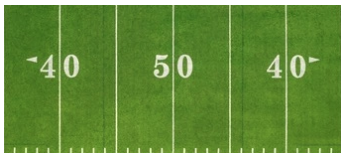
October 2025



Lordy, Lordy* look who's 40!

When I turned 40 (seven years ago), I put a lawn chair in my car, drove to the nearest football field, and sat

myself down on the 40-yard line. It seemed like the thing to do before taking another hoped-for trip around the sun.



There was a middle school football practice going on at the time, and to this day I wonder why nobody asked me to move or leave. It took a lot of restraint not to get my 40-year-old self out of that chair to go for a pass. After all, I was once the best 10-year-old football wide receiver in my hometown of Hillsboro, or so I

thought!

I told my friend Bonnie Sowers of this now-annual-birthday-tradition. That same year, she decided to make this her own tradition, only to realize that there is no 70+ yard line. Her two daughters—both professional football players and coaches—were embarrassed that their own mother was that unaware.

Meanwhile, Bonnie and I are trying to come up with a new birthday tradition. We are both still full of life and don't want to view time as "counting down." Likewise, I hope that our 40th anniversary celebration will build forward. May our field of vision be focused and expansive. As followers of Christ—the greatest playmaker of all—we've got many plays to draw up together in the next 40 years and the next, and the next. Let's GO!

P.S. A big part of me wants to draw yard lines and set up goal posts in the church parking lot; I will try to demonstrate restraint.

*Hopefully nobody takes offense of the word Lordy. I am thinking of how I learned the song about Noah called "Children of the Lord."



Coffee with Friends

The next gathering will be on Wednesday, October 8 8:30 am at Daphne Mae's 208 Main, Halstead, Ks



Our 40th anniversary weekend is just around the corner, and the excitement is building as welcome our former pastors, members and attendees, along with our current Hope church community. There are still invitations on the front table that you can pick up to remind you of the schedule for both Saturday and Sunday. We encourage you to consider making a special donation during Sunday's regular offering which will go to the Western District Church Plant fund and designate it as such in the memo line. All cash will go to the fund as well. It is a way of recognizing Hope as a church plant and the generosity of many as we began in 1985.

Should We or Should We Not?

by Ryan Henneberg

In May of 2022, Susanna Newsome wrote an article for Psychology Today titled "Why No Good Comes From the Word 'Should'". Newsome writes that the concept of "should" is critical and disempowering and leaves us feeling that we are not doing enough to meet our own, let alone everyone else's, expectations. She recommends replacing "should" in our dialogues with "could" or "want to" and question "why" when examining our motivations.

As one prone to introspection, I often find myself engaged in a one-person argument about the idea of what "should" have been done in the past or what "should" be done in a current situation. I regularly find myself rehashing decisions and conversations, trying to discover why I did what I did, said what I said, thought

what I thought. Could I have been more clear? Less abrasive? More kind? Less crude?

The dictionary defines “should” as “used to indicate obligation, duty, or correctness, typically when criticizing someone’s actions.” This definition falls right in line with Newsonen’s problem with “should”. Rather than criticize, perhaps we should try to inspire. I have an active imagination and there is nothing I love more than a good story to inspire. When it comes to a story about motivations and people stirred to action, I think of *In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon.

Written nearly 130 years ago, *In His Steps* is the story of what happens when Henry Maxwell, pastor of the First Church of Raymond (a fictitious town, west of Topeka, Kansas), challenges his congregation to start making decisions after first asking themselves “What would Jesus do?”. In the years since this book’s first publishing, many have found themselves prompted by the story to adopt the same questioning lifestyle. In recent years, as the fad of customized, silicone bracelets swept the country, you were likely to find a WWJD arm band on many a young person’s wrist.

The key to the WWJD movement is not just the day-to-day decisions we make as we strive to be more like Jesus. It is also the character development that occurs as we seek to be “imitators of God” (Ephesians 5:1). In the same way that children learn by imitating the little things they see their parents do, such as combing their hair or brushing their teeth, so, too, do we learn to be more like Jesus by doing the little things he did: seeing and welcoming others, meeting their needs, seeing to their welfare.

This idea of character following actions is not something unique to the Christian faith. Nearly 600 years before Jesus’s ministry, the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, “Watch your thoughts, they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions. Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.” Most major world religions, from Judaism to Hinduism, Islam to Buddhism, establish a relationship between what we do and who we are.

So where does this leave us in terms of the term “should”? It seems like a pretty good case is being made to keep “should” in our vocabulary, and perhaps we “should” [groan]. Maybe we need to reframe our understanding of “should”. Perhaps “should” is an invitation to join with God in the development of our character, one small action at a time.



In 2018, Hope Mennonite began its ministry as a host congregation for Family Promise of Wichita. The mission of Family Promise is to empower families with children to overcome homelessness and housing insecurity through a holistic approach, community involvement, and sustainable solutions. If you are new to Hope Mennonite Church and looking for a way to plug in to our ministries, Family Promise is an option requiring minimal time, expense, and expertise.

Together with Aldersgate United Methodist Church, we host families four times during the year for a period of one week. During that time, we need volunteers to: provide meals, set up for the evening meal, visit with families, spend the night, and transport families to and from the day house. Ask Marcus Loganbill for more detailed descriptions of each of these assignments.

In addition, there are many other volunteer opportunities at the Family Promise day house. Visit their website (familypromisewichita.org) to learn more and to fill out a volunteer form. In order to volunteer for any position in which you will be working directly with the families, you are required to complete two training modules available online.

Currently we are looking for someone to fill one of our coordinator positions. Please see Marcus Loganbill or Vicki Howard if you have questions about this specific volunteer position or about the Family Promise program in general.

Purchaser/Inventory Position

- * (alternating with Aldersgate) – will purchase food items and stock cabinets, kitchen area, and refrigerator; this will involve a mid-week inventory to see what else might be needed

- *(alternating with Aldersgate) – will purchase gift cards (usually Walmart) and welcome cards used to welcome our guests each hosting period

- *attend FP graduations and purchase gift or gift card for graduates (again alternating with Aldersgate)

- * Serve as the point person for setting up on the first day of hosting week

- *Maintain inventory of items in FP cabinets on lower level – diapers, first-aid, light bulbs, blankets, sheets, towels/wash cloths, area rugs, misc. supplies

- *Be willing to fill in for volunteers who have conflicts or emergencies during hosting week

- *Fill the role of “coordinator on duty” and open the church once or twice at 5:45 pm during our hosting week.

Immigration Compassion Team (ICT) News

As the Immigration Compassion Team (ICT) began meeting this past spring, we began by soliciting the help of an immigration attorney. We contacted Sarah Balderas of the Balderas Legal Group. Sarah encouraged us to assist their group with hosting a Power of Attorney Clinic.

We met for several weeks with Sarah, attorneys from the Wichita Bar Association, law students, and members of the Kansas Immigration Coalition to plan the event. On Saturday, September 6, over 60 attorneys, translators, notaries, and volunteers came together to help 66 families complete the necessary paperwork for their personal Power of Attorney.

In exit interviews with families, we heard many positive remarks. "Thank you so much. This is exactly what we needed." "We have lived here 25 years. We pay our taxes; we run a business and a dance company. It is not easy to know who to trust. Thank you for helping us feel more secure and appreciated." "Please have another clinic. We will tell our friends."

ICT of Hope Mennonite (Marcus Loganbill, Cindy Fast, Ryan and Brenda Henneberg) wish to thank all who assisted with the clinic: Mick and Kathleen Lehman, Margaret Wiebe, Greg and Leah Shelly-Unruh, Susie Jantz, Andrea Guerra, and Steve Pankratz. Thank you also to Witness and Outreach for providing funds for lunch, snacks, and activities for children.

-submitted by Marcus Loganbill

I had the privilege of helping at a Power of Attorney clinic for immigrant families. My role was simple on the surface, assisting with notarizations, but it carried a profound weight and painful "what ifs."

These parents came to make heartbreaking preparations no parent should ever have to consider what happens to their children if they are deported. By signing these documents, they are ensuring that their children won't be swept into custody of DCF but instead placed in the care of trusted family or friends. I am grateful to use my skills to serve in this way, to stand beside families and offer a little bit of security in such uncertain times. Yet it is impossible not to feel the sadness, the ache of what brings them here in the first place. To witness the love of parents who plan for their children's safety in the face of separation is both inspiring and heartbreaking. Their courageous, selfless nature shines through even in fear, reminding me of both the resilience of love and the harsh

realities that make such choices necessary.

You could feel fear in the room. The fear these families face daily, and even in trusting that this clinic was not some kind of trap. Their courage to come, to sign, and to prepare was extraordinary.

Helping with the clinic reminded me of the privilege of stability so many of us take for granted, and of the importance of community, stepping in to make sure children are protected, families are supported, and dignity is preserved.

Submitted by Andrea Guerra (Andrea is the daughter of David and Rita Schmidt)

JUSTICE TOGETHER BENEFIT CONCERT

William Eash was a former member/choir director at Hope.

**CHURCH OF THE SAV
CHAMBER CHO**
under the direction of Dr. William Eash



original block print "A Place to Call Home" by Sunny Overholt

A PLACE TO CALL HO
a choral concert to benefit Justice Toget
WITH DEBUT PERFORMANCES
OF ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
EMILY JUDSON & MIRIAM OVE



Our mission partners Joseph & Rachel Givens

"We've been in Calais for three years. In that time, we've been building connections, creating community, and seeking to provide a place of welcome to people who need it. We've begun to see the fruits of our labor in very real ways, but to continue our work we need your help. "The Maria Skobtsova Association has moved into a new house with five bedrooms, a large living and dining room, a laundry room, and — best of all — a garden that encircles the entire house. This provides space for children to play outside and gives their moms and the volunteers a break.

As I write this, I am listening to the sound of happy children playing outside, and their moms chattering cheerfully in various languages, while cooking lunch in the kitchen. This place is truly special, a temporary safe place for people who have been through unimaginable hardship.

We're unbelievably happy with this development and deeply grateful to the French foundation whose deep generosity made this possible. But to continue this work we need your financial support.

We've built strong connections with the French and Swiss Mennonite churches. Some of these are:

- A Mennonite pastoral conference in August.
- Visiting with the Anabaptist Network in the United Kingdom.
- A weeklong camp for young adults from the French Mennonite community to experience the Franco-English border.
- An Anabaptist book study and weekly worship.
- A monthly prayer group with French Mennonite leaders.
- A delegation from the French Mennonites' mission group visited Calais in September to dream about how we can better work together.

We believe God has called us to this work and has blessed it in ways we never imagined. But to continue our ministry here, we need to raise an additional \$36,000 for the coming year. We ended our first term with a surplus, and so we weren't required to raise the full amount for our

second term. However, we feel called to stay and continue our work here in France, so we need to increase our funding to do so. Would you consider partnering financially with us to love our neighbors in Calais the way that Jesus asked? Your gift will help us love our neighbors in Calais in ways we can't even imagine yet."

***To partner with Joseph and Rachel, click [here](#).



I recently had the joy and privilege of being immersed into the household of four of my grandchildren for five days while their parents left them in our care. The refrigerator was left very well stocked and of course, I brought along some Grandma favorites they love. They also know Grandma carries some novel foods to try like broccoli sprouts, green drinks, cashew crème, and kimchi.

We talked about raw foods and lightly steamed, stir fried, or roasted foods that are packed with live enzymes for digestion and higher levels of vitamins and minerals. We compared those foods to processed foods, microwaved foods, and foods cooked at high temperatures, all of which change their natural structure of nutrients and enzymes, robbing us of their essential nutritional value. I challenged them to choose a "live" (raw) food at each meal. It became a game as everyone checked each other's plates to make sure they had live food. What is "living" on your plate at each meal?

-Submitted by Annette Chlumsky



Hope digital policy notice

-A reflection from Ruth

Did you know that the root word of policy is a Greek word polis (πόλις)? Polis encompasses the idea of collective administration—guidelines that a community (or city) agree upon for the welfare of all. Of course, policies, and those who write and administer them, often fall short of this ideal. Still, we try to practice good polis, with the welfare of all in mind.

To that end, Vision Council has begun work on a Hope Digital Policy. We are including this first phase below of this approved policy below. In addition, we have established a Zoom waiting room for Sunday worship. We are still working through some snags and ways to improve this system. For example, we have now made it possible for those in the waiting room to communicate/chat with the Virtual hosts.

Hope Mennonite Church Digital Policy

Category: Virtual Worship

Policy Statement: *To ensure safety and maintain transparency within our congregation, all virtual worship participants will identify themselves either by displaying their full name on screen or by notifying the worship hosts of their identity. Participants who do not comply will be removed from the virtual worship gathering.*

A few more notes: Hope Zoom hosts have been instructed in greater detail about how and when to remove zoom participants if necessary. In addition, and out of an abundance of caution, we will temporarily work with worship video technicians to make some modifications as we sort through both the advantages and risks of recording our services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support in maintaining a safe and welcoming worship environment.

Hope Vision Council: Michelle Jantz (moderator), Renetta Gooden (secretary), Karen Zehr, Margaret Wiebe, Kendal Warkentine, Jerold Heide, Chris Teufel, Shelby and Tyler Kaufman (treasurers), Natalie Hand (Discernment), Pastor Ruth Harder (ex officio).



October Reminders...

Worship Participants

October 5
Worship L-Marcus
Scripture-Katie
Pianist-Laurie
Song L-Steve P.
Prep-Joanna
Tech-Scott
Host-Brenda L.

October 12
WL-TBD
Scripture-TBD
P-Laurie
SL-Treva
Prep-Connie
Tech-Mike V.
Host-Lee

October 19
Worship-Natalie H.
Scripture-Jim V.
Pianist-Amy
Song L-Galen
Prep-Lori M.

Tech-Grant
Host-Kendal/Marjie

October 26
**Church Retreat at
Camp Mennoscah**

Nursery

October 5-Ben & Grace
October 12-40th Anniversary TBA
October 19-TBD
October 26-Church Retreat

Greeters

October 5-Jan W; Natalie H.
October 12-Jared & Natalie
October 19-Donovan & Laurie
October 26-Church Retreat

Sanctuary Greeters

October 5-Greg & Dawn
October 12-Joanna; Carol P.
October 19-Mike & Val
October 26-Church Retreat

Coffee

October 5-Tiffany
October 12-Cindy
October 19-Bob & Delaine
October 26-Church Retreat

Mowers

October 5-Travis
October 12-Randy G.
October 19-Grant
October 26-Eldon & Clinton

Memorial Garden

October 5-18-Marcus



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