

# HOPE HEADLINES

PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH



Volume 41 Number 1

January 2026



## Mapping Hope

As I get ready for the Christmas Eve service tonight, I'm thinking about geography and maps. There is a great deal of traveling in the stories and characters of Christmas. Angels travel from mysterious realms, shepherds and magi travel use the navigational system of stars, and soon, the Christ child will travel through the birth canal, only to enter a world of instability and violence. More traveling is ahead for all, including the magi who will need to chart a different path home due to Herod's wrath.

We, too, have much traveling ahead as we navigate our ever-changing lives and world, not to mention our Christmas gatherings this week!. For some, health concerns have forced a new course. Changes in work or family life can also create the need for new maps, new orientation. Violence and instability, often out of our control, necessitate changes in direction, especially as we seek to follow the Prince of Peace.

Jan Richardson asks good questions related to maps. "What's your map look like?" she asks. "How would you chart the terrain of your last fifteen years, fifteen months, fifteen days? What landmarks would you note? What stories would your map tell? What are the maps beneath the map of your life—the hidden landscapes, the secret stories that shape the lay of your land? **Are there tools you need in order to do some new mapping—to revisit and rethink and redraw the territory you thought you knew, or to change the course ahead?"**

What if we would apply these questions to Hope Mennonite Church? What does our shared map look like? Is it time to create new maps together? I ask these questions because I'm starting to wonder if 2026 could be a year of mapping for Hope. This idea is only beginning to take shape, so I don't have more specifics. Plus, for this mapping exercise to work, it would need to be collaborative. Therefore, please start thinking about what such a mapping exercise might look like at Hope as we chart our course for 2026 and beyond. **"Are there tools WE need in order to do some new mapping—to**

**revisit and rethink and redraw the territory WE thought WE knew, or to change the course ahead?"**

I pose these questions with some degree of trepidation, especially as someone new to this congregational landscape. A mentor once told me that one of the reasons change is hard is because it feels like a (negative) judgement on the present. By suggesting a mapping project, I don't want people to get the sense that something is wrong and needs to be changed. Rather, I hope we can join together in affirming and making visible what can be affirmed alongside making changes, always with greater faithfulness Jesus' course in mind.

I'll close with more invitations from Jan Richardson.

"As we travel through these Christmas days toward Epiphany and the coming year, where do you find yourself in your map? What are you giving your attention to? Are you looking in a direction that enables you to see possible paths? Is there a turn you need to take in your map? Where might you begin? Who can help?"

And at Hope:

Where do we find ourselves on the course set by Jesus? What are we giving our attention to? Are we looking in a direction that enables us to see possible, more peaceful paths? Is there a turn we need to take in our map? Where might we begin? Who can help?"

~~Pastor Ruth

## All In

The newest venture of Anabaptist Disabilities Network is "All In: Immersive Worship for Everybody," made possible by a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

ADN is inviting 12-20 pilot congregations to go "all in" and join us on a journey of creating accessible, intergenerational worship through a five-year collaborative project. Together we will explore worship practices that engage people of all ages and abilities, such as art projects, dramatic reenactments of scripture, songs, and liturgy that can be learned with repetition. In addition, we will explore other embodied, multi-sensory practices, including traditional rituals like communion and anointing.



In August of 2025, Hope Mennonite was invited to join a 5-year grant-funded learning cohort through Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN).

Initially, Ruth felt hesitant given how many other things were going on this fall. Then she mentioned it to Natalie Graber-Regehr and due her excitement and willingness to take the lead, we barely made the October 31 application deadline. Hooray! (If you don't know, Natalie is a Physical Therapist who thinks about matters of disability and inclusion a lot.)

Since then, we have received word that Hope Mennonite was selected to be part of this grant program. (Hope was one of 19 Anabaptist congregations selected.)

**Natalie and Ruth, together with Vision Council and Worship Commission, believe this program will dovetail nicely into our congregational priorities of radical hospitality and support groups for those whose lives are impacted by disability of all kinds.**

Quick overview of the grant:

- It's a 5-year grant-funded cohort-based program. It's known as the "ALL IN" program.
- Hope will receive \$2,000 from ADN every year for 5 years. Total=\$10,000
- Among other things, these funds can go toward accessibility and inclusion efforts especially in the context of worship. This is why having Worship Commission support is critical. And while learning with and from children with disabilities is a big part of this venture, this project is intended for people of all ages and abilities and our growth in responding as congregations.
- Natalie Graber-Regehr has agreed to be the project lead for Hope. She (and one other person from Hope) will have an all-expense paid trip to a one-time only in person retreat in PA this coming Spring. Topics will include trauma sensitivity, mental health awareness, different learning styles, emotional/intellectual/physical accessibility in worship, etc.
- Natalie will start to create a working group here at Hope. Together, they will help her/us on how we spend the grant funds and be available for discussion, consultation, and learning and awareness and support around disability inclusion for all ages, especially in the context of worship. **If you are interested in being part of this ADN working group, please let Natalie know.** Good news is that several people have

already stepped forward, which tells us that this effort meets a need/desire here at Hope.

If this all seems a bit nebulous in your mind regarding purpose and fit here at Hope, you are not alone. This is a new venture for all of the 19 congregations as well as ADN.

Want more information? Feel free to visit ADN website: <https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/allin/>

*Congratulations*

On November 21, 2025, Katie Chlumsky was voted into membership (e.g. a Partner) at Triplett Woolf Garretson, LLC where she has been practicing since June 2022. She is in the civil litigation department and handles a variety of matters, including insurance defense cases, medical malpractice defense matters, and construction matters.



## IT'S BACK!

Hope Mennonite men's breakfast will meet at the **Egg Crate Cafe**, 8606 W. 13th Street North at **7:00 am** on **Wednesday, January 7** for our first meeting. We will have a separate room reserved on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** of the month when they open at 7:00 am, beginning on the 7th and going through March 18. At that time, we will determine if we wish to make any changes. All men are welcome to join us on any given Wednesday. There is no need to make contact with anyone or reserve a space. We realize this is not convenient for individuals who go to work early. However, if you have a free morning or have a flexible schedule, join us any time you are able. The Egg Crate Cafe is in the center across from Northwest High School.



Dates for Family Promise for 2026 are: March 8-15, June 7-14, August 30-September 6, November 29-December 6. If you are new to Hope and wish to know more about the Family Promise program, please ask any of the coordinators: Marcus Loganbill, Vicki Howard, Elizabeth Anderson. There are numerous roles for

volunteers during our weeks of hosting. A one-time online training is required to be a volunteer. Once you are trained, no further training is necessary. Drivers do need to have a background check completed every three years.



Glyphosate is the key ingredient in Roundup, the most widely used pesticide in the U.S. It is often sprayed right before harvest to dry out crops, which leads to high levels of contamination in our food. Grains (wheat, oats, corn, soy, barley, and buckwheat), beans and legumes, almonds, pistachios, apples, cherries, oranges, carrots, sweet potatoes, and beer and wine have tested particularly high in glyphosate. Glyphosate negatively impacts the gut microbiome, the central nervous system, and is a contributing cause of cancer.

Even when choosing organic food, it can be contaminated by the chemical drifting in the air. However, shopping organic is still the best option. Always rinse fruits and vegetables very well and/or soak in a baking soda solution for 5-10 minutes, then rinse.

There is currently legislation pending to ban glyphosate. For more information see [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org).



Care and Nurture invite you to stay for lunch after our annual congregational meeting Sunday, **January 25**. A variety of delicious (!) soups will be provided, along with crackers and bread. We are requesting salads/veggies/fruit sides or dessert from the congregation. Please **sign up** on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



A second Power of Attorney clinic has been planned for Saturday, **January 10** from 9:00 until 4:00. ICT members all have other obligations on this day, but Aposento Alto and Church of the Servant will be taking the lead - organizing, gathering volunteers, and providing lunch. The clinic assists individuals who may be facing detention and deportation. Lawyers, working pro bono, will help people receive the legal documents they need to ensure they have provided for the safety of their families and finances in case they are detained or deported.

If you would be willing to serve either morning (8:00 - noon) or afternoon (noon - 5:00), please contact Marcus who will submit your name to those in charge of recruiting

volunteers. Volunteers help serve coffee and drinks, greet guests and escort them to their attorney, supervise children, and provide lunch and snacks to the volunteers at the clinic. We are also in need of notaries throughout the day.

The location of the clinic has yet to be determined but will most likely be in north Wichita. The clinic is conducted with the cooperation of the Kansas Immigration Coalition, the Balderas Legal Group, and the Wichita Bar Association. Last September, we helped 66 families receive their documentation.



**You are invited!** As a supporting congregation of Joseph and Rachel Givens, we want to send you and your church members a special invitation to join us for the second Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage to Calais, France. Hosted by Joseph and Rachel Givens, you will have a chance to see firsthand the work they do at the Maria Skobtsova House with women and children who are on the move, and so much more.

### Itinerary highlights:

#### Day 1 - 2 (Paris)

- Arrive in Paris
- Beginning the journey reflection
- Lunch at Paris Mennonite Centre

#### Days 3 - 5 (Calais)

- Lunch and learning at Maria Skobtsova House
- Tour Calais, including Secours Catholique
- Visit The Warehouse, Refugee Women's Centre, and more

#### Day 6 - 9 (London)

- Travel to London
- Meet with Peaceful Borders
- Attend church service at Amott Road Baptist Church
- Discussion with women who have crossed into the UK
- Canterbury - Social Justice Network of the Church of England

#### Day 10 - 11 (Paris)

- Debrief and reflection times
- Sightseeing in Paris

#### Day 12

## Christ at the Border Pilgrimage

**Dates:** April 6-18, 2026 **Registration deadline:** February 1, 2026  
**Cost per participant:** \$2750 plus airfare to and from France

*This covers transportation, lodging (double occupancy), most meals, and more.*

Calais, France, is a migration hotspot that is relatively unknown in the United States. The situation in Calais bears striking resemblance to the situation at play at the United States-Mexico border. Thousands of people are trapped in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United States for a better life.

- Hosted by **Joseph and Rachel Givens**, Mission Network of the Church of the Servant, Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France, accompanied by other pilgrims.
- Interact with various organizations that are doing justice work with the migrant population in Calais.
- Meet in London with women who have completed their journey, hear about their journeys and new lives in a new country, and those who have experienced unimaginable trauma but who have not lost hope.

More than anything else, you can expect to be changed. You will be ready to be touched, and possibly even broken, by the stories of some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

**Pilgrims set out not so much to assist strangers but to**





## FINISHING THE RETREAT CENTER

Church matching challenges have been formally issued by anonymous supporters of Camp Mennoscah within the Faith Mennonite - Newton, Shalom Mennonite Church, Hope Mennonite and Lorraine Avenue-Wichita congregations, with similar challenges being considered at Eden, Bethel College, New Creation, Whitestone, and others.

These \$5,000 - \$10,000 matching challenges - if met within their respective congregations - would allow the retreat center to hit its fundraising goal for project completion by the end of March of next year and would be a HUGE milestone in the financial stability of Camp Mennoscah. Please contact camp's Director of Development at 620.755.2583 to discuss a match within your church!



## January Reminders

### Worship Participants

*January 4*

Worship L.-Jim V.  
Scripture-Chris B.  
Pianist-Amy  
Song L.-Galen  
Prep-Russ G.  
Tech-Scott L.  
Host-Brenda L.

*January 11*

Worship L.-Jim V.  
Scripture-Justin  
Pianist-Cynthia  
Song L.-Lowell  
Prep-Ruthie  
Tech-Mike V.  
Host-Lee

*January 18*

Worship L.-Lori M.  
Scripture-Natalie H.  
Pianist-Ruthie

Song L.-Adam K.  
Prep-Joanna  
Tech-Grant  
Host-Kendal/Marjie

*January 25*

Worship L.-Lori M.  
Scripture-Jake M.  
Pianist-Laurie  
Song L.-Trae  
Prep-Connie  
Tech-Michelle  
Host-Barb

### Nursery

January 4-Greg & Leah  
January 11-Donna H; Brenda H.  
January 18-Eldon & Annette  
January 25-Jordon & Emily

### Front door greeters

January 4-Jim & Barb V.  
January 11-Mike & Val M.  
January 18-Chris & Amy B.  
January 25-Greg & Leah

### Sanctuary greeters

January 4-Eldon & Annette  
January 11-Chris T.; Natalie H.  
January 18-Lowell & Dianne  
January 25-Scott & Connie

### Coffee

January 4-Bob & Delaine  
January 11-Jerold  
January 18-Clinton & Katie  
January 25-Scott & Connie

