

HOPE HEADLINES



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Diaries of a Trumpet kid

Easter, 1995

Dear Diary/God and Jesus,

I shouldn't say this on Easter, but I hate my mom right at this moment. My buddies and I were goofing off in the youth Sunday school room this morning and we missed our trumpet prelude. We felt bad. But then, my mom forced us to walk in front of the church at the end of the service and play what we had planned to play for the prelude. It was so embarrassing and so uncool to be publicly punished like that on Easter. Lord, you can forgive her, but I can't!

Love, Ruthie



PS I probably ate too much Easter candy. Oh well.

Fast forward 30 plus years, and I have a new confession: I find myself wanting to play trumpet on Easter. Please don't tell my mom any of this. She would say, "I told you so." 😊

And she would probably deny her actions in 1995.

Alas, I don't own a trumpet anymore. And I doubt I could play a single note even if I got my lips on one.

"Easter does not feel like Easter without a trumpet. The last time I said these words out loud, a trumpet-on-loan landed on my front porch. Excited, I gave it a whirl and all that came out was air and some spit and nobody needs that, especially on Easter."

I have grand childhood memories of my uncle Andy and brother Scott playing trumpet on important days like Easter. It has always seemed like the right instrument for an inexplicably joyful day. It cuts through the fog and doubt that I sometimes feel when singing, "Christ the Lord is risen today." I soar new heights of wonder and praise thanks to the sound of on-key, full throttled trumpets.

Don't get me wrong. I am confident that the music planned for Easter morning here at Hope will help us soar the heights of resurrection joy, even if trumpets don't make an appearance. And besides, I have found another way to get my Easter trumpet fix.

I will listen to Jim Groegaert, a musician and song writer that is a family friend, sing "Was it a morning like

this." He wrote this the year I stopped writing terrible things about my mom in my high school diary (1998).

I love the refrain of this song:

Did the grass sing? Did the world rejoice to feel you again? Over and over **like a trumpet underground**, did the earth seem to pound, he is risen?

What an image—trumpets underground, pounding in the earth, bursting forth with life and vitality.

Maybe in addition to listening to this song, I'll go and find some Trumpet plants for Easter this year.

What about you? What speaks of resurrected life for you? What helps you soar new heights of faith and wonder?

Have any of your own Easter confessions to share? 📣



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

*Maundy Thursday – April 2, 6:30 pm. We will start with a simple meal (please bring sandwiches to share) followed by a service in the sanctuary.

*Easter Sunday – April 5, 9:30 am. We will silently enter a darkened Good Friday sanctuary. As the service continues we will usher in Easter morning.





LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Hope's Vision Council, Deacons, & Pastor Congregation Relations Committee met for a Church Leadership retreat on Saturday, March 7. Special thanks to Scott Harder and Wichita Tech Services (WTS) for allowing us to use their space.

One of our activities was to reflect on congregational life and health through a SCORE lens. Currently Pastor Ruth is synthesizing our collective responses. And she invites more responses! If you want to fill this out individually, or as a household, or small group, please do so and submit what you wish to Ruth.

Strengths -What do we do well? What are we proud of? How do we shine?

Challenges-What is making life together hard or challenging right now?

Opportunities-Where or how might we innovate? Try new things?

Relationships-How would you evaluate the quality of our relationships with each other and the wider community/world? What is the level of hurt and or trust in our shared life and witness? How would you describe pain points?

Energy/Engagement -Are we working with effective and faithful purpose? How so? And how would you evaluate our shared energy level and engagement?



CALLING ALL LADIES!

Interested in Learning About the Feminine Side of the Cloud of Witnesses?

Did you know women comprise one-third of the accounts in Martyrs Mirror?

All Hope Women and Young Ladies are invited to the annual Spring Women's Salad Luncheon, Saturday, **April 18**, 11:00 to 1:00 pm. Please bring a salad to share.

Dessert will be provided. Our speaker is Wendy Funk Schrag from Newton.

With the celebration of 500 years of Anabaptist history, many stories were told about significant men who were leaders and martyrs, but we rarely hear about women. Wendy will be speaking on Courageous Anabaptist Women. Wendy participated in a history tour last May led by Dr. Kim Schmidt and Dr. Mary Sprunger focusing specifically on Anabaptist women living in Austria and Switzerland in the early years of Anabaptism (1520's). She will show some tour photos and share stories of specific women's lives and courage.

Wendy lives in Newton and is a member of First Mennonite Church. She also volunteers as the current chair of Mennonite Women in Mission. Wendy is an engaging speaker and is sure to help us discover interesting facts and stories about our early Anabaptist women ancestors.

Feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and family. Please RSVP on the bulletin board, call the church office, or sign up electronically on the Facebook page invitation.



Eating a nutrient-dense diet is a critical part of optimizing and maintaining health and vitality.

Fermented foods are a very potent source of nutrition. Fermentation produces "good" bacteria or probiotics to support your gut microbiome and boost your immune system. Consider adding a daily serving of fermented veggies like kimchi, raw sauerkraut, pickled cucumbers or cauliflower. Other sources are kombucha, apple cider vinegar with the "mother," miso, kefir, and yogurt (look for "live and active cultures" on the label and avoid the many heavily sugared brands.) If anyone is interested in culturing kefir grains, Annette Chlumsky has extra to share!



NEW ACQUISITIONS

- *Beyond welcome by Karen Gonzalez
- *What is the Trinity by Steve Dancause
- *Voices Together—Mennonite Hymnal
- *The Women's Lectionary for the Whole World by Wilda Gafney—4 volumes
- *The Bible as Story by Marion Bontrager
- *Benefit of the Doubt by Greg Boyd
- *The Bible Unwrapped by Meghan Good

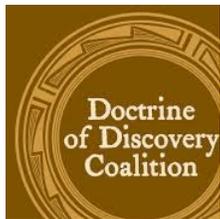
- *Intimate Conversations by Susannah Larry
- *James by Shiela Klassen-Wiebe (Believers Church Bible Commentary)
- *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes by E. Randolph Richards
- *Rethinking Life by Shane Claiborne
- *Unsettling Truths by Mark Charles

Children's Books

- *Every Neighbor by Sarah Nunally (picture book)
- *Lawn to Lawn by Dan Yaccarino
- *Lily Brown's Paintings
- *Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
- *Secret of the Peaceful Warrior

DVD

"[Grains of Glory: The Kansas Mennonite Story](#)" is a 2025 PBS Kansas documentary exploring how Mennonite immigrants transformed Kansas agriculture by introducing Turkey Red wheat, helping establish the region as the "breadbasket of the world". The film features stories of faith, resilience, and family legacies, including insights from Marion County residents.



MOVING TOWARD RIGHT RELATIONS

Staff from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery will be conducting a two-day workshop at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, Kansas on **Friday and Saturday, April 24/25**. Friday's sessions will run from 5:30 - 9:00 pm and Saturday's session from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you are interested in justice for Indigenous Peoples and moving toward right relations with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, consider participating in this transforming personal accountability training. All sessions will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the BCMC.

This event is sponsored by Kansas Repair Communities, MCC-Central States, Western District Conference, and the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. Meals will be provided Friday evening and Saturday noon. There is no registration fee, but registration is required (deadline April 17). [Register HERE!](#) or see the flier on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Contact Ada Schmidt-Tieszen (adast@bethelks.edu) or 316-842-9751 with questions or see Marcus.



Shine a Light on Hope: A Sanctuary Lighting Modernization Campaign Coming Soon!

Hope Mennonite Church is launching a special campaign to upgrade our aging sanctuary lighting system. Our current fixtures are outdated and beyond their intended lifespan. The new system—high quality Chauvet ellipsoidal, PAR, and batten lights—will provide clearer visibility, flexible color control, and improved lighting for music, worship leadership, livestreaming, and seasonal services.

In addition to the updated lights, the project will supply ideal lighting levels of 500–1000 lux, give us greater control and flexibility, and maintain the clean architectural aesthetic of our sanctuary. It is both a practical and transformational investment in our worship life.

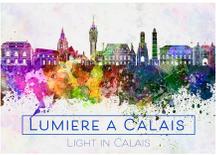
In the coming weeks, you will hear more about how to contribute to this campaign. In the meantime, you can learn more about the upgrade in this video: <https://youtu.be/BxrdRIR60po>.

We have created an informational video that you can access using this QR code.*



*If you have a smart phone, turn the camera feature on and focus on the QR image/code as if you are going to take a picture of it. A website link should pop up on your phone, which you can click on. That should take you to an informational video. Contact the church office if you would like another way to access the video. Office email: secretary@hopemennonite.org

CALLING MANY VOICES! Our choir has been invited to sing at the opening of the Justice Together Nehemiah Assembly on April 27, 6 pm. We will be singing "Hold On." This simple piece was written by Heidi Ann Wilson and sung by the people of Minneapolis in January while they were confronting the escalating ICE raids. Anyone interested is invited to join our choir that evening. We will have a brief rehearsal on Wednesday, April 22 at 7 pm which shouldn't last very long. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Loganbill, choir liaison.



FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS JOSEPH & RACHEL GIVENS

Our family is coming to the end of our second two-year term working at the Maria Skobtsova House (MSH) in Calais, France. This summer, we will visit the USA and spend some time speaking at churches about our experiences over the past couple of years. This has me reflecting a bit, so let me share some beautiful things and some heartbreaking things from the past year.

In 2025, we saw the true blossoming of our relationship with the French Mennonite Church. Rachel and I had the opportunity to attend a pastoral conference, during which we met and interacted with a number of pastors and leaders. It was a beautiful, refreshing time spent with people of a similar faith, with a similar drive for God's peace and justice. We're very excited about where these relationships will lead us. A group of young adults from the French Mennonites came to spend a week in Calais in February. They worked with a variety of organizations that support the local migrant community, including MSH. They also looked for how God is working here already and listened for how God might be calling them to serve the migrant community in their home communities.

In the midst of our optimism about these connections, we are sometimes starkly reminded of why we are here in the first place. In October, we faced a couple of extremely stressful situations, and it almost broke us. I can't share many details, but these situations reminded us that we are here for a reason and that we are not here alone. The outpouring from our friends and family was an incredible demonstration of that fact.

And, finally, I would be remiss not to mention that we made an urgent call for financial support at the end of the year, and you all showed up in a meaningful way. We are now secure enough in our ministry to plan for our next term in Calais.

If I could take one lesson into this year it would be this: We are not alone. I am working to learn how to lean on others in a more meaningful way, and you have shown me that I can depend on you to show us love when we need it the most.

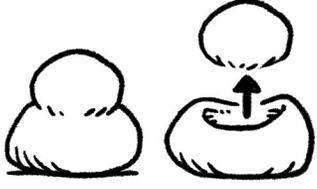
(Marvin & Lee Schmucker will be visiting the Given's family during their Mennonite Mission Pilgrimage to France in April).

FOODS ONE MIGHT FIND AT THE MCC* SALE



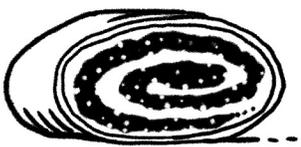
PEPPERNUTS!

THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF PEPPERNUTS, SOME ARE HARD AND TASTE OF ANICE. OTHERS ARE WRONG!



ZWIEBACH!

TWO BUNS IN ONE! PULL APART POCKET PERFECT FOR JAM OR HONEY!



POPPYSEED ROLL!

TASTES KINDA LIKE DIRT, AND THAT'S HOW WE LOVE IT!



VERENIKE!

CHEESE FILLED DUMPLINGS SERVED WITH HAM GRAVY. OR, IF YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, SYRUP.



BOHNE BEROGGI!

SWEET BEAN PASTE INSIDE A SUB DROWNED IN SWEET CREAM. NOT A DESSERT.

***MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**



We hope everyone at Hope will join us
for the most important night for justice in Sedgwick County!
Your presence will make a difference!!

Bringing faith into action

2026 Nehemiah Assemb

Mon. April 27th // 6pm - 8p

Wichita State University Eugene Hughes Metropolitan
5015 E. 29th St, Wichita



The 2026 Nehemiah Assembly will unite over 1,500 people from across Sedgwick County to call on local officials for community-driven solutions to gun violence, affordable housing, and homelessness. Answering God's call to do justice, our collective voices are gathered into one loud voice, we become too big to be ignored, and change will happen!

In the upcoming weeks, more information will be shared about the community-driven solutions that will be presented to our community leaders!

If you have any questions, please get in touch with a member of Hope Mennonite's Justice Together coordinating team: *Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, Grace Parker Sutter or Wendy Wiens.*



For April...

Worship

April 5
Worship L.-Mike V.
Scripture-Joanna
Pianist-Laurie
Song L.-Trae
Prep-Ruthie
Host-Brenda L.
Tech-Scott

April 12
Worship L-Ryan
Scripture-Wendy
Pianist-Vicki
Song L-Steve P.
Prep—Joanna
Host-Lee
Tech-Mike V.

April 19
Worship L.-Ryan
Scripture-Delaine
Pianist-Amy
Song L-Adam
Prep-Connie
Host-Kendal/Marjie
Tech-Michelle J.

April 26
Worship-TBD
Scripture-Clinton
Pianist-Cynthia
Song L-Lowell
Prep-Russ G.
Host-Barb V.
Tech-Grant

Front Door Greeters

April 5-Margaret; Karen Z.
April 12-Marcus & Cynthia
April 19-Clinton & Katie
April 26-Greg & Leah

Sanctuary Greeters

April 5-Jordon & Emily
April 12-Steve & Sharon
April 19-Jared; David S.
April 26-Clinton & Katie

Nursery

April 5-Any volunteers??
April 12-Donna H.; Brenda H.
April 19-Eldon & Annette
April 26-Jordon & Emily

Coffee

April 5-Annette
April 12-Jerold
April 19-Delaine
April 26-Clinton & Katie

Mowers

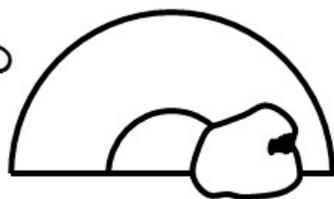
April 5-Randy G.
April 12-Jerold
April 19-Randy P.
April 26-Travis



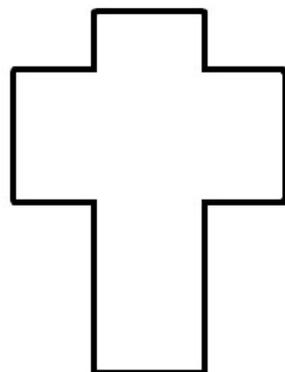
Easter Word Search

T H O R N S W Y S M L A P N G
K R I S E N Y C E N O T S E C
R E T S O O R D R K H O T V R
B E L I E V E S E O N H B I U
Y T P M E Z D X S Y S O C G C
E C I F I R C A S E A S D R I
E V I L A L N B M O T R B O F
S I N U I N N A I L S C T F Y
W V G F A E N P I L A T E E S
B R E A D E Y A R P D I E D B

ALIVE
BELIEVE
BETRAYED
BREAD
CROSS
CRUCIFY
DIED
DONKEY
EMPTY
FORGIVEN



GETHSEMANE
GUARDS
HOSANNA
LIFE
NAILS
PALMS
PILATE
PRAYED
RISEN
ROOSTER



SACRIFICE
SIN
SON
STONE
THORNS
TOMB