

HOPE HEADLINES



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Spam: It's a lot

And no, I'm not talking about the musical also by that title.



Anyone else feeling overwhelmed by spam emails or worse, scam calls or texts? At least once a week, I see something that looks legitimate, start responding, and then a yellow or red flag will go up in my mind, and sure enough, it is a scam. I've only been a victim once or twice, but that is all it takes to be extremely cautious when giving out any personal information, especially involving money requests. I'm most vulnerable when I'm in a hurry and don't pay attention to the flags that go up in my mind.

Scammers sometimes target pastors or churches. I know this from experience. At the former church I served, people regularly received texts or emails from scammers pretending to be me. The emails or texts sent under my name would often have a personal, pastoral vibe, such as: "Hi, it's Pastor Ruth. Sorry to bug you, but I'm out doing pastoral care and trying to find a few people at church who could help a member in need by sending gift card money." In one situation, five different people, of all ages from college-age to 80 years old, responded, with over \$500 in gift card money given to this scammer in less than five hours. I filed a police report but was told there was little to nothing that we could do to recover that money. Of course, I felt terrible even though I didn't do anything wrong. None of us did anything wrong. We were all victims.

I told myself that if I ever started at a new church that I would be proactive in addressing this scam issue. So here I am telling you that I will never email, text, or call you personally for gift cards (or any funds). If there are financial needs, there will be clear communication from the Church Moderator, Vision Council, or Deacons. Always error on the side of caution. If any yellow or red flag goes up, ask someone you trust to look it over with you. Even if no flags go up, it is best to have another person look things over before giving away money. You are always welcome to contact me directly should you

want to verify any message from someone claiming to be me.

Just recently, the office received a phishing message from someone pretending to be me asking for a copy of the church directory. This is usually how it starts. Thankfully, Cynthia and I realized that even though pastor was in the sender email, it did not include @hopemennonite.org

Any emails from me will include this exact sender address: pastor@hopemennonite.org Texts are a little more difficult to decipher. My cell phone is listed in the directory. Please save that in order to compare it to text numbers of those who might pretend to be me. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

-Pastor Ruth



An extra note from Pastor Ruth regarding fire safety.

During a recent meeting at Hope, a group talked about emergency evacuation plans and procedures. People wondered if we had ever conducted a fire drill on a Sunday morning. Well, I said somewhat jokingly, Pentecost is coming up (May 24). How about then? You know, should the tongues of fire get out of hand, we'll be ready.

Assuming I don't get FIRED first for this idea, we will be proceeding soon with a fire drill of some kind. Meanwhile, this is an invitation to pay attention to the exits and physical surroundings the next time you are at Hope. Did you know, for example, that there is an outdoor exit door inside the sanctuary on the south side?



Three cheers (and more) for Worship Commission chair Leslie James! This week, Leslie traveled with Pastor Ruth to Laurelville Retreat Center in PA. Both delirious from travel, they still managed to capture

this immaculate moment. What a good sport. What a team player! Worship at Hope is about to rise to a whole new level.



As my time with you here comes to a close, I would like to sincerely thank Hope Mennonite for being so welcoming and accepting of me as a social work intern within this community. From the very beginning, I felt supported, included, and encouraged by both Ruth and the congregation as a whole. Every day I was happily welcomed by those familiar and new. Your kindness and openness created an environment where I was able to learn, grow, and gain valuable experience serving others. I especially appreciate the time, guidance, and trust that was given to me throughout this internship. This experience has strengthened both my skills and my understanding of compassionate community support, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside such caring people.

~~Emma Graber



***Oaty Henneberg** – May 12, Northwest High School

***Daniel Jantz** – May 9, Friends University, BS in Marketing & Business Administration

***Adam Kroeker** – May 17, Baker University, with a Masters in Education

***Kate Parker**, daughter of Sharon Morford – June 19, KU Medical Center, anesthesiologist

Care and Nurture invite you to our annual Summer Brunch on Sunday, **May 31** after the church service (no Sunday School). Food will be provided, so just come and enjoy yourself with no agenda other than fellowship! It's certain to be an "egg-cellent" time together! Please sign up. See you there!



Protein is essential from conception to old age, but more is not always better. When protein intake increases without an abundant intake of vegetables, bone and kidney health may be compromised over time. The solution is simple and evidence-based: pair

protein with plenty of vegetables to avoid the unintended effects. The protein craze doesn't need to disappear; it just needs more veggies! Protein powers your body, vegetables, with their fiber, minerals, vitamins, and antioxidants, helping it do its job safely.



After so much change in the sanctuary over these past eight months, it's nice to have everything more or less in place again. Of course, the natural light filtering through the sanctuary windows creates an ever-shifting aura. After a recent mid-day meeting, Hope Deacons walked into the sanctuary only to find that the cross had dispersed across the sanctuary. How many cross pieces can you count?

"We read the cross so many ways: a sacrifice, a sign, a cause for grief, a cause for praise, a paradox to mine, a judgement on our lives of sin, a toll of death and pain, a junction where new lives begin, where grace and mercy reign. Our hearts will never comprehend the meaning of the cross, if all our definitions end at only death and loss. The cross that made the sun grow dim at reaching noon-day's height stands empty when the Easter hymn greets morning's welcome light. To bear the cross and follow Christ brings then both joy and tears, brings life reborn and sacrifice, brings hope along with fears, brings all the ambiguity of being dust and clay, yet brings as well the clarity of love's eternal way."- Thomas H. Troeger from *Voices Together*

Special thanks to Dave Miller for his ongoing creative work with our sanctuary cross. Have you noticed the butterflies taking flight? That's because we now have the ability to light the cross from within. We have Leon Greaser to thank for wiring the area of the cross for electricity.

Let's Do Some Justice Together: Come On Out to the Nehemiah Assembly!

Getting closer, closer, almost here...Justice



Together's Nehemiah Assembly! Let's "put our faith into action and do some justice" on *Monday, April 27 at the WSU Metroplex, 5015 East 29th*

St N, Wichita!

Our local officials who are scheduled to participate in listening to and responding to proposals concerning Affordable Housing/ Homelessness and Gun Violence Prevention are Wichita City Manager Dennis Marshall, and the three Wichita City Council Members: Joseph Sheppard, Dalton Glasscock & JV Johnston. Justice Together sends each official the proposals they will be asked to respond to ahead of time.

Pick up tickets for yourself and others on the Literature Table for this event. A carpooling signup sheet is available there also. If you don't have a ticket, come on out and you can just register on a signup sheet.

Justice Together's Nehemiah Assembly's people power has helped make major strides for justice in our community. In just three short years, here are some things Justice Together has helped to happen:

****A low-barrier photo ID program is now available to every resident of Wichita. This low barrier ID helps many marginalized people when seeking employment, shelter and benefits. (Great information about this on Justice Together's Facebook page)**

****The Integrated Care Team mobile mental health crisis teams now operate with 6 ICT teams who are able to answer calls 24/7. Each team is made up of a mental health professional, law enforcement officer and a paramedic. The team responds to patients who are experiencing suicidality, substance use issues, psychosis and delusions, and many other mental health issues that are emergent enough that cannot wait for other resources. Before Justice Together's involvement, there were 2.5 ICT teams in Sedgwick County and did not operate on weekends. (Great information about this on Justice Together's Facebook page)**

****A peer support and transportation program has expanded to serve over 300 people facing addiction and mental illness to help them navigate the transportation system and get them to health and other kinds of appointments.**

****Justice Together continues to monitor and encourage funding for the Multi-Agency Center (MAC), now called Second Light. This is a one-stop location for people experiencing homelessness to access emergency shelter, affordable housing, and support services all in one place.**

For more about Justice Together, please check out the website <https://dojusticetogether.org/> or its Facebook account. Looking forward to seeing lots of people from Hope and their friends at the Nehemiah! Come join us!



2026 MCC Relief Sale

The 58th annual MCC Relief Sale was held April 10&11 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. The preliminary total for the Sale is \$589,096.32.

The top sellers at the Vehicle Auction were a 1913 Buick Roadster (\$24,800) and a 1927 Seagraves Fire Truck (\$20,000). The top sellers at the Silent Auction were a Marble Tower (\$2,500) and a Bernina Sewing Machine (\$2,200). At the Quilt Auction 22 quilts sold for \$1,000 or more. The top amount for a quilt was \$3,200.

There were two other auctions at the Sale--the Children's Auction and the Surplus Auction. The totals and reports from all the various parts of the Sale will be included in the Sale book which will be handed out at the annual meeting which will be held in early June at the Maynard Knepp/Carol Duerksen farm. The check from the proceeds of the Sale will be presented to MCC at this gathering. Hopeful Blues will be playing at the annual meeting. Everyone is invited to attend this event.

There were good crowds and long lines at the Sale even though the weather was cold and rainy Friday evening. There were big crowds at many of the booths like the Fair-Trade booth, Quilters' Corner, Crafts, Plants & Things, etc. Popular foods were verenike, German sausage, New Years cookies, barbeque chicken, pie & ice cream, baked goods, cherry moos, thin pancakes, kettle corn, etc.



Thank you to all from Hope who gave coins for the My Coins Count project (\$817) for education around the world, volunteered at the Sale and at verenike making, donated pies,

zwieback and baked goods, donated quilt items to Quilters' Corner, donated items for the craft booth including recipe books, donated items for the various auctions, attended the Sale and purchased items and food. A lot of expenses were covered before the Sale even began so most income at the Sale is going to MCC for relief, development, and peace around the world.

Jim Robb has retired as Chair of the Sale and Eric Litwiller will be the new Chair beginning with the meetings and preparations for the 2027 Sale which will again be held at the State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson April 9&10 2027. ~~Margaret Wiebe, Hope's Liaison to the Sale



May Reminders...

Worship

May 3

Worship L.-Renetta
 Scripture-Ryan
 Pianist-Ruthie
 Song L-Trae
 Prep-Ruthie
 Tech-Mike V.
 Sound-Jesse
 Host-Brenda

May 10

Worship L-Jim V.
 Scripture-Margaret
 Pianist-Laurie
 Song L-Trae
 Prep-Joanna
 Tech-Scott
 Sound-Rod
 Host-Lee

May 31

Worship L-Natalie
 Scripture-Katie
 Pianist-Cynthia
 Song L-Adam K.
 Prep-Ruthie
 Tech-Galen
 Sound-Jesse
 Host-Renetta

Nursery

May 3-Jared & Natalie
 May 10-Clinton & Katie
 May 17-Shelby & Tyler
 May 24-Donovan & Laurie
 May 31-Taylor & Kevin

Mowers

May 3-Grant
 May 10-Eldon/Clinton
 May 17-Randy G.
 May 24-Scott
 May 31-Jerold

May 17

Worship L-Jim V.
 Scripture-David S.
 Pianist-Amy
 Song L-Steve P.
 Prep-Connie
 Tech-Michelle
 Sound-Leon
 Host-Kendal/Marjie

May 24

Worship L-Natalie
 Scripture-Jim V.
 Pianist-Vicki
 Song L-Lowell
 Prep-Russ
 Tech-Grant
 Sound-Galen
 Host-Barb V.

Front door greeters

May 3-Jason; Ryan
 May 10-Connie; Michelle
 May 17-Jim & Barb
 May 24-Chris & Amy
 May 31 Jan; Wendy

Sanctuary greeters

May 3-Greg & Leah
 May 10-Steve H; Russ G
 May 17-Donovan & Laurie
 May 24-Lowell & Dianne
 May 31-Eldon & Annette

Coffee

May 3-Scott & Connie
 May 10-Greg & Dawn
 May 17-Mike & Kim
 May 24-Any Volunteers
 May 31-Greg & Dawn

