

HOPE HEADLINES



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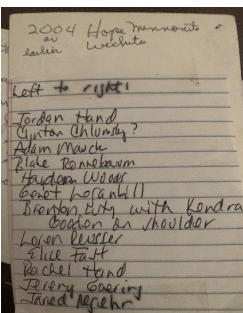
REMEMBERING LOREN REUSSER

Loren, may you enter God's courts with praise!



Last October, after visiting Loren Reusser in his home in North Newton, Loren's daughter promptly called Cynthia Loganbill to clarify something the new pastor of Hope may have said to him. "My dad thinks you are building a gym at Hope Mennonite and naming it after him!" After a quick laugh with Cynthia, I quickly got into damage control mode, lest that rumor spread like wildfire.

Yes, there was talk of a gym. "I hear that back in the day, you wanted a gym to be built on Hope grounds," I said. Right away, his face lit up and he reached for his Bible. Out came this photo, complete with this list of names. He teared up. Clearly, he loved teaching and mentoring the children and youth at Hope (and everywhere). He wanted all children to have open spaces to run, play, and grow.



As we went through this list of names, I smiled thinking about our current-day growing roster of children and youth. "Maybe someday that dream of a gym will be fulfilled," I said with a smile, "and maybe, if the stars align, we'll call it the Loren Reusser gym." In

his mind, that translated to, "Hope has started to build a gym and they are naming it after me." I would greet him a

couple more times in 2025-2026, and while he never remembered my name or who I was, when he connected me to Hope, he would say, "how's my gym coming along?"

As it is written in his obituary, Loren had "boundless energy." As a Bethel College athlete myself, I remember firsthand his launching of kettle corn bags into the Bethel crowds. He was over the top, chaotic, and somehow delightful all at once. When I was a senior, I rudely convinced some of the freshman on the basketball team that Loren lived in the Thresher gym.

Upon hearing about his death, my mind went to Psalm 100:4: "Enter God's courts with praise." Now I just need to find a megaphone of my own to shout this psalm into.

Whether or not a gym is ever built on Hope grounds, and whether or not his name is on it, may his memory live on. May we keep nurturing places for children to move freely, play, and grow, while in the company of caring, sometimes over-the-top adults.



The T-shirt reads as follows:
Legal Waiver of Release

I, hereby, waive my right to legal recourse should I fail to catch a perfectly thrown bag of delicious kettlecorn be the end target by eye or otherwise.

Sign here X _____

FACEBOOK INFO

Did you know that our Hope Facebook page is a place to see additional Hope reminders, photos, and reflections? Even if you don't have a Facebook account, check it out:

www.facebook.com/hopemennonitechurch

And for those who are anti-Facebook, or taking a Facebook sabbatical, or don't have access or interest in yet another communication platform, GOOD NEWS! We have started to print our Facebook posts, just so everyone has access. Look for the folder on the church bulletin board.

SAVE THE DATEVacation Bible School: **August 15-16**Family Promise week: **August 23-30**Hope kids backpack blessing(new):**August 30**World Communion Sunday: **October 4**CROP Walk Sedgwick County Park: **October 4**Church retreat Camp Mennoscah: **October 24-25**Craft Bazaar: **November 14****Mowing our Sacred Ground**

Our summer Sacred Ground worship series isn't complete without giving a shout out to our volunteer Mowing Crew at Hope! Let's be sure to thank our 2026 mowers: Eldon and Clinton Chlumsky (pictured below in our church shed), Travis Cox, Jerold Heide, Grant Bellar, Randy Pinkerton, Scott Luty, and the Grabers (Randy and Shirlyn).

A few anecdotes and pro tips from our veteran mowers:

- Did you know that a mower has been stolen at least two times?
- Mowers have been known to pick up an empty beer can or bottle of liquor, or so they say.
- If the wind is just right, all the grass blows right at you when you make a turn. (It's better now since the mower we have now doesn't have a side discharge but rather a rear discharge.)
- Better to stop, get off, pick up paper than to mow over it and blow shreds all over.
- Any time there are signs in the yard it adds an obstacle.
- We never know how early is okay when mowing near Hope Home.
- Sometimes it's too wet from dew to start as early as I'd like.
- Branches can be a pain, both on trees and on the ground.
- Animal encounters both dead and alive. Snakes, squirrels, foxes, geese, SO MANY MOSQUITOS, etc.
- Shout out to Marcus Loganbill who has made some areas easier since doing weed kills around some borders.
- We've learned never to go inside the church if there is a function going on, or you might be asked to be on the "clean-up crew". 😊
- Mowing in the Memorial Garden is always a challenge, although the finished product always looks good.

- It is sometimes dangerous to mow or trim next to Maize Rd. The cars flying by don't seem to notice us.
- We mow the entire property with the exception of Hope Home's backyard.
- We use a battery-operated weed eater and a battery-operated push (self-propelled) mower to mow the front area and memorial garden.
- Maybe we need a herd of goats or sheep?
- It would be interesting to calculate the area we mow in square feet or acres. Any volunteers?

Finally a reflection from Marvin Zehr, former pastor of Hope: "After the lawn was seeded in the late 1980s, Clyde Bradbury faithfully spent hours being sure it was adequately watered. As I recall he got permission from the city to connect to the hydrant that was located on the west side of the street and church. He then used a hose going under the bridge, which remained there for some time. He then used multiple hoses to irrigate using several sprinklers. You can imagine the time he devoted to this, having to water it every several days. It was fortunate that this was not done during the dry part of the season. As I recall, buffalo grass has been planted since because it is considered the most drought resistant grass."

As to the mowing, the church has always relied heavily on volunteers to keep it mowed. We have many people to thank for the development of the lawn. It takes many people and much time. Thanks to everyone that has helped to mow but we could always use more mowers. We are down to seven mowing crews (9 people). Each crew mows 5-6 times per summer and it takes about 2 1/2 hours each time to mow/trim.

One final note: Clinton remembers being a tag-along mower with his dad from the time he could walk. When he was approximately 10 years old, he attempted to use the John Deere riding mower. He was so little and weighed less than the 100-pound threshold for the safety switch. Clinton, does this mean your two young children will soon be ready to begin their mowing apprenticeship/debut?





The Dirty Dozen

Are you aware of the EWG or Environmental Working Group?

Every year they publish a list of

the Dirty Dozen and the Clean 15 fruits and vegetables after testing various produce for pesticide residues. For 2026, spinach again topped the list. It carries more pesticide residue by weight than any other produce tested. See the full list at: www.ewg.org

Several of the pesticides used in the U.S. are banned in the E.U. which is concerning. Does all this mean you should give up eating fruits and veggies?? No!! Two simple steps can help mitigate the toxicities. First consider buying organic produce, at least the ones listed on the Dirty Dozen. Second, use a simple soak of water and baking soda before consuming the produce. Use 1 tsp. of baking soda per 1 cup of water and let the produce soak for 5-10 minutes, then rinse well. For softer produce like berries, soak a shorter time and rinse well. Baking soda is available under the sink in the church kitchen for use for church events, with guidelines for mixing in larger volumes.



Hope Mennonite Church has been a host congregation from the beginning of this ministry in 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 or have some free time and a willingness to serve those in need, 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 our hosting weeks, we need volunteers to: provide meals, set up for the evening meal and visit with the families, spend the night, and transport families to and from the Day House. Hope's Family Promise coordinators are Vicki Howard, Elizabeth Anderson, and Marcus Loganbill. They can provide you with additional details regarding the program and get you started with the required training. Our next hosting week is **August 23 – 30**.

Family Promise is dedicated to maintaining a lifeline with their families after they graduate from the program. As families begin a more independent self-sustaining life, help is still needed. The staff has created a Thursday night continuing education program called **The Growing Collective**.

A series of classes is usually planned for 8 – 10 weeks. Families are involved in choosing topics for the program. This past year, families met at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church for a meal followed by classes for children, youth, and adults. There were often over 50 people in attendance. Parents learn parenting skills, financial literacy, communication skills, etc. Programs for youth and children are planned and organized with their needs in mind.

The Growing Collective offers another way for you to help Family Promise. You can prepare and serve the evening meal (a great project for small groups), teach a class, or assist with classes on Thursday evenings. Helping monitor the children is a big need right now. If you would like to participate (if even for one evening) in **The Growing Collective**, please see Marcus Loganbill or Amy Bellar, and they can give you more information.

There are many other rewarding volunteer opportunities at Family Promise. You can drive individuals to appointments. Your family can take care of a family pet while they are in the program. You can assist at the day house. Visit their website to learn more and fill out a volunteer form. familypromisewichita.org



News from the wider church

We regularly receive emails and newsletters from our wider church community, such as Western District, Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite USA women and men, Camp Mennoscah and more. We no longer forward those to the entire congregation but only to those who are interested. Currently we have about 20 family units receiving "Mennonite News." If you are not on that list and wish to be, please contact the church office to be added.

**AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL
ONLY**

PRIVATE AREA

Notice of signs

These laminated signs have been placed on the basement door; outside the Sunday School classes (basement) and the back-room church office. This is part of our on-going effort to be prepared if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrive at Hope. Note: This enables us legally to provide a safe and secure place for targeted individuals should ICE not provide a signed, official warrant.



GIVENS FAMILY

On Sunday, May 31, Hope had the opportunity to hear about the mission of Rachel and Joseph Givens in Calais, France. Thank you to Lee and Marvin for signing up for the Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage through Mennonite Mission Network and bringing back a first-hand account of the work being done to bring dignity to immigrants from around the world seeking shelter and asylum in Calais.

On July 19, Cynthia and I attended Grace Hill Mennonite Church to hear Rachel and Joseph give an update on their work. For four years, the Givens family has dedicated themselves to serving at the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais where they host mothers and children fleeing desperate situations and looking for new homes. These families face numerous obstacles and risk their lives to cross the Channel to the United Kingdom to seek asylum.

After four years of hosting families, the Givens will be remaining in Calais, still serving with the Mennonite Mission Network but making a transition to a new calling. Although no longer working at the Maria Skobtsova House, they will continue their work with immigrants and policies which affect them.

Rachel will work at Secours Catholique, a nonprofit accompanying women caught in the European refugee crisis. She will provide daytime programming and support services to migrants seeking refuge. Most migrants in Calais are from the the Middle East and various African countries. She will also be a member of the Maira Skobtsova House board.

Joseph will continue to coordinate regional connections with European Mennonites and the Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage. He will begin seminary studies in 2027 through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. His studies will equip him to provide pastoral care to all who need it, to reach out in love and faith to those on the margins, and to proclaim the Good News that Jesus has set us free to love God and to love our neighbor. Perhaps an Anabaptist Church in Calais is in the future.

In addition, Joseph has made connections with numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in France that focus on immigration, refugees, amnesty, and policies related to migration. He wishes to use connections he has made with these organizations to create a collective effort to support a community that

encounters challenges faced by refugees in Calais, emphasizing dignity, mutual support, and spiritual growth.

The Givens family has the support of five area Mennonite churches, but their financial support is currently at only 71% of what they need to continue their work. On Sunday, the 19th, Joseph gave a plea for individuals to consider monthly giving for their ministry.

Our congregational financial support for the Givens at Hope Mennonite Church is \$3000 per year. This comes to a per person contribution of \$1.67 per month or six cents per day. If you would like to contribute additional monies to the Givens ministry, to provide a one-time gift, or sign up for monthly giving go the following website...

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/workers/joseph-and-rachel-givens> and follow instructions

The mission work in Calais is difficult. It is emotionally draining. The circumstances of migrants are grim. Please keep the Givens family in your prayers as they continue bringing dignity and worth to people fleeing impossible situations and seeking a new place to call home and to be free from persecution.

~~Marcus Loganbill



Art, Improv, and Lego are Worship, Too! Kids Meet

Christ invites you to a fun

community event for anyone who wants to see what is possible when all ages are fully engaged in worship. Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN, and faith formation extraordinaire, will facilitate. Date: Saturday, **September 12** Time: 9:30am–2:30pm Where: First Mennonite Church in Hutchinson, KS. Breakfast and lunch included. Morning program is for all ages. The afternoon session will be separated into adult & children's workshops. Go to <https://forms.gle/AhLK7yB2ZLqV1jwo6>



Mennonite Women in Mission

Online registration is open for the annual Mennonite Women in Mission Women & Girls (ages 8 - high school) Retreat at Camp Mennoscah on **September 12-13**. Registration Forms are available on the website, although online is preferred. Information is at www.mennonitewomeninmission.org. The retreat theme is "My Time is in Your Hands" with session speakers Melissa Atchison & Audrey Ratzlaff. The girls' leaders are Schyler Entz and Emily Brandt with an additional girls tie dye bandana session with Marla Sowatzky Towe. If you have any more questions, please contact mennonitewomeninmission@gmail.com.



A huge thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS). At the sale's recent MCC Sale Celebration event, sale chairperson Jim Robb presented a record setting donation to MCC of \$850,000 from the 2025 Kansas sale.

Do you have any updated pictures that I can put online on our website? I would like to put more updated pictures within the website. Specifically the front page photos that go with the "Worship, Service, and Discipleship". We need to try not to use photos without permission of the folks in them. If you can get me the photos, I can do the requesting. Depending how many I may get, I will decide how and how many to use. Your help would greatly appreciated. Kim Voth

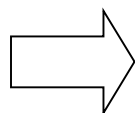


IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Worship Participants for August: (follow dates across)

Worship Leaders:

August 2-Ryan H.
August 9-Connie L.
August 16-Lori M.
August 23-Lori M.
August 30-TBA

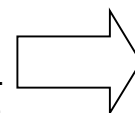


Scriptures Readers:

Chris B.
Justin R.
Natalie H.
Lowell B.
Lori M.

Pianists:

August 2-Cynthia L.
August 9-Vicki H.
August 16-Laurie R.
August 23-Ruthie G.
August 30-Amy B.



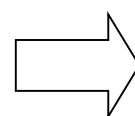
Song Leaders:

Galen F.
Steve P.
Lowell B.
Alex R.
Adam K.

Worship Prep & Tech for August:

Worship Prep:

August 2-Joanna P.
August 9-Connie L.
August 16-Russ G.
August 23-Ruthie G.
August 30-Joanna P.

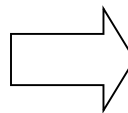


Tech

Mike V.
Scott L.
Grant B.
Michelle J.
Galen F.

Sound Tech:

August 2-Jesse G.
August 9-Rod K.
August 16-Leon G.
August 23-Galen F.
August 30-Rod K.



Zoom Host:

Barb V.
Lee S.
Kendal/Marjie
Brenda L.
Renetta G.

Other Sunday participants:

Front Door Greeters:

August 2-Donovan & Laurie
August 9-Greg & Leah
August 16-Margaret; Karen Z.
August 23-Clinton & Katie
August 30-Eldon & Annette



Nursery:

Donovan & Laurie
Taylor & Kevin
Ben & Grace
Jared & Natalie
Jordon & Emily

Sanctuary Greeters:

August 2-Clinton & Katie
August 9-Jerold & Donna
August 16-Lee & Marvin
August 23-Joanna; Carol P.
August 30-Mike & Val M.



Coffee:

Clinton & Katie
Eldon & Annette
Scott & Connie
Greg & Dawn
Delaine

Landscape Participants

Mowing

August 2-Travis
August 9-Grant
August 16-Eldon/Clinton
August 23-Scott
August 30-Randy/Shirlyn

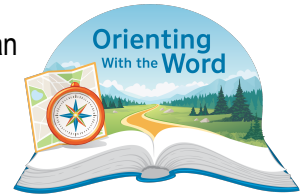
Memorial Garden

August 1-Joanna
August 2-15-Heidi J.
August 16-29-Carol P.
August 30-9/5-Marcus



Yet another acronym to learn at Hope! **Introducing an Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) initiative called Orienting with the Word (OWW).**

Starting in August and ending in December, Brenda Glanzer Lilliston and Pastor Ruth will lead an OWW pilot learning cohort here at Hope. They are in the process of selecting 6-8 people of differing ages and backgrounds to join them in what AMBS is calling OWW or Confessional Bible Study. Brenda and Ruth, as well as group members, will share more as time passes. Stay tuned!



Women's Bible Study options this fall. Join us for either or both!

The Tuesday afternoon Women's Bible Study will begin meeting **Sept. 8 at 1 pm.** This group meets concurrently on Zoom and in person in the church library. *If you are new to the group and plan on attending, please notify the church office.* The theme for this fall is "Prophetic Imagination – Stories to Resist Empire." Each week, each participant will receive an email full of Orienting with the Word (OWW) resources to enhance your Bible Study preparation and practice. No book is needed for this study. Brenda Glanzer Lilliston facilitates this study.



The Thursday evening Women's Bible Study will begin on **Sept 10, at 7 pm on Zoom.** *If you are new to the group and plan on attending, please notify the church office.* A Zoom link will be sent to those attending. The group will study the book **Better Ways to Read the Bible: Transforming a Weapon of Harm into a Tool of Healing** by Zack W. Lambert. In this compassionate guide, Lambert dismantles four common lenses for reading the Bible that led to harm, then offers four new lenses that promote healing and wholeness. This book welcomes all Christians--regardless of background, doubts, or wounds--to reengage Scripture in life-giving ways. Please purchase your own book or contact the church office by Sunday, August 23, to join a group order. The cost of the book is \$15. Brenda Glanzer Lilliston facilitates this study.



Jeremiah House is a faith-based transition house in Wichita for men coming out of incarceration and transitioning back into society. The house is part of Working Men of Christ and houses up to 12 men at a time. Since July of 2022, a few men from Hope have been leading a Bible study at the house every Tuesday evening. As residents enter and later leave the house, numerous opportunities for friendships and mentoring have been established.

"In particular I have valued the relationships we have made. These gentlemen often have little hope and very little support from family or friends. A handshake, a hug, and honest conversation is very meaningful to these gentlemen as they look to find their way after incarceration." Marcus

"I think the guys from Jeremiah look forward to seeing us each week. They are reminded that someone cares about them, supports them, and encourages them. We all learn from each other and pray for each other. Our involvement at Jeremiah allows us to get to know each other better and share about our faith and struggles." Randy

Many residents of Jeremiah House have attended Hope Mennonite and find our congregation warm and welcoming. They have also participated in numerous service projects, including Sandwich Saturday and workdays at Camp Mennoscah. We are always receptive for other men from Hope to join our crew. Currently we meet at 6:00 pm on Tuesdays. There are also opportunities to receive mentorship training through the Kansas Department of Corrections if you are interested. Please see Lowell Birkey, Marcus Loganbill, Randy Pinkerton, or Jim Voth if you would be interested in attending a Bible study session at Jeremiah or simply like more information.

Matthew 6:25-34

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

righteousness

kingdom

clothes

faith

worry

splendour

solomon

pagans

drink

hour

tomorrow

flowers

father

birds

eat