

Follow Jesus; Mature in Faith; Carry the Good News
At First Mennonite Church



Welcome to First Mennonite Church

June 9, 2024

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen Piano: Karen Wiebe
Worship Leader: Brett Esau Audio: Marv Goossen
Hosts: John & Zella Penner PowerPoint: Debbie Goossen
Ushers: Doug Casey & Bryan Heinz Video: Henry Trantham

Last Sunday: Offerings: The Foster Closet \$4,482; FMC \$750

Attendance: 128

Offering today: FMC **Next Sunday:** FMC

Happening this week:

Sunday, June 9 9:30 am Intergenerational Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship
Tuesday, June 11 1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Thursday, June 13 6 p.m. Education Council
Sunday, June 16 9:30 a.m. Dads & Donuts
 10:30 am Worship

June Birthdays:

3: Dorothy Zimmerman 4: Missionary Dave Stutzman
8: Neal Trantham
16: Van Vanderschaaf, Kollyns Hohensee
20: Gayland Regier 22: Rikki Hohensee
27: Deb Goossen 28: June Diller

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- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
 - **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
 - **Food Pantry** items may go in box in the narthex. Cash donations may be given to Dolores Jantzen.
 - Have a project for Men's Brotherhood? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
 - Our service is on <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and heard on **FM 107.5** in our parking lot. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org, under the More tab; select documents; church docs, minutes & bulletins.

First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org

Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org

Church office: 402-251-7180

Website: fmcbeatrice.org **Church email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857)

Don Esau (402-223-9210). **Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

P: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!

L: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

P: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.

L: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

P: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. AMEN.

Prayer

Hymn: "Come Thou Fount"

VT 563

Affirmation of Praise

L: Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into
darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into
being. For your Word of life, O God,

P: we give you thanks and praise.

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your
wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert
journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For
your Word of life, O God,

P: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us
to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed
by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O
God,

P: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the
sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near
to all who call on you, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: “When We Walk with the Lord” VT 570

Scripture: Exodus 19:3-6, 16-20

Sermon: “The Law and The Story” Pastor Josh

Hymn: “O God, We Read the Holy Law” VT 571

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: “As You Go Out from Here” VT 841

Offering to First Mennonite Church

Welcome! We are glad you are here! We hope to see you again soon! Our service is live streamed on YouTube. Search Fmcbeatrice.

Summer Intergenerational Sunday School will be held on June 9th & 23rd, July 14 & 28, and August 11. The Education Council would love to offer a light breakfast on the mornings we have Intergenerational Sunday School. If you would be willing to bring light refreshments for about 40 people, there is a sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Kids! Next Sunday, June 16, **bring Dad and have a donut** to celebrate **Father’s Day** at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall!

If you missed **Safe Church Training** (previously called Safe Sanctuary) there is an online option to make it up. Please watch the training video and sign the Memo of Understanding. Don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Sarah with questions. Video: <https://youtu.be/dGr8r5j60wY>
Memo of Understanding: <https://forms.gle/1u2akGFQHfbGtJvP7>

Congratulations to Jacob Jansen and Symantha Shelton who were married on June 8. May God Bless your marriage.

Homestead Harmonizers will be leading our worship service on July 7. A **potluck meal** will follow for the singers, spouses and our congregation. Drinks and table service will be provided. Bring a dish or two to share!

Thank you so much for prayers, cards, and food given to me during my surgery. I’m very grateful for a successful surgery, rapid recovery and good pathology report. It’s wonderful to have a caring community! Karen Wiebe

THANK YOU to all for your overwhelming offerings last Sunday of \$4,482 for the Foster Closet. That, plus the \$647.75 collected during VBS week, makes a cash total of **\$5,129.75 plus 106 clothing items to donate to The Foster Closet!** Thank you to VBS volunteers and kids for a successful Vacation Bible School week. **We are all party starters for Jesus!**

2024 MCC Golf Tournament June 22, 9:00 a.m. at Indian Trails Country Club, Beemer, NE. Cart & lunch included, \$140. Sign up by June 12.

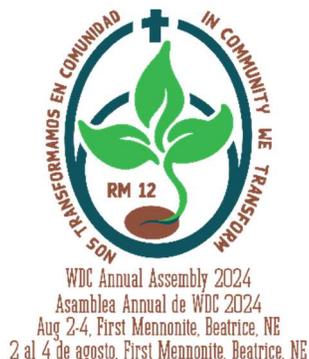
Western District Conference Annual Assembly is August 2-4. **Childcare help is needed** for those who are under age 3. If you are interested in helping, there is a sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please contact Pastor Sarah if you have any questions!

WDC Annual Assembly at FMC August 2-4. Assembly theme is “In Community We Transform” (Romans 12). Please find all the details in the bulletin insert. **Delegate** sessions are Saturday, Aug 3. Talk to Jerry Reimer if you’d like to be one of FMC’s 7 delegates. Pastor Sarah Neher will lead a session of the faith formation track Saturday, August 3 at Summit Street Church. Worship services on Friday evening and Sunday morning are at FMC. **Registration is now open at mennowdc.org.**

Join MCC’s School Kit Challenge and help us pack 24,000 school kits during the month of August to help 24,000 kids! Notebooks and pencils are a tangible message of God’s love for families around the world who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Without these items, many kids can’t get the education they desperately need. School kit packing is a meaningful and fun activity for everyone, whether it’s with your family, a group of friends or with Sunday school and VBS students. Signup at mcc.org/school-kit-challenge to receive MCC’s activity resource for kids to learn how school supplies help children around the world receive an education.

Today, June 9! Dedication and celebration of the new **Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)** Cabinet Shop and Warehouse at 604 E. Main Street, Goessel, KS from 4-8 pm. Free admission. Tour the cabinet shop, warehouse, a concert and MDS Storm/tornado simulator.

The **Gage County Historical Society and Museum** invites you to --
-- **“Big Blue Reservation: Struggles and Hopes of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe”**, on display through September 30. There are videos every Saturday at 11:00 am at the Museum presented by the National Parks Service.
-- **At the Library**, July 11, August 15, & Aug 29, at 6 p.m., speakers will give insight into the lives of the Plains Tribes:
-- **150th Anniversary Celebration of the Elijah Filley Stone Barn** July 13-14 at the barn with demonstrations, food, stage performances, outdoor church service, etc. More information is on the bulletin board.



FROM WDC: Join us for **WDC Annual Assembly!** It's not just for church leaders! It's for everybody! August 2-4, 2024 at First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE we'll worship, work, eat yummy local food, enjoy a Family Festival for all ages, connect with new & old friends, experience faith formation for all ages, and have many choices of great workshops. We hope you'll agree Annual Assembly is a great place to learn about and grow in faith in Christ in Anabaptist community, care for the broader church, and worship our God of love and justice with God's people in Western District Conference!

Assembly Theme: "In Community We Transform." We will explore Romans 12, asking what authentic Anabaptist Christian community looks and sounds like. How are we called to be transformed as followers of Jesus today? As we hear the concerns and joys of all of us in Western District Conference, we will explore what it means to respond to one another and the world with God's mercy, justice, and love.

Two Tracks: This year we'll have two different "tracks" going on at the same time. The Delegate Track is for those who are sent to Assembly as church representatives to help make decisions on behalf of our conference. The Faith Formation Track is for everybody else (except kids 3 and under) at Summit Street Church in town. Sarah Neher, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation and others will lead adults, youth, and school aged kids in a fun, creative multigenerational faith formation experience. She will also begin with an introduction for adults as to how we can do intergenerational faith formation well in our own congregations. Then there will be fun things—music, bible stories, art, and more—to do together with all ages. Vans will transport people who need it.

Family Festival! Saturday evening will be full of fun for all ages. There will be carnival-style games outside under tents provided by our ministry partners and homemade ice cream to enjoy. Cards and board games inside.

Church Delegates - This year's **Delegate Session** on Saturday, Aug 3, will be hybrid (both in-person & Virtual). Each virtual delegate will need to have the ability to join via Zoom on their own (not shared) device. On-site delegate work will be shared with virtual delegates via special conferencing technology.

In-Person Registration is all-inclusive (except for housing)! Your adult registration of \$100 includes Saturday lunch, BBQ supper and snacks, as well as access to workshops, worship and the delegate session or

intergenerational faith formation. (If you are a credentialed minister or minister's immediate family, it includes Friday afternoon snacks, too.) Children's registration (ages 4 to 12) is \$45 each. There are scholarships available for those with limited resources.

Virtual Registration of \$40 each gives you access to all worship services, virtual or hybrid workshops, and the delegate sessions with Spanish and English interpretation. If your congregation plans to host a "watch party" with everyone joining on one device, please consider sending a group donation (suggestion: \$300/group). (Each virtual delegate must join on their own device.) Thank you.

For more assembly information visit: <https://mennowdc.org/2024-annual-assembly/>

REGISTRATION is now OPEN! The Registration deadline is **July 21!**

Proposed action to be brought to delegates at the Western District Conference Annual Delegate Assembly on August 3, 2024, to release West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, from membership in Western District Conference (WDC).

The proposed action follows a process that took place over the past year: In May 2023 the WDC Moderator, Conference Minister and Associate Conference Minister liaison for West Zion Mennonite Church met with the Deacons at West Zion for conversation about their concerns regarding conference affiliation. Following further congregational discernment, West Zion Mennonite Church voted on January 21, 2024, to withdraw from membership in WDC and Mennonite Church USA. On February 28 the Church Council of West Zion Mennonite Church communicated this decision in a letter to the WDC Executive Board, stating *"We feel that Western District Conference has chosen to move away from the values that have set us apart as followers of Christ. We appreciate the many years that we shared together and will miss the relationships that have been formed."*

The letter was shared with the WDC Executive Board at its meeting on March 14, and on March 18 a letter of response on behalf of the WDC Executive Board was sent to the Church Council at West Zion Mennonite Church. The letter acknowledged that the congregation's decision had been discerned prayerfully and deliberately, lamented the ending of the long relationship between West Zion Mennonite Church and WDC, and offered gratitude for the congregation's many years of witness and mission as part of WDC, noting that we will miss West Zion Mennonite Church's participation in the conference. West Zion Mennonite Church plans to join the Evana Network.