

## Many Ways to Give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of “Ham and Eggs!”

“That’s nice,” said the hen. “A chance for us to serve the congregation.”

“Easy for you to say,” replied the pig. “For you, it’s a contribution; for me, it’s a sacrifice!”

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being *involved* in breakfast, while the pig is *committed*. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn’t all-in.

“People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon” are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, “without reservation” commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others’ stewardship because we all give differently.



# The Church Corner

August 2019

Volume 43, Number 8

CAST YOUR  
BURDEN ON  
THE LORD,  
AND HE WILL  
SUSTAIN YOU.

PSALM 55:22, ESV



### First Mennonite Church

427 West Fourth  
Halstead, KS 67056  
[www.firstmennonitehalstead.org](http://www.firstmennonitehalstead.org)  
Steve Wilcox, Pastor

Office Phone (316) 835-2282  
Steve’s Cell (316)-322-5651  
[rskw13@gmail.com](mailto:rskw13@gmail.com)

Sunday School—9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service—10:45 a.m.

“We are a community of believers who follow Jesus Christ as we receive and share God’s love.”

**We, of First Mennonite Church,**  
Valuing the convictions  
of our faith,  
Endeavor to:  
Engage our members in ministry,  
Expand community outreach,  
Embrace new people,  
In the love of Christ.

## Birthday Time!

As this is the day I work on a newsletter article and it happens to be my birthday, it seems only right to reflect on the event of birthdays. Birthdays inevitably roll around each year whether we want them to or not. How a birthday is greeted by people is as varied as the hues of leaves on trees in the fall. Where one may eagerly embrace the day another may do everything in their power to evade the relentless pursuit of this day. Ultimately this day will come and it will go leaving us more or less as it found us.

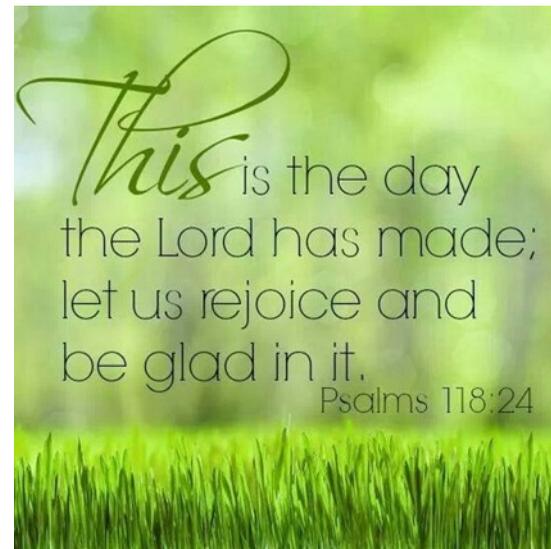
Birthdays provide a wonderful opportunity to peer back into the days we have tread since the advent of our birth. To observe the high moments and memories that have brought us to this day. Particularly to pay attention to, and give thanks for the gift of life given to us, however many years ago it may be.

For myself I enjoy looking back and thinking about different birthdays, as I have had no two alike. I have also probably approached each one a bit differently in my own attitude. In the early years there was a good deal of excitement building up to the celebrated day. Looking forward to spending time with friends and family enjoying food and surprises. Those things have remained, however, the level of excitement has waned. I still look forward to the day but with more of a lukewarm appreciation instead of a boiling excitement. I enjoy the element of surprise on these days enjoying never knowing entirely what the day may hold

or who will bless me with a birthday greeting. Those are things I appreciate.

Since the day can't be avoided anyway it makes sense to me to just go ahead and enjoy it, however, I recognize that others approach it more like Ecclesiastes 7:8, "Better is the end of a thing than its beginning." For those folk I suppose the greatest part of their day is going to bed knowing that with the dawn of tomorrow this day will have passed. I think I like the approach more in line with Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it." This day, much as any other day, including the day I was born, was a day the Lord made! For me, that alone is worth giving thanks and rejoicing. Praise God!

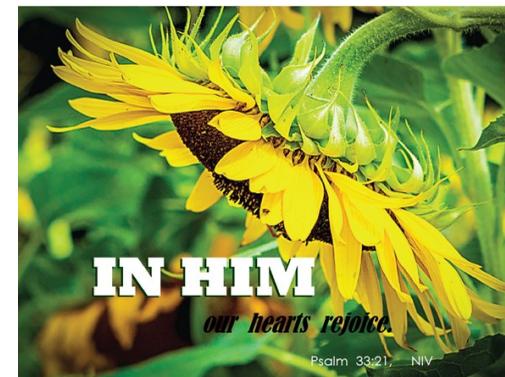
Blessings and peace to all,  
-Pastor Steve



## Camp Mennoscah

- ⇒ Sing for Joy, Sing for Camp! We're having our annual Camp Sing celebration of what has been an astoundingly fun and amazing summer of youth camps on August 11 at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church in Inman, KS. We'll start with a storytime from 5:45pm - 6:05pm, followed by joyous singing at 6:30pm. After joyfully worshipping in camp songs and hymns, we'll share in popcorn, pop and conversation. All are invited, whatever your age or skill!
- ⇒ The Mental Health Spiritual Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be September 1-2. The theme for the retreat is Living Peacefully! Come support each other and enjoy fellowship, music, and worship. This retreat is for individuals affected by mental illness, including family and friends. Register online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org).

Contact us at:  
[campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)  
or 620-297-3290



## MCC Announcements

**RSVP now for MCC Lunch & Learn on August 15:** Come to MCC for lunch and to hear from participants who recently went on the MCC South Texas Borderlands Learning Tour. They will share about their experiences and reflections on the trip. Lunch is served at noon and the presentation will start shortly after. A suggested donation of \$10 is welcome to help cover the cost of lunch. Please plan to join us for lunch, all are welcome. RSVP by Monday, Aug. 12 to [patsydirksen@mcc.org](mailto:patsydirksen@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720, MCC Central States, 121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St., North Newton, KS 67117.

**The 2019 issue of Mennonite Life, Bethel College's annual online journal, is now live at [ml.bethelks.edu](http://ml.bethelks.edu),** with articles and reviews by Brad Born, Sarah Balzer, Rachel Waltner Goossen, Mark Jantzen, Donald Kraybill, Alec Loganbill, Jacob Miller, Weldon Schloneger, Keith Sprunger and Melanie Zuercher.

**Are you looking for a sewing project?** Mennonite Central Committee is running low on school kit bags! You can review the guidelines and instructions at <https://mcc.org/get-involved/kits/bag>. Please contact Kate Mast at [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org) or 316-283-2720 with any questions.

**"Sacred writings are bound in two volumes – that of creation and that of Holy Scripture."  
–Thomas Aquinas**

(Continued from page 5)

### What We Will Do:

During this week of Independence Day, we acknowledge that the United States detains many migrants in inadequate and unsanitary conditions. We stand against the traumatic separation of families, the deprivation of basic needs, and the detention of migrants. Therefore, the delegates of Mennonite Church USA assembly condemn the abuse of migrants and call for a change in policy and action by the United States government.

### As a denomination we:

1. Recognize that no situation is so complex as to justify the building of internment camps and the abuse of children.
2. Stand alongside the undocumented members of our denomination, welcoming new attendees seeking God regardless of immigration status and honoring the gifts they bring and seeing the Image of God in them.
3. Advocate to the government for humane immigration policies at all levels, especially for children and other vulnerable people.
4. Affirm the 2003 resolution to “advocate for just and humane policies for immigrants and refugees by contacting local, state, and national elected officials.”
5. Seek connections with immigrant communities in our contexts and support those in sanctuary and the thousands of families whose loved ones have been deported.

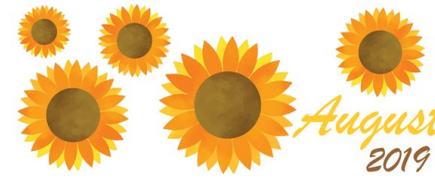
6. Encourage congregations to send members to the border region through MCC Borderlands tours and similar organizations to learn and witness to the conditions of migrants.

7. Support the work of Mennonite Central Committee and other organizations, local congregations, and community actions to meet the basic needs of incoming migrants; advocate for family unification; and support humane and sensible immigration policy changes.

## MCC Detainee Care Kits

Mennonite Central Committee is now collecting Immigration detainee care kits. When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they are taken to bus stations and airports to reconnect with their families in the U.S.

Please visit [mcc.org/immigrationkit](http://mcc.org/immigrationkit) for all the details of what goes into the kit and how the kits will be distributed. It is one small way we can share Christ’s love with our neighbors. All kit supplies should be sent to MCC Central States 121 E. 30<sup>th</sup>, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. Questions? Please contact MCC at 316.283.2720.



## Church Announcements



1. The monthly collection for Neighbors is **August 18**. Neighbors needs are pork and beans, sugar, shampoo. Donations can be left under the church mailboxes.
2. The deadline for the September newsletter is **August 26**.
3. Offering schedule for August:  
**Aug. 4:** MC USA/Church Budget  
**Aug. 11:** (Community worship)  
**Aug. 18:** Western District Conference  
**Aug. 25:** Scholarship Fund

## Treasurer’s Report

Budget balance @ 01/01/19	12,413.10
January–May receipts	40,684.71
January—May expenses	(49,383.70)
Budget balance @ 05/31/19	3,714.11
June receipts	13,390.40
June expenses	(10,166.67)
Budget balance @ 06/30/19	6,937.84

## MCC School Kits

Don’t forget to pick up your MCC school kit supplies while doing your shopping. We will dedicate our kits on Christian Education Sunday, September 8. Kit content lists are available at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org) or check your recent bulletins or our Facebook page.

## August Calendar

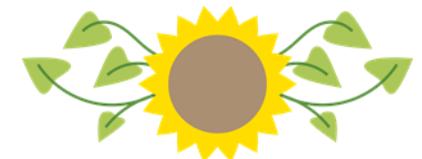
Aug. 3	4:00 pm	Abram & Emily’s Wedding
Aug. 6	7:45 am	Early Birds Breakfast
	6:00 pm	Nurture Meeting
	7:00 pm	Hospitality Meeting
Aug. 7	6:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Aug. 9	7:00 pm	Old Settlers Great Race
Aug. 11	10:30 am	Old Settlers Community Worship
Aug. 12	12:30 pm	Blood Mobile
Aug. 14	6:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Aug. 19	6:00 pm	Mission Meeting
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Aug. 20	7:45 am	Early Birds Breakfast
Aug. 21	6:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Aug. 25	5:00 pm	Ordination Service
	6:00 pm	Celebration Supper
Aug. 28	6:00 pm	Teacher Night

### Looking Ahead:

Sept. 4	5:00 pm	Kids Club Begins
Sept. 8	10:45 am	Christian Ed Sunday

## Prayer & Praises

- \* Give thanks for healing that has taken place for Maeanna Regier, Deb Castillo, Winifred Koehn and Larry Flickinger.
- \* Pray for the beginning of a new school year for the students and staff.
- \* Be in prayer for our new Jr. High Youth Group that will be starting this fall!



# What's up at First Mennonite!

## August Celebrations



- 1 Jerry Keller
- 1 (A) John & Pamela Keller
- 2 (A) David & Brocia Mueller
- 2 Randi Schaff
- 2 Rheannah Unruh
- 4 Derek Keller
- 5 Virginia Berger
- 6 Roberta Warren
- 6 Crescent Haury
- 6 (A) David & Monica Flask
- 8 (A) Michael & Roberta Warren
- 9 Doug Auernheimer
- 9 Taylor Nemeth
- 10 (A) Harley & Elaine Mohler (62 years)
- 11 (A) Jim & Lois Loflin (56 years)
- 13 Jennifer Penner
- 13 (A) Larry & Sharon Finley
- 15 (A) Rick & Sandy Allen
- 15 Rachel Klassen Gadue
- 16 (A) Larry & Virginia Berger (56 years)
- 18 Ruby Buller
- 19 Korbin Black
- 19 Tim Lewis
- 21 Larry Berger
- 21 (A) John & Debra Vogt
- 21 Abram Rodenberg
- 24 Betty Schowalter
- 25 Lillian Vigneron (92 years)
- 26 Marj VanWye
- 26 Monica Flask
- 27 Lloyd Voth
- 28 Allison Smoker
- 28 Jaren Smoker
- 28 Richard Schmidling
- 29 Marisa Schaff
- 29 Haylee Ewert
- 30 (A) Kenneth & Dee Ann Lintz
- 31 Ashlee Stucky

## Ordination for Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve has completed all his requirements for ordination. We will be having a special ordination service followed by a meal on Sunday, August 25. The service will begin at 5 pm and the meal at 6 pm. Mark your calendars for this special event in the life of our church.

## Kids Club Begins Soon!

Kids Club resumes September 4th for children 3 years to 6th grade. Our focus for the Fall session will be serving others. We will learn all about how we can serve God by serving others locally and globally. Invite your family and friends!

## School Supplies Donated

The 2019 - 2020 school year will soon begin. Thanks to generous donors, the Halstead Interfaith Council presented a check for \$2,370.21, from local congregations and the Lions Club, to the Halstead-Bentley School District to help purchase school supplies for students whose families qualify by income level. Our congregation contributed \$485.21 through Sunday School offerings and \$620 donated on Sunday mornings, for a total of \$1105.21. This is very much appreciated by the school district, the teachers, and the families.

## Churchwide Statement on the Abuse of Child Migrants

Proposed for consideration to the Kansas City 2019 Delegate Body on July 6, 2019

*33 When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. 34 The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:33-34*

### Summary

As a historic peace church founded on the principle that Jesus' life, death and resurrection call Christians into reconciled, righteous, and right relationship, Mennonite Church USA finds the treatment of immigrant families and children at the border, as well as around the nation, a horrific violation of the Image of God and God-given human rights.

### Background

We make this statement as part of our continuing effort as a denomination to work for justice for all people and in line with the previous resolution passed in Atlanta (2003) and revised after Phoenix (2014). Today migrants are detained at the border in both public and private facilities without adequate medical care. At least seven children have died in the custody of Customs and Border Patrol in the past year.<sup>1</sup> The United States government is currently in court to defend the claim that children should not receive basic toiletries and sanitary items. Children

are separated from families without due diligence or regard for the pain of that separation.<sup>2</sup> Customs and Border Patrol is not trained to care for children and should not be responsible for the care of children, especially at the cost of separating children from the loving caregivers accompanying them.

1 <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/why-are-migrant-children-dying-u-s-custody-n1010316>

2 <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAP-Statement-on-Executive-Order-on-Family-Separation.aspx>

As disciples of Jesus called to care for those in need, we believe the actions of the U.S. government are unconscionable, and we condemn these practices and commit, as peacemakers, to building better processes for migrants.

Jesus reminds us the greatest commandment is, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," and the second, which emerges from it, is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." When asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus made clear the neighbor is anyone whose path crosses ours at a time when they are in need. Across the country, our congregations' paths are crossing with those of undocumented families in need.

(continued on next page)