



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

January 6, 2021

### From Pastor Tom

It's 2021! What to preach?

The stable is down. We're officially finished with Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season, and are now in the church season known as the Season of Epiphany, one of the more thematically and biblically flexible times of year. (The next more structured season, during which we often follow a denominationally provided worship curriculum, is the Season of Lent, which will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17.) This provides an opportunity for the Worship Committee and me to evaluate the worship life of our congregation, and in particular that part of Sunday morning worship we know as "the sermon." During seasons such as Advent and Lent, sermons are typically based on one of the texts provided in the lectionary. Preaching from the lectionary still gives me a fair amount of flexibility regarding what topics, themes, or issues I address from week to week. But at this point in the Christian year there is even more flexibility, since it is less important that I preach from lectionary. And so it is a good time to hear from you.

What would you like me to preach about? Are there topics you would like me to address? Faith questions you invite me to respond to? Books or parts of the Bible you feel have been neglected from the pulpit? An idea for a multi-sermon series you would like me to consider (perhaps one you have heard about from another church)?

I invite your suggestions! Feel free to either email me at [pastor@fmchillsboro.com](mailto:pastor@fmchillsboro.com), text me at 316-617-9755, or leave a note in my church mailbox. (You can even snail-mail me at 502 S. Lincoln if you want! ☺)

### Let's Remember in Prayer:

**Joel and Nancy Klaassen:** Joel now "wears" a contact lens on his left eye that is treated to keep his cornea moisturized. The hope is that his cornea will continue to improve. They plan to remain in Atlanta through the winter, after which they may return to Hillsboro for a month at a time.

**Glenn and Janice Goertz:** Glenn and Janice continue to work at staying healthy and strong.

**Julie and Lloyd Anderson:** They are making two trips to KC this week: today for a new set of scans, tomorrow to receive the results.

**Bonnie Funk:** Bonnie will have surgery next Tuesday to finish removing the skin cancer from her arm, and then to close the wound.

**All those in our congregation** and community that are in quarantine and at risk of COVID-19.

**All others who are struggling** with illness of all kinds.

## Ways to Help

- ☞ **It appears** that our faithful microwave in the church kitchen no longer works. If you would like to share one with FMC, we'd love that!
- ☞ **MCC Comforter Blitz update:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, and batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact Kate at [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org), or 316.804.8432

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **The FMC annual meeting** is coming soon. Since the announcement Sunday, Ministries Council has agreed that it would be better to hold the meeting on **January 24** (rather than January 17 as announced). We hope to keep the meeting short but still valuable and important. Postponing a week will allow us to put the annual reports in mailboxes to give us at least a week to read them prior to the meeting, allowing us to slim that portion of our time together. In addition to approving the budget and slate of leaders for 2021, we hope to allow for some feedback and comment on life together during the pandemic. Your prayers and comments are appreciated as we plan this event to include as many of us as possible. Doug Miller, FMC Moderator
- ☞ **January 14:** Ministries Council meeting
- ☞ **Kauffman Museum at Bethel College** is partnering with Humanities Kansas to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" through Jan. 17. Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, "Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads," created from the museum's permanent exhibit "Of Land and People." The museum is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tues.-Fri (early close at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 31); 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sunday; and closed Mondays and major holidays (Friday, Dec. 25, Friday, Jan. 1). Admission to the "Crossroads" exhibit is free on Saturdays.
- ☞ **Mon., Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. – Bethel College's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will feature spoken word artist M'Yvonne Payne and former pro athlete and motivational speaker Chris Singleton.** The event will be held in *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*, with COVID protocols in place, and will also be live-streamed via YouTube at [bit.ly/bethelks-mlk2021](https://bit.ly/bethelks-mlk2021) Sponsors are the Bethel College Diversity Council,

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Student Life Office, with support from the Bethel College Women's Association.

- ☞ **Join MCC for a series of “MCC and me” webinars to hear more about service opportunities.** Are you ready to step out and into service? To gain new skills and experiences while working for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ? MCC is working to adapt our programming as the situation with COVID-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change. For more information and to register: [mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities](https://mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities).
  - January 13 at 3 p.m. EST: Summer Service leadership program
  - February 25 at 10 a.m. EST: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) summer staff
  - February 25 at 8 p.m. EST: International service worker
  - March 6 at 12 p.m. EST: International service worker
  - March TBD: Mobile Meat Canner

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Area Director for Central Southern Asia:** MCC is seeking applicants for the position of [Area Director for Central Southern Asia](#). The Area Director will be responsible to coordinate MCC's resources in impactful and mutually transformative programming. For more information and/or to apply, please visit [serve.mcc.org](https://serve.mcc.org).
- ☞ **MCC Representative for Haiti:** Are you looking for opportunities to use your leadership skills? The [MCC Representative for Haiti](#) provides programmatic direction to the work of MCC in Haiti within the MCC Latin America/Caribbean region. This position provides team leadership and support for all MCC workers in Haiti. For more information and/or to apply, please visit [service.mcc.org](https://service.mcc.org).
- ☞ **Canner Operator :** MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two-year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out [mcc.org/canning](https://mcc.org/canning) for details!
- ☞ **Applications for Camp Mennoscah Summer Staff** positions are now being accepted! Although there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current summer staff leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find the application and information online at [www.campmennoscah.org](https://www.campmennoscah.org) under Summer Youth Camps!
- ☞ **Youth Venture** is accepting applications for summer 2021! Discover and experience the work that God is doing in the world with a team of other young people as you serve, learn, worship, and build relationships. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture](https://MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture) to learn more!

## Weekly Inspirational/Encouraging Bible Verse

Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. —2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT