



FIRST  
MENNONITE  
CHURCH,  
NEWTON

**OUR VISION:** Together in Christ: rooted deeply, reaching widely, loving well

**OUR MISSION:** With Jesus as our center, we are called to be:

- Faith-Focused—Growing spiritually, anchored in God’s love and faithfulness.
- Mission-Minded—Sharing hope and grace through Spirit-inspired, passion-driven faith in action.
- Community-Connected—Worshiping together, welcoming, accepting, encouraging, and inviting all to follow Christ.

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# FMC CONNECTIONS

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April 2017

## MEMORY AND ACTION

As we near the end of the season of Lent and begin to anticipate the Easter celebration, it seems fitting to consider the ways that God has been at work in the world, from creation to this very moment. It also seems fitting to consider how we are being called by the Holy Spirit to *participate* with God’s movement in the world.

So I was interested to read this month a statement issued by the faculty of the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, one of our denomination’s centers for theological education and thought. I share a portion of it with you here because it holds together these movements of memory and action. It turns us both to scripture and to reaching out to our world. It is fitting for this late-Lent, pre-Easter season.

Here, then, is an excerpt from “AMBS Faculty Commitment to Right Remembering,” released March 20, 2017. You can read the full statement at [tinyurl.com/ambs-right-remembering](http://tinyurl.com/ambs-right-remembering).

“In this time of heightened tension and division in our

political, social and church arenas, we, as the faculty of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, commit ourselves to *right remembering* and *faithful action*:

- We remember that all of us are created in the image of God.
- We remember that we were all once strangers and aliens.
- We remember that people from every tribe, tongue and nation are welcomed into the reign of God.
- We remember that the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament and Jesus Christ all prioritized the welfare of ‘the least of these’— the widow, orphan, foreigner and the one in need.

“*Right remembering* requires us to say ‘no’ to any strategy or action that seeks to secure our well-being at the expense of others.

“*Right remembering* moves us to praise and thanksgiving for God’s love and welcome for each of us, no matter who we are or where we are from.

“*Right remembering* reminds us we are citizens first of God’s reign and are at home in God’s household.

“*Right remembering* inspires *faithful action*, emboldening us to offer love for God and neighbor with heart, body, mind and spirit through daily acts of creative, courageous witness to God’s reconciling mission.

“*Right remembering* compels us to say ‘no’ to disengagement and isolationism and ‘yes’ to all that contributes to the common good, builds community, seeks peace with justice and binds compassion to truth.

“It is to Jesus Christ, and to God’s reign, that we pledge our ultimate and unconditional allegiance. We pledge our allegiance with gratitude for God’s past faithfulness, the Spirit’s present guidance, and in hope for signs of new creation and new humanity in the future.”

As we come near to the holy week in which we first remember Jesus’ walk to the cross and then his resurrection that gives us hope and frees us from fear, may we allow our lives to be framed and guided by these truths of faith.

Remember rightly—

*Anita Keh*

## ROD AND ANDREA PAULS UPDATE



On March 13, I will begin a six-month sabbatical for the purpose of rest and restoration and also for personal and professional

development. InterVarsity allows (and highly encourages) its employees to take regular sabbaticals on seven-year intervals. This, of course, is based on the pattern we see in Scripture of God resting on the seventh day and of the land (and the people who work the land) being given Sabbath rest every seven years. Essentially a sabbatical is a time to step away from one's normal vocational responsibilities for a period of time so that he or she can attend to other things and be renewed spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. My sabbatical will have a number of pieces to it. I will be focusing

my attention on personal development through Scripture reading/meditation, practicing a variety of spiritual disciplines, reading books that can help me grow in some key areas, having regular conversations with a mentor and meeting with a spiritual director. I also will be focusing my attention on growing professionally by learning as much as I can about two different personality assessment tools that can be useful for me as a coach and trainer of staff members and the students I work with. I recently got certified to administer and interpret the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. I plan to continue to develop my skill in using this assessment tool and to understand more fully how it can help people with self-understanding and how it can help teams of people to work together more effectively. Another personality tool that I'm interested in is the Enneagram. This tool looks more at what motivates people and what sorts of things keep

them from becoming the people that God created them to be. The Enneagram also helps a person to see the pathways to wholeness and healing. On my sabbatical I plan to do a lot of reading about these two different personality assessments and learn as much as I can about how they can be used together to help people grow and develop. Of course, I also will spend as much time as I can with Andrea and Mattea and we'll take a couple of trips together for fun and relaxation. I also will work on some house projects and will take a trip or two to visit my parents in Newton, KS. All in all I think it will be a full, but refreshing six months. I welcome your prayers for me, and your continued financial support as I take this time to rest, and to grow as a child of God and as a worker in his vine yard.

Thank you for your partnership in this.

Rod, Andrea, and Mattea

### Caregiving Corner

Last month, the Caregiving Corner introduced the 5 Languages of Love. These "languages" are ways that we interpret and receive love, affirmation and feel appreciation. The first language that we will explore is the language of using words of affirmation. This language uses

words to affirm other people. For those whose language of love is words of affirmation, hearing "I love you" and other compliments are what they value the most. Words hold real value within this love language. In addition, negative or insulting comments cut deep—and are not easily forgotten or forgiven. In a community of faith, we are aware

that words of affirmation are important and need to be shared often. Persons who respond to this language of love feel appreciated and cared for by our words to them. Notes and personal words of care leave lasting good impressions for these persons.

## CHURCH BOARD REPORT

The board met on March 9, 2017. Brian Kennell opened with devotions and prayer using a reflection from [shortdailydevotions.com](http://shortdailydevotions.com) based on Romans 12:1-2, one of our 12 foundational scriptures.

The theme of the board's March meeting was Mission-Minded. Each pastor and Commission/Committee representative reported on their Mission-Minded goals.

The Nurture Commission reported that a three-person committee continues to work through the Safe Sanctuary policies looking for ways to clarify it and update it.

The Church and Staff Relations committee reported that Arlen Wiens will represent the committee on the Safe Sanctuary committee.

The Treasurer and Financial Stewardship Committee reported Local Missions giving in February was \$24,830.23 with \$28,508.72 in expenses. Year-to-date spending is \$7,164.03 more than giving. A suggestion was made to put an announcement in the bulletin reporting how much is needed each week in offerings to meet the budget. The Board borrowed money in 2016 from the Parsonage fund to complete the roof project. The Property Committee designated \$208 per month to repay the Parsonage fund in the 2017 budget. They are also using the \$7,000 balance in the roof fund to repay the Parsonage fund. It was agreed that the \$7,000 should be moved now to the Parsonage fund. Also, monthly payments will be put into the Parsonage fund until it is repaid.

The board approved Michelle Peachey Regier to fill an open position on the Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission. Names were provided by each board member of individuals that could fill the open positions on the Worship Commission and the Caregiving and Membership Commission.

The board decided to explore the possibility of updating the church logo. It was agreed that this would be a good time for a new logo to go along with our new vision and mission statements.

The Spring congregational meeting was set for April 23.

Ryan Koehn  
Chairman, Church Board

### **Congregational Ministry in the Face of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence**

On April 29, Western District Conference is sponsoring a workshop on how congregational leaders can respond when abuse takes place that affects the broader congregation. Kathryn Goering Reid, a credentialed minister and Executive Director of Family Abuse Center, Waco,

TX, will be our seminar leader. The workshop takes place at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS, 8:00 am-3:30 pm. Together we will look at models that have worked in some congregations and suggest actions that will help a congregation work through these complex situations. For more information, see [mennowdc.org/congregational-ministry-in-the-face-of-sexual-abuse-and-domestic-violence/](http://mennowdc.org/congregational-ministry-in-the-face-of-sexual-abuse-and-domestic-violence/). **Our congregation has paid the registration fee that covers attendance for everyone from the congregation who wishes to attend. Please let Pastor Anita know by April 16 if you plan to attend.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If you see these people,  
wish them a Happy Birthday!

Betty Roth—4/1

Brooklyn Erb—4/4

Sammie Simmons—4/4

Anita Kehr—4/6

Ronald Dietzel—4/7

Joan Boese—4/8

Kathy Andres—4/9

Helen Bachman—4/9

Dewayne Pauls—4/9

Amy Regier—4/9

Linda Shelly—4/9

Cindy Combs—4/11

Nora Miller—4/11

Paul Schrag—4/11

Dora Voth—4/11

Abigail Schrag—4/13

Elena Wiebe—4/13

Santiago Dorado—4/14

Elda Schmidt—4/14

Robin Simmons—4/14

Remember to pray for each other!

Miriam Goertzen—4/15

Maisie Martin—4/16

Jerry Regier—4/16

Tillie Jantzen—4/18

John Sommer—4/18

Marsha Schmidt—4/19

Connie Claassen—4/21

Neva Frey—4/22

Christian Krehbiel—4/25

Karen Regier—4/25

Deb Penner—4/26

Sheralyn Goering—4/27

Marjorie Janzen—4/27

Manon Ducroquet—4/28

Axel Ducroquet—4/28

Baptiste Ducroquet—4/28

JoAn Thieszen—4/29

Kathy Becker—4/30

Aundres Ray—4/30

Jared Reimer—4/30



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Eugene & Nancy Waltner—4/3

Arlen & Carol Wiens—4/4

Raymond & Janet Franz—4/5

Doug & Joanie Pauls—4/9

Harland & Oneta Unruh—4/9

Gary & Myrna Grochowsky—4/11

Charles & Romielda Wilmore—4/13

Dave and Elena Wiebe—4/19

Ron & Janelle Sybesma—4/22

Sean & Michelle Claassen—4/30

Happy  
Anniversary

## Holy Week Services

### **Palm Sunday, April 9:**

Sunday School at 9:15 AM, Worship Service at 10:30 AM

### **Maundy Thursday, April 13:**

All are invited to the Maundy Thursday Communion and Remembrance Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Come, bring your burdens, and hand them over to the One who carries them to the cross.

### **Good Friday, April 14:**

Newton Ministerial Alliance Good Friday Service  
7:00 PM at Grace Mennonite Church

### **Easter Sunday, April 16:**

Sunday School at 9:15 AM, Worship Service at 10:30 AM

# APRIL 2017

| Sun  | Mon                    | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                                      | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
|  |                        |   |   |  |  | 1<br>Talent and Hobby<br>Celebration<br>3-6 PM                                    |
| 2<br>Casa Betania<br>Service-4 PM<br><br>YG Bible Study<br>6 PM  | 3                      | 4   | 5<br>Youth Group<br>7 PM<br><br>Choir 7 PM  | 6<br>Nurture 7 PM                        | 7<br>FH reserved 8AM<br>-12 Noon<br><br>Sanctuary<br>reserved<br>afternoon/evening | 8<br>Sanctuary<br>reserved all day<br>Non member<br>wedding                       |
|  |                        |   |   | Homeless Shelter Week                    |  | MCC Sale  |
| 9 Palm Sunday<br>Casa Betania<br>Service-4 PM  | 10                     | 11  | 12<br>Youth Group<br>7 PM<br><br>Choir 7 PM | 13<br>Maundy Thursday<br>Service 7:30 PM | 14<br>Church Office<br>closed  | 15<br>Men's Grubfast<br>8:30 AM   |
|  |                        |   |   |  |  |   |
| 16 Easter<br>Casa Betania<br>Service-4 PM  | 17<br>Property 7:00 PM | 18<br>Women's<br>Fellowship<br>9:30 AM<br><br>Caregiving<br>7:00 PM | 19<br>Youth Group<br>7 PM                   | 20<br>Church Board<br>7 PM               | 21   | 22  |
| 23<br>Spring<br>Congregational<br>Meeting/Potluck—<br>Noon   | 24                     | 25<br>FH reserved all<br>day  | 26<br>Youth Group<br>meal/auction<br>6 PM   | 27                                       | 28   | 29<br>WDC workshop<br>8:00 AM-3:30 PM<br>First Mennonite<br>Church—<br>Hutchinson |
| 30<br>KS Men's Chorus<br>Pressor Hall-<br>Lindsborg<br>4:30 PM   |                        |   |   |  |  | Men and Boys Retreat  |
| All events must be scheduled in the Church Office and cannot be scheduled more than six months in advance. |                        |   |   |  |  |   |

## FMC Connections

First Mennonite Church  
PO Box 291  
429 East First Street  
Newton, KS 67114

April 2017

Spring

## First Mennonite Church Youth Extravaganza!

**Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 PM (Auction begins at 6:45 PM)**

There will be a free meal followed by the bi-annual auction in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be auctioning many items donated by the youth and members of our congregation.

The youth will be auctioning off some of their time for work jobs and food!

Come early to scope out all the donations starting at 6:00 PM.

Babysitting will be provided.

Free ice cream bars for all!



A great time for fun  
and fellowship!!



Harland Unruh, auctioneer