

Sharing from Roger Neufeld Smith

July 19, 2020

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Meditation music

Precious Lord, take my hand
Donna Stucky, organ/piano

Call to worship

Marsha Schmidt

Words for the children

Jenna Ratzlaff

Scripture

James 2:1-4; 8-9; 14-17
Marsha Schmidt

Sharing and Reflections

Roger Neufeld Smith

Song of Response

Lord, I want to be a Christian
Joan Entz

Prayers of the church

Susan Jantzen, pastor

Sending song

Move in our Midst
Joan Entz

Closing music

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Donna Stucky, organ/piano

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***Check email on Sunday morning around 10:30 AM for You Tube and Vimeo links to this service. Thanks to Joey Menninga and Ryan Koehn for recording and editing this service.**

Prayer and Praise Notes

July 19, 2020

“If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:9-10). Give thanks for God’s accompanying presence in all times and places.

Praise God for First Mennonite Church. Pray especially this week in gratitude and petition for those who are in their 30’s.

Pray in thanksgiving for Roger Smith and his ministry, with wife Cynthia Neufeld Smith, in Mississippi these last two years with Mennonite Mission Network’s Service Adventure.

Pray for Helen Entz’s family, including Alan, Joan, Ethan, Schyler, and Camryn, who remembered her life with gratitude at a graveside service last Saturday.

Pray for the transition in the way we record our worship services.

Pray for those who are experiencing brokenness in body, mind, emotion, or relationships right now.

In regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world:

- Pray for those suffering from the illness.
- Pray for health-care workers in this season, especially in areas that are running out of hospital capacity.
- Pray for those who are experiencing economic devastation.
- Pray the State of Kansas, including Harvey County, which is experiencing an upsurge in cases.
- Pray for parents of school children who need to make decisions about the coming year.
- Keep on praying for school leaders at every level who are making plans to educate their students well, however that may look this fall.
- Pray for children who are more vulnerable now because of stressors from COVID-19 that cause unsafe conditions in their homes.

From Western District Conference: Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower and guide WDC’s online gathering for Annual Assembly next weekend, as we engage the theme “Living in Exile.”

From Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Stanley W. Green’s last day as MMN’s executive director on July 31 after 27 years of faithful service. Pray for Stanley and his wife, Ursula, as they settle in California where Stanley will work as conference minister for the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Ask God’s wisdom for Michael J. Sherrill as he becomes executive director on August 1.

Upcoming Worship Services

July 26—Youth Sunday

Happy Birthday

Nancy Entz—July 21
Willis Harder—July 25

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
- Mission-Minded
- Community-Connected



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS

Announcements

The offering today is for Local Mission and on July 26 it will be for Local Mission.

Offerings can be sent to the church at P. O. Box 291, 429 E. First Street, Newton, KS 67114. There is also an offering plate in the Court Area that will be checked daily if you want to drop your gifts off at church. Please mark the designation of your offering. If left unmarked, it will go to Local Mission. For electronic giving, go to the church website (firstmennonitenewton.org) or contact the church office. **YOU REALLY CAN NOW DESIGNATE FUNDS—either for one-time giving or with a profile.**

This week Roger Neufeld Smith of Topeka, Kansas will bring our message. Roger and his wife, Cynthia, recently completed two years with Service Adventure in Jackson Mississippi, where they were Co-Leaders of the Service Adventure Unit sponsored by the Open Door Mennonite Church of Jackson. Roger will begin as Interim Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE, on August 23. First Mennonite, Newton, was Roger's home congregation growing up. Welcome, Roger!

Thank you to the First Mennonite Youth Group of Newton, Kansas! 18 people spent a masked and socially distant week working on improvements on campgrounds. The new swing sets were installed and work began on both the trail bridge and amphitheater renovations. There was a lot of work done by the youth and sponsors, both to keep everyone safe and to make Camp Mennoscah the beautiful and fun place we know it to be. We are overflowing with gratitude!

Some changes are coming to our worship! The Irene P. Schmidt Estate Gift has allowed us to purchase a three-camera system and all the necessary equipment to live-stream our services. The system began to be installed this week and the A/V Team will begin training on it before too long. When we begin to use this new system, our services will not be pre-recorded and edited but instead transmitted while they are happening. A copy of the service will also be available to watch afterward. Another change that has already happened is that the main "housing" location for our recordings are on Vimeo. On your PC or Laptop, browse to vimeo.com/firstmennonitenewton. If you are using a tablet, phone, or roku device, you will need to install the Vimeo app. There you will already find some of our past services, and that's where this Sunday's and all future ones will be. However, during livestreaming, Vimeo allows you to view the service on Facebook, on our website (firstmennonitenewton.org), on YouTube, and at Vimeo. There's going to be some big learning in the next few weeks, and hopefully, you will give grace as we all learn together. Thank you to all who have been involved in making this happen.

Remember that the Caring Fund is available: In this time of economic disruption, the Caring Fund is available to help you. Please don't hesitate to talk to any of the Caring Fund Committee members if you could use some financial support during this time. Committee members are: Sam Claassen, Ken Fast, Ken Frey, Bob Schmidt (chair), and Anita Kehr.

Service Adventure only has five spots remaining for the 2020-2021 term beginning this fall. If you are interested in taking a gap year to serve, live in community, and grow spiritually, contact SusanN@MennoniteMission.net or apply online at MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure.

Transition information: After conversation with the Search Committee, Church and Staff Relations Committee, and Church Board, the consensus is that we should move forward with our search for a settled pastor as quickly as we can. The search for a transition minister will continue but with renewed effort by the Search Committee and Church Board to make decisions regarding staffing needs, job descriptions, and finding way during our Covid-19 challenges to have communication and input from the congregation. The first step will be for the Search Committee to completely finish the Congregation Information Form which then allows the actual search for pastoral staff to begin once the CIF is on file at WDC. Continued prayers for decision making, communication needs, and listening for God's leading for leadership in this process is sought and appreciated.

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full time Network Systems Administrator located in the Newton, KS office. This position will ensure the stable operation of the organizations Local Area Network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), Internet systems and software applications. The ability to analyze and resolve end user hardware and software computer problems in a timely and accurate fashion is essential. Ability to provide excellent customer service is a must. Committed to denominational and agency goals of anti-racist action. Degree in computer science/information technology or 3-5 years' experience is preferred. View the complete position description at www.MennoniteMission.net. Submit cover letter and resumé to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net for consideration.

MCC Central States offices and material resources center is closed to the public indefinitely. The realities of COVID-19 continue to change but the dedication of MCC staff to work for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ continues on. Essential workers will continue to work at MCC, but the rest of the staff will work from home. Your material resource donations (school, hygiene or relief kits and comforters, details at mcc.org/kits) are needed at this time and can be shipped directly to MCC when ordering online or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room towards the east end of the building (121 E. 30th North Newton, KS 67117). In spite of the challenges from COVID-19, the global work of MCC continues. Your financial donations are needed to keep this work going. Give now at mcc.org/donate or by sending checks to MCC PO Box 500 Akron, PA 17501. To contact staff with questions please email us at centerstates@mcc.org or call the office 283-2720.

WDC (Virtual) Annual Assembly is coming up on August 1-2! See Assembly information at: mennowdc.org/2020-wdc-annual-assembly/. The delegate session will be held August 1 at 9:00 AM. Delegates, please register to receive a Zoom link for the delegate session (link will be sent prior to August 1). Anyone (no registration required) can participate in the August 1 afternoon webinars—links to those will be posted on WDC's website prior to August 1.

Catch up on all the news, blogs and events from Mennonite Church by subscribing to **PeaceMail**, a weekly e-newsletter. Check out the latest issue and subscribe here: ow.ly/K5Z150Afsnm.