



FIRST
MENNONITE
CHURCH,
NEWTON

FMC CONNECTIONS

Volume 30, Issue 7

July/August 2020

Our Mission is to glorify God:

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.

Inside this issue:

- Book Review 2
Thank you 7

TO LEARN MORE...

In this time when the pervading structural racism of our country is becoming clearer, and overt racism also seems to be on the rise, the question for Christians has to be what to do about it: what to do about naming it, what to do about being allies, together, what to do about acting against it, what to do in order to learn more.

In the past week, I invited submissions of resources for learning more, and I received help from four women: Michelle Regier, Laura Sharp, Kacie Schmidt, and Bev Regier. Thanks so much to each of them! Below are lists of books, groups/trainings, movies, podcasts, and social media resources that include what they offered as well as some from me.

It can all be overwhelming. But take just one step to learn more. It’s important, and it’s in obedience to the second of the two greatest commandments in scripture, to love your neighbor as you love yourself—not just the neighbor who looks just like you or comes from the same community as you or who is related to you, but

the neighbor who is as much created in the image of God as you are yourself. As you take your steps, pay special attention to the resources that are created by Black and Indigenous People of Color.

Our lists begin with a quote that may perhaps shape our perspectives:

Diversity asks, “Who’s in the room?” Equity responds: “Who is trying to get in the room but can’t? Whose presence in the room is under constant threat of erasure?”

Inclusion asks, “Have everyone’s ideas been heard?” Justice responds, “Whose ideas won’t be taken as seriously because they aren’t in the majority?”

Diversity asks, “How many more of [pick any minoritized identity] group do we have this year than last?” Equity responds. “What conditions have we created that maintain certain groups as the perpetual majority here?”

Inclusion asks, “Is this environment safe for everyone to feel like they belong?” Justice challenges, “Whose safety is being sacrificed and minimized to allow others to be



Pastor Anita Kehr

Comfortable maintaining dehumanizing views?” – by Dr. Dafina-Lazarus Stewart

Keep on learning—

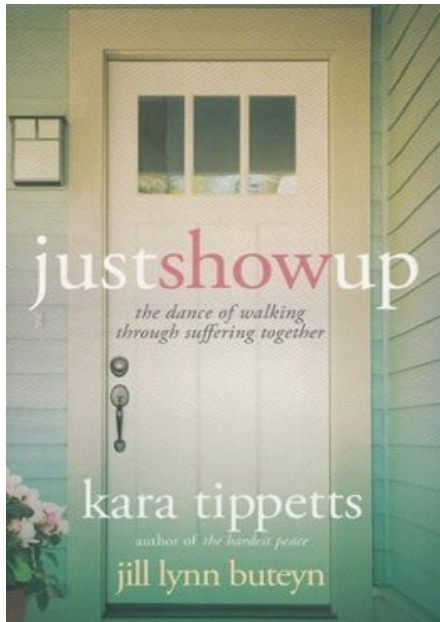
Anita Kehr

Local:
The Newton Community for Racial Justice group meets the second Monday of each month. See their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/newtoncrj/> for more resources and information. This group regularly sponsors the Roots of Justice training, which focuses on dismantling racism and other isms.

Podcasts:
History:
*The History Chicks covering famous women in history. Look especially for the bios of Mary Terrell, Ida B.

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BOOK REVIEW



Just Show Up
by Kara Tippetts and
Jill Lynn Buteyn

“The dance of walking through suffering together” is written as a subtitle to the story developed by a thirty-four year old mother of four with her close friend Jill. It is a true story primarily built upon friendships through caring and conversations during a terminal illness. Each chapter begins with Jill providing insight on a particular segment followed by Kara’s commentary and always a couple of questions for the reader to

honestly ponder in “showing up” to assist someone in need.

In many instances when a need arises whether it be due to illness, a loss of a loved one, or any other family crisis, friends generally step up to provide assistance to people they care about. The possibilities of assistance are often overwhelming for the person receiving the offer, and for many individuals it is far easier to give than receive! The giving and receiving messages throughout the book are the basis of their story.

Kara did not have to accept help, but she chose to. Her journey and community would not have been what they were, had she not made the decision to receive the opportunities offered. Kara’s modeling of receiving came in many forms, not only in accepting meals and spending time together but also for offers for assistance with the children, taking them to and from school, arranging play dates, doing laun-

dry, folding clothes, running the vacuum, grocery shopping, the list continues with non-ending possibilities.

Throughout the story, Kara works in community with others, accepting offers and actions as well as the consequences of sharing time and in consideration for her household.

“Having access to FMC’s library during the pandemic, has been a blessing to me. I hope you will find inspiration from reading this story as well.”

Pat Denno

thank you!

Mennonite Mission Network has many partners around the world that we help to support. None of Mission Network’s ministries would happen without congregational contributions to support these life-changing ministries. First Mennonite Church’s contribution of \$16,197.18 has enabled Mission Network to partner with more than 115 organizations around the world. Thank you for your prayers and generous contributions in 2019.

JULY 2020

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 Nurture Commission 7PM	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Church Board 7PM	10	11
_____YOUTH GROUP TO CAMP MENNOSCAH_____						
_____Homeless Shelter Week_____						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
_____Homeless Shelter Week_____						
19	20 Property Committee 7PM	21 Caregiving and Membership Commission 7PM	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY—JULY

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

Nancy Pauls—7/3	Rannie Goering—7/16
Kacie Schmidt—7/7	Ella Koop—7/16
Kaven Denno—7/8	Wendy Schrag—7/16
Stephanie Loganbill—7/9	Cora Voran—7/16
Donnie Kingsley—7/9	Evelyn Smith—7/17
Janet Regier—7/10	Michael Garcia—7/18
Steven Voth—7/11	Nancy Entz—7/21
Delora Decker—7/12	Willis Harder—7/25
Paul Buller—7/13	Jackson Hiebert—7/29
Clay Nye—7/14	Larry Entz—7/30
Myrna Grochowsky—7/15	Pat Litsey—7/31
Rhonda Brown—7/16	Dana Neff—7/31

Remember to pray for each other!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY—JULY

Chuck & Bev Regier—7/2
Ken & Neva Frey—7/6
Ryan & Angela Nye—7/11
John & Jan Sommer—7/12
Randy & Lynnette Doty—7/14
Dennis & Dorcas Good—7/15
Nathan & Marissa Murphy—7/26
Ken & Amy Regier—7/30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY—AUGUST

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

Emma Menninga—8/1	Mike Combs—8/7	Rob Thieszen—8/19	Nick Sharp—8/27
Penny Dorado—8/2	Hannah Gaertner—8/7	Carol Goering—8/20	Brent Voran—8/27
Fern Koehn—8/5	Keith Knopp—8/14	Derek Entz—8/22	Isaac Entz—8/28
Ted Krehbiel—8/5	Kent Erb—8/16	Louise Janzen—8/24	Alyssa Becker—8/29
Kathleen Neff—8/5	Phil Gaertner—8/16	Bethanie Wedel—8/24	Harry Ensz—8/29
Joey Menninga—8/6	Anne Groves—8/16	Tonessa Driskill—8/25	Susan Jantzen—8/29
Rod Wedel—8/6	Xander Bartel—8/17	LaWanda Wiens—8/25	Rick Ortman—8/30
	Brielle Sharp—8/17	Pat Denno—8/26	Henry Nickel—8/31
	Ryan Weaver—8/18	Dwight Claassen—8/27	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY—AUGUST

Trevor & Ashlynn Duerksen—8/3	Woody & Nora Miller—8/15	Greg & Laura Myers—8/24
Larry and Carol Entz—8/5	Steven & Wynette Voth—8/15	Justin and Angela Black—8/26
Dwight & Connie Claassen—8/7	Bryan & Anita Kehr—8/16	Ronald & Shirley Dietzel—8/29
Barry and Darlene Bontrager—8/8	Brent & Cora Voran—8/17	
Alan & Joan Entz—8/8	Dana & Kathleen Neff—8/18	
Rod & Marsha Schmidt—8/11	Eric & Lori Shelly—8/18	
Greg & Melody Bontrager—8/12	Henry & Marilyn Nickel—8/21	
Tim & Michelle Regier—8/13	Dennis & Diane Flickner—8/23	

AUGUST 2020

Mon

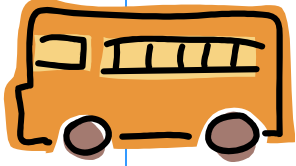
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



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6
Nurture Commission 7PM

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Church Board 7PM

14

15

16

17
Property Committee 7PM

18
Caregiving/Membership
Commission 7PM

19

20

21

22
Nurture/Caregiving Meeting
9:30AM-11:30AM

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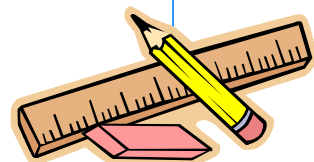
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All events must be scheduled in the Church Office and cannot be scheduled more than six months in advance.

KANSAS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE THANK YOU

Thank YOU!

Back in March when we first encountered the problems affiliated with the Covid-19 Epidemic, we hoped that we would be able to have the sale. But as we found out, that was not possible. In April the KMRS Board met and established a goal of trying to raise \$500,000 for the Mennonite Central Committee. It seemed like an audacious goal...one that would require commitment and dedication, but a goal that could be reached. We had the donations that came to us through the 1000 at a \$1000 program, we had the money that had come from churches to help meet the expenses and we had some carry over from the previous year.

The most important decision we made was to encourage churches, sale committees, individuals, and families to think of and carry out ways to create revenue to invest in the growing needs of the Mennonite Central Committee. We acknowledge that the sale belongs not to the Board but to all the people that make up the Relief Sale Family. Thank you all for responding as you did.

We had people who made and sold zweibach, Jerry Toews sold automobiles and tractors, we acknowledged the date of April 18 as the date of the Feed the Multitude and asked people to donate based on the number of people at their table that night, and we sold lots of almonds, yard sticks and caps.

Keith Banman, Goessel grocer and with the help of the Goessel community, organized a drive-through pick-up meal of a ham loaf dinner...expectations were for 200 people but the reservations had to be cut off at close to 700 people.

Flowers and plants intended to be sold at the "sale" were put up for sale in Newton and other people brought their plants and made donations and contributed to the impromptu "plant sale."

The virtual run attracted attention and participation, and drew out competition between a couple of Board Members to see who could get the most pledges.

But the most significant thing was the size of people's hearts and their desire to contribute. Some gave what they would have spent had the sale been held. Other people continued to contribute to the 1000 at a \$1000 program, and many people gave what they could. Donations came in as coins, dollars, and checks from \$5 to \$10,000, all in the name of Christ. As recently as two weeks ago, donations were still coming to Tim Miller, our treasurer, or to me. There were enough donations to make deposits 4 out of 6 days. People gave because they were called to give.

On June 18, we presented a check and deposits to MCC for \$500,000. The symbolic check and the distribution of that money will allow for MCC to carry out some of the projects that are in need of funding.

(continued on back page)

(Continued from front page)

Wells, Fanny Lou Hamer, Zephyr Wright, Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman.

**Seeing White* on how the idea of race came about throughout history.

**The Land That Never Has Been Yet*, on the history of racism in the United States.

**Throughline* (NPR), taking a current issue back through history to see the way that issue evolved into its current form.

Current Events:

**Code Switch* (NPR), looking at racism in current events.

Books:

From Herald Press/MennoMedia (Mennonite):

*Drew G. I. Hart, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*

*Drew G. I. Hart, *Who will be a Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance* (release date is September 1, 2020)

Others:

*Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

*Dee Brown, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*

*Christina Cleveland, *Disunity in Christ*

*Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

*James H. Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

*Lenny Duncan, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*

*Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

*Jennifer Harvey, *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*

*Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Anti-Racist*

*Ibram X. Kendi, *Antiracist Baby* (a board book for children)

*Osheta Moore, *Shalom Sistas: Living Wholeheartedly in a Brokenhearted World*

*Layla Saad, *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*

*Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*

*David Treuer, *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*

*Traci C. West, *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter*

*Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*

Social Media/Webinars:

*Mennonite Church USA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MennoniteChurchUSA/>) has a recording of the first "Race, Church, and Change" webinar that took place on June 25. A second webinar, "Race, Church and Change, Part 2" is scheduled for July 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. CDT. **Register here to participate via Zoom: mennoniteusa.org/racewebinar-part2.**

*Be the Bridge to Racial Healing—a Facebook group that requires learning modules to join (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BetheBridge/>).

*Follow on Instagram: Educators/activists Layla Saad and Rachel Cargle who offer many resources for learning on their Instagram sites.

Movies:

**Just Mercy* based on the book (see above)

**13th* about how the 13th amendment both abolished slavery and reinstated it within the prison system.

**When They See Us* about the true story of a group of Black teenagers falsely accused, convicted, and imprisoned for an assault of a woman in Central Park. This is in four parts, and it is tough to watch, but makes it clear how biased the system is/was for these young men and their families.

**Selma* about the marches of the Civil Rights Movement

**Hidden Figures* about Black women working at NASA

**Remember the Titans* about integrating a football team in a newly integrated high school

FMC Connections

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July/August 2020

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To accomplish this goal the Board needed each and every one of you. On behalf of the KMRS Board and the Central States Office of the Mennonite Central Committee I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I thank you for your concern for the purpose of the sale, I thank you for your creativity and your dedication, and I thank you for the love of Christ you have shown by thinking of others before yourselves.

We might think we are done...but there is work to be done and we will keep working on 2020 projects and funding until October. We will give another donation to MCC and then we start to prepare for the April 2021 sale in November. Check the website, and look for the opportunities to help make the world a better place.

In Christ's Name,

Jim Robb, KMRS Chair