



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

Volume 29, Issue 8

September 2019

MY CHARGE TO YOU

Having completed an internship at First Mennonite Church, I can honestly say it’s been one of the most humbling experiences I’ve after felt in my life. On my first official day at FMC, I was immediately immersed with pastoral duties, considering the fact that my first day was a graveside funeral service. To continue, I had the honor and privilege to lead worship, attend committee meetings, bond with the youth group, visit the sick, pray in the prayer room until I lost my voice, preach, teach Sunday school, and bust down cement walls with a sledge hammer. Most of all I’ve gained a new family in Christ, and that’s each and every one of you.

I want to express my appreciation of how thankful I am to be exposed to a congregation that is motivated through kingdom building and missional duties. I observed that if you ask members of FMC to perform a certain task, they will band together like a pile of disturbed ants. The willingness of the congregants at FMC is beyond what I have ever witnessed in all my years of being around church folk. FMC members are always in the streets

sharing, constantly tending to the needy/homeless, and they do not think twice about providing financial aid and health services to impoverished countries. Personally I would say, you guys’ willingness and ability to get things done is a God-given gift to the Newton community. I am very thankful for this and I am also very appreciative of your preservation of Mennonite tradition (something I wasn’t familiar with).

In gratitude, I would like to express what God has laid on my heart regarding FMC. As Mennonites (Christians) our sole purpose of creation was so that God can have companionship with us. We were created to worship. We are created for direct communication with God. Psalm 100:1 states *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.”* This is scriptural proof that we are supposed to worship in “spirit and in



Bruce Rosario

truth” and that we shouldn’t solely worship in “tradition and routine.” We need to be radical with our reverence to God, rather than reserved. David danced before the lord in his nightgown. If David was that crazy thousands of years ago, why can’t we be crazy enough to lift our hands during worship service? We need to remember that when praises go up to God, He sends Blessings back down to us.

As a Mennonite (Christian) you are limiting yourself when you don’t truly worship God in spirit and in truth. There is a balance in the kingdom of God when it comes to intellectualism and a spiritual relationship with God. If you proclaim to be follower of Christ then you should know that you can’t have one without the other. Spiritualism (spiritual relationship with God) is a part (a half) of who we are as

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IMMIGRATION DETAINEE CARE KITS

The Mennonite Central Committee has started a project called "Immigration Detainee Care Kits." When people who have been placed in immigration 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 transition into life outside



the detention center. When the Living Stones and Christian Fellowship Sunday school classes received a \$6,100 check to use for a special project, the classes decided to choose this as one of the projects.

The classes have Carol Ewy to thank for giving us the incentive to work together on a project. This year Carol and Earl Ewy would have been married 61 years. Carol wanted to honor Earl's memory in this way by giving \$6,100 to our classes to use. Earl and Carol



were former members of the Christian Fellowship class and also have many friends in the Living Stones Class.

In a number of different ways, Carol and Earl often helped support the less fortunate in the Hesston and Newton areas. The classes felt that in keeping with this sentiment they would do something for MCC and SafeHope. This would help the local area as well as the more world-wide community.

The money was donated to MCC so they could purchase the needed items for the immigration detainee care kits. The kits contain clothing, hygiene products, shoelaces, pen, and notebook. They are packed into backpacks and small duffel bags. The kits are sent to the South



Texas Response Team, a group of local pastors working with various local partners to distribute kits to people as they leave detention and are taken to bus stations or airports to reconnect with their families.



The two classes spent an evening assembling the kits, getting them ready to be sent to the destination at the US border. While at MCC we also assembled hygiene kits. The class members enjoyed working together doing this worthwhile task. Thank you, Carol, for presenting us with this challenge.

CHURCH BOARD REPORT

With deep appreciation for their years of faith-sharing, pastoral leadership, and full participation with us in our congregation life, the Church Board accepted Pastor Kay and Pastor Joel's resignations at their August meeting. Now the journey of saying goodbye, celebrating their time with us, and moving into an interim time begins.

Western District Conference has already been contacted about interim pastoral staff, and an initial meeting with Heidi Regier Kreider has taken place to discuss an overview of the process of hiring an interim, and then also initiating a search process and calling a candidate for the long term. Heidi will attend our September Church Board meeting to share the overview with the entire board. Our goal during this time is to keep communication ongoing and timely with the congregation about where we are in the process.

The Church Board also approved a five-week sabbatical for Pastor Anita, beginning September 16 and ending October 19. The sabbatical follows our Personnel Policy guidelines. It will serve as a time of professional reflection and renewal for Pastor Anita prior to the ending date of Pastor Joel and Pastor Kay's tenure with FMC.

The plans for our church weekend at Camp Mennoscah were also shared. We are scheduled for a time of all-church fellowship, fun, and good food at Camp Mennoscah on September 14 and 15. Everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy the special plans that have been made!

Our remodeled nursery, new hallway and entrance project was another agenda item for our meeting. Work is ongoing, and funds have been raised for full payment of this project. More projects are being discussed and

will be shared as they are finalized.

The Church Board recognizes that it has been several years since we have had a pastoral transition and engaged in a search process leading to the hiring of new pastoral staff. We want to be aware of the dynamics of change that naturally occur during this type of process. We are aware that we are striving for God's leading and will continue to seek God's leading in this new phase of our church life. We invite our church family to keep this process and our new possibilities—our future—in prayer.



Thank You!

Dear First Mennonite Church family, I hope you all are well. I want to take a moment once again to thank you for your partnership with me as I work with IVCF. As I begin this new school year of reaching out to graduate students and faculty, I am reminded of how significant the role is that you play. Because of your faithful and generous giving through prayers and finances, the gospel is able to go forward and influence the lives of many on campus. Thank you!! I pray that you are blessed in equal measure.

Warmly,

Rod Pauls

MANY THANKS!!

Thank you for supporting New Hope in our efforts to help members of our communities who are in need. Please pray for our residents and staff as we continue to move forward. We invite you to share this information with your congregation.

New Hope's activity during your week of volunteering: July 24-July 30, 2019.

- 9 new residents entered the shelter.
- 4 residents moved into their own housing.
- 3 residents left for unknown locations.
- 11 of our residents were already employed, 1 gained employment, 3 were on disability.
- We served 11 single men and 6 single women and 3 family units consisting of 3 moms, 1 father and 5 children.
- We also dispensed 11 food boxes to people from the community in need.

You supported this mission by providing 7 evening meals, evening volunteers for 7 nights and over-night volunteers for 2 nights totaling 124 hours of service.

You are invited to join the choir!!



Sanctuary choir loft

7:00 PM

**Questions?
Call Pastor Kay at
217-1272**

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 11



Jaime Cázares Jr.

(316)212-1824

jaimecazaresjr75@gmail.com



Greetings to you,

I would like to let you know about my side job I'm starting as vocational pastor. I am currently a part-time church planter at Aposento Alto in Wichita, Kansas. Another thing I enjoy besides church planting is that I love to paint, it relaxes me as I do the work and see the transformation from one day to the next. I will be doing this painting job as I continue doing ministry efficiently.

Please call or email if you have any painting needs.

Blessings as we continue being missional.

Pastor Jaime Cazares

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brothers and sisters in Christ and intellectualism is the other half. You can have all the certifications, degrees, and wealth in the world, but if you don't have a deep personal relationship with God, you are selling yourself short. To continue, there is a misconception that true worship and spiritual immersion are only limited to a certain select of Christian denominations, such as the Pentecostal movement and Baptist. However, the only difference between Mennonites and Pentecostals is that one denomination embraced a certain concept more than the other.

No matter the denomination, the Bible clearly accentuates that once we make a personal confession of commitment to Christ in our life, praise and worship becomes a requirement. Expression is a requirement. Being reserved during worship service and worrying about one's own self-image and comforta-

bility is the exact opposite of what we are purposed to do. Even people, who are medically mute can use their disability as an outward expression to God. They may not be able to speak, but they can physically give God reverence, and God honors them one hundred percent.

In closing, I would like to personally thank FMC, the Ministry Inquiry Program committee, and Western District Conference for giving me this opportunity to experience every aspect of ministry. FMC was the perfect church for me to grow. I can personally say that without FMC, I wouldn't be where I am spiritually right now. I connected with Church members and youth, but most importantly I connected with God through each and every member at FMC and for that I am thankful to God. Lastly, as your brother in Christ and fellow Mennonite, my charge to you is to commit to a deeper spiritual companionship with our Creator, if you

haven't done so already. I challenge you to obey the Holy Spirit and yield to its conviction. Boldly worship and praise God in your church and at home, and increase time spent with God. Let God have his way! If the Holy Spirit breaks your routine during service, and things get crazy, and people are praising, jumping up and down, crying tears of joy, Let God have his way! If you aren't ready to say "Thank you Jesus" out loud yet, or run from pew to pew. start with saying, "Amen" loud and proud, because this word is a response and a reminder of validation that God is our enabler.

Peace and Blessings to you. Amen.

Bruce Rosario

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Outreach Commission 8AM Casa Betania Service 4PM Youth Group returns at 6PM from Fall Retreat	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed	3 Court Area reserved 5-9PM	4 Youth Group 7PM	5 Nurture Commission 7PM	6 Women and Girls Retreat	7
8 Casa Betania Service 4PM Camp Menno.	9 Worship Commission 3:45PM	10	11 Choir 7PM Youth Group 7PM	12 Church Board 7PM	13	14 Camp Menno Celebration Weekend
15 Casa Betania Service 4PM Camp Menno Celebration Weekend	16 Property Committee 7PM	17 Caregiving/Membership Commission 7PM	18 Choir 7PM Youth Group 7PM	19 NAMI 7PM	20	21
22 Casa Betania Service 4PM	23	24	25 CFN Begins 5:30PM Supper 6:45PM YG 6:45PM Choir 6:45PM Bible Study	26	27	28
29 Casa Betania Service 4PM	30					

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

- Delia Schroeder—9/4
- Matthew Shelly—9/4
- Ryan Koehn—9/5
- Jan Sommer—9/6
- Melvin Pauls—9/9
- Jenna Ratzlaff—9/9
- Elizabeth Epp—9/11
- Jan Claassen—9/12
- Randy Doty—9/12
- Bev Regier—9/13
- Esther Epp—9/14

- Stefanie Knopp—9/16
- Dale Schrag—9/16
- Jan Groves—9/17
- Doug Pauls—9/17
- Beverley Buller—9/19
- Dennis Flickner—9/19
- Ella Regier—9/19
- Ashlynn Duerksen—9/21
- Haleigh Machmer—9/21
- Levi Knopp—9/21
- Roy Goering—9/22
- Joel Schroeder—9/22
- Carol Entz—9/23

- Rod Pauls—9/23
- Brian Kennell—9/24
- Lori Kingsley—9/25
- Gail Pryce—9/25
- Jeryl Murphy—9/26
- Pamela Garcia—9/30
- Mason Unruh—9/30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- Donnie & Lori Kingsley—9/12
- Dewayne & Betty Pauls—9/12
- Bryan & Kathy Becker—9/23
- Sammie & Robin Simmons—9/26

SERVING AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP



My short-term mission work this summer was serving as a counselor at RMMC—Justen Schroeder.

What all did you do?

- I began as a counselor for 5 weeks and then went to work in food service for the rest of my time there. I also did some maintenance work and housekeeping.

How many people did you interact with throughout the summer?

- If I had to give a number, it would be at least 500, mostly because I was interacting with kids all the time. When we had groups, I interacted with them by making food and serving them. When family camp came, I helped in all aspects of camp and even worked in child care.

What was your favorite part about counseling?

- My favorite part about counseling was being a role model for kids of every walk of life. It was also great seeing kids get together and having fun together.

What was your least favorite duty all summer?

- My least favorite duty was body fluid clean up between 1:00 and 4:00AM.

Can you share about 1 or 2 times that Jesus “showed up”?

- Jesus definitely showed up with times of laughter and crying and energy. Especially when plans weren't going the way the staff wanted it to. I also saw Jesus with the kids that were shy and didn't seem that they wanted to be at camp. They were smiling and not wanting to go home by the end of the week.

In what ways did you grow or were challenged in your faith?

- I think I grew in the ways that I was challenged. With different opportunities arising, there was a lot of time of wanting to be lazy and not do my job. But I never gave in to being lazy. I always



tried to jump on the opportunities because you never know what can happen.

Would you recommend this experience for others? Why?

- I would. It is a completely different experience from a regular summer job or just a job in general. You get to impact others and grow yourself at the same time while having great people around you.



FMC Connections

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



September 2019

Church Family Night begins September 25!

Meals start at 5:30 PM.

Activities for all ages start at 6:45 PM:

For Beginners through 6th grade, we will continue lessons with Detective Dakota and Detectives of Divinity where we are looking for signs of God at work. We will also be incorporating stories and service projects with MCC during this 100th year anniversary.

The adult Bible study will meet in Room 224 and will be led by Sam Claassen on Paul's second missionary journey and the introduction of the Gospel to Europe.

The Choir will practice in the Sanctuary.

Jr. High and the Youth Group will meet in their rooms.