



in touch

June 4, 2017

Hesston Mennonite Church

A community of God's people, seeking and following the way of Christ, experiencing and sharing the good news of healing and hope.

Did You Know???

- HMC hosted 68 3rd-4th graders for Vacation Bible School this week! Come hear all about it at the Community-Wide Worship Service this Sunday at Hesston High!

Mennonite Disaster Service Update



NUMEROUS DISASTERS HIT KANSAS
The Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service Unit is helping in Pawnee Rock with cleanup after their recent tornado damage. Repair work and the building of a new home in Eureka, due to losses from another tornado will soon start.

And, the project we have been involved with, helping ranchers in Clark County, removing fencing damaged during the 662,687 acre Starbuck Wildfire in March.

Don and I have taken on the leadership role of the fencing project. For the past 6 weeks we have had volunteers working Saturdays in the Ashland, KS area. Several Hesston Mennonite Church members came during these weekends and had first hand experience of the work at hand. Pulling staples from the fence posts to drop the five-strand barbed wire, then, using a skid steer, rolling the wire, pulling and collecting the posts. It is a time consuming process but it all needs to be done before new fence can be installed.

We have felt the joy of God working through many persons in getting this project off the ground. The support from Excel Industries in giving us the use of two of their new MDVs (Maximum Duty Vehicle); John Deere Corporate offering to pay 1/2 of the rent on two skid steers; Jost Fabricating LLC, Hillsboro, giving us the use of their flat bed trailer for as long as we need it; Future Foam Inc, Newton, giving us 10 plush twin size mattresses; contributions from HMC members for setting up a kitchen to feed volunteers and most importantly, the volunteers who have made the trek to Southwestern Kansas!

We are now set up to feed and house volunteers who wish to come for a week at a time. Our first weeklong group is from Ohio, arriving Sun., June 4th.

Clark County is a beautiful part of Kansas, graced with hardworking folks, some of whom have lost not only their fences but also their livestock, their farm machinery and for some, their home as well. If you have a heart for service and the out of doors, bring a friend and come, join us for a day or two or a whole week. We welcome you for whatever time you are able to give. Interested? Contact Don @ 316-772-3580. You too will be blessed.

Don & Rachel Horst

Mennonite Mission Network Presentation

We will have the opportunity to hear from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) partner Oscar Siwali during a presentation on Southern Africa on **Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00pm** in the community center.



Oscar Siwali is the Director of SADRA (Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency), a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and Not for Profit Company (NPC) registered in September 2013 to provide knowledge and skills through training and research to the Southern African Communities. The overall objective is to contribute in building a society that embraces non-violence, and peaceful methods of resolving conflict, using conflict transformation approaches in resolving differences.

Oscar has worked with a range of organizations operating in the fields of conflict resolution, human rights and HIV and AIDS, including the Office of the Public Protector, Department of Correctional Services (DCS), Department of Education, Department of Transport, Department of Social Development, South African Council of Churches (SACC) and various religious bodies in South Africa. Outside of South Africa, Oscar has worked with Churches in Manicaland (Zimbabwe), NGOs, national human rights institutions, military and police in South Sudan, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania and so on.

Oscar has extensive experience in facilitation, community conflict resolution, training of community stake holders and mediation in community disputes. Oscar is an ordained minister, has worked as a pastor for 23 years and has moved from his love of people and interest in them into developing diverse skills that can benefit communities. He worked for many years at the Quaker Peace Centre in Cape Town, where he was involved in training, facilitation and mediation, largely in local communities. He trained youth, teachers, principals, circuit managers, pastors, and many others in very diverse fields.

HMC Kickball Classic

Sunday, June 25, 5:30 p.m.
Hesston City Ball Diamond

Mark your calendars for a fun, intergenerational event for those of all ages! Sign up in the foyer. T-shirts for all who participate.



Thank You from Sprungers

Thank you all who make up Hesston Mennonite Church. You provided us a wonderful and welcoming place to worship during our interim work at the college and while living in the community. You took us in and made us feel at home and allowed us to participate in all the activities we could manage to squeeze in. We shall always be grateful for the time at the college. Hesston Mennonite Church helped nurture our faith, so you will always be part of our cherished memories.

Thanking God for all of you and wishing you God's many blessings.

Ben and Sue Sprunger

Upcoming Events

June 4 Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra Summer Concert, 4:00p.m., HMC sanctuary

June 11 Book signing, 3:00 p.m., at Kauffman Museum, with authors Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe, for *The Kansas Guidebook 2*, beginning with a slide show of interesting Kansas places encountered on visits to all 626 incorporated cities in Kansas in a four-year journey.

Immigration Conversation

Shalom Mennonite Church (800 E First, Newton, KS) will host a Community Conversation on Immigration on **Saturday, June 3 at 10-11:30 am**. It will be a moderated panel discussion with a question and answer time to follow. The discussion will focus on the panelists' general perspectives on issues that affect refugees and immigrants in Kansas and Harvey County. The confirmed panel participants are Bob Myers (Newton City Manager) and Tim Hodge (State Representative). If you have questions about the event, contact Shalom at office@shalomnewton.org

PC-PF Gathering

Attention Young Adults! There will be an Area Wide PC-PF (Post College- Pre Family) Hot Dog Roast and Outdoor Game Night on **Sunday, June 25 at 6:00 PM** at the Tabor Mennonite Church Park, Rural Newton, KS. This group is designed for young adults in similar life stages to socialize together. Please bring table service, lawn chair, a side dish to share, and lawn games to play. Hot dogs, buns, drinks, and s'mores will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Kristin Unruh-kristin.unruh@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Women and Girls Retreat

SAVE THE DATE! The annual Womens/Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be held **September 8 - 10**. The theme this year is "Together: Rooted and Reaching" led by Barb Krehbiel Gehring. We will also be celebrating 100 years of Mennonite Women. Watch for more details and registration in July.

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on June 20th to honor the courage and determination of refugees who are forced to flee their home because of fear of persecution and conflict. This day gives us an opportunity to celebrate their strength and courage. To send a message of love and humanity that has been lost in their homes; we do not need to go to Syria, Congo or South Sudan; we can do it right here.

#WithRefugees Art Show and Exhibit, featuring art and narrative pieces by refugees recently resettled in Wichita. Location: SHIFTSPACE Gallery, 416 S. Commerce, Ste. #102, Wichita, KS 67202. As part of Final Friday's events, **June 30th 5pm-10pm**.

Alongside the art show, Episcopal Migration Ministries in partnership with the International Rescue Committee will be hosting a carnival for children and families, **June 20th from 4pm-8pm**. The event is free and open to the public. If you are interested in hosting a booth for games or activities, or have questions, please let Kendra Alison know at (316)200-8807 or Kendra.alison606@gmail.com. We believe this will be a wonderful event for the community to become part of the welcoming ministry of refugee resettlement.

Mark your calendars!

MCC Central States Job Opportunity

MCC Central States is hiring a Donor Relations Associate. The Donor Relations Associate is responsible for assisting in implementation of the donor relations strategy for MCC Central States by stewarding major donors involving face-to face contact in order to meet the budgeted income goals and generate the necessary resources to accomplish the mission of MCC. This position is open within the 16-state MCC CS region. To see a full job description and to apply, please visit <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings>.

Newton Et Cetera Job Opportunity

The Newton Et Cetera Shop is hiring a Donations Manager for 30-40 hours/week. The manager, in cooperation with the management team, receives and processes donations; trains and supervises volunteers; prepares volunteer projects and work spaces; helps manage the sales floor; and participates in regular system evaluation and store planning.

The full job description and applications are available at the store (619 N. Main in Newton) or via e-mail at manager@newtonetceterashop.com. Applications are due Monday, June 12, submitted in person or by e-mail.

in touch is published 1st and 3rd Sundays monthly. Items should be in the church office by **noon Wednesday** prior to publication.

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