



in touch

November 5, 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.

Intention to Give 2018

You will find your 2018 Intention to Give form in your church literature box on Sunday, November 5, along with an envelope to help maintain confidentiality. On **Sunday November 19**, we will be receiving the Intention to Give forms as part of our worship. There will be a time in the service for household members to bring their completed Intention to Give forms forward, as an offering. If you are not able to bring your form forward ushers will be available to receive those. For those unable to attend November 19, completed forms may be placed in the blue box outside the church office.

Did You Know???

- The **Children's Globe Offerings** in November will go to the Mennonite World Conference.

Gifts Discernment Requests

The gifts discernment commission is requesting that we prayerfully consider names for the position of Elder. While we try to stay balanced with age demographics and gender, we also need to cast the net wide to find persons with the gifts needed to minister in that position. Please submit names to Ken Rodgers or the church office.

Ken Rodgers, Gifts Discernment Chair

New Hope Shelter Meals

HMC is scheduled to provide meals on **November 8-11**. Please contact Jean Selzer, 327-2430, to get involved!



Andover Organ - 10 Year Anniversary

It has been ten years since our organ arrived from the Andover company in Massachusetts! To celebrate, there will be a special concert this coming **Tuesday, November 7**, at 7:00 pm. Karol Mossakowski is an award winning organist from Poland. Just 29 years old, last year he won arguably the most prestigious organ competition in the world, the Chartres Cathedral International Organ Competition in France.

He will play music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, as well as improvise. The concert is free with a reception following. Invite friends to this special occasion!

Ken Rodgers

MDS Thank You

On behalf of Mennonite Disaster Service, a big THANK YOU for the donations received at the Soup Challenge for our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico. MDS is grateful for the volunteers and financial gifts that not only bring disaster survivors home again, but also lets them know that they are not alone and that someone cares about them. Please continue to pray for strength for the pastors and congregation members in light of the daily challenges they face.



Last Saturday we had the joy of dedicating the home built in Eureka, KS for a family that lost their home in the tornado that came through Eureka, July of 2016. Our MYF and a number of other HMC members helped with the framing of this house in the parking lot of First Mennonite in Newton. The family is looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving in their new home. Opportunities to serve with MDS are numerous. You can learn more at www.mds.mennonite.net/

Don Horst

With Our Gratitude...

Amidst the sadness with the loss of our husband, father, and grandfather we have drawn strength from the many acts of kindness you have shown to us. Your words of encouragement, thoughtful cards and notes, food, phone calls, thoughts and prayers have all been so appreciated. Thank you for your love and generosity!

The Family of Paul H. Wenger

Children's Christmas Program

Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas program on **Sunday, December 10 at 4:30pm!** Parents of primary age children will receive a letter this Sunday as well as an email and are encouraged to respond with their children's availability to participate.



Council Minutes

October 12, 2017

Megan Smith opened with prayer

Clarence Rempel, South Central Conference Minister, shared the results of the Pastoral Structure Survey. There were 176 responses. This information will be shared at a congregational meeting during the Sunday School hour on October 29, with Clarence presenting the findings.

Since receiving the data, the guiding team has met twice. Once to look at the data and a second time to see if there might be a third way to reconcile the two very disparate and evenly divided views. They also looked back at the Twenty Pastoral Tasks from a year ago.

After discussion, Church Council met with further agenda.

Kelsay Rychener opened with a devotional. She asked us what we really love. Do we put ourselves on that list as created in God's image? We need to love ourselves before we can truly love others.

Gary Boese shared about custodial changes. There will be a time at the Soup Challenge to thank the Mast's for their many years of service in that role.

Sara Jantz shared from the Finance Commission that as of the second week of October we are running about \$25,000 behind last year. We need to be aware of this as we begin the intention to give process.

We had a great Fall Missions offering of \$5,360 to Prince of Peace Church in Texas.

Gifts Discernment Commission is requesting the congregation submit more names for the position of Elder as we still have two positions to fill.

The Soup Challenge on October 22 will go toward Hurricane Relief through Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS).

Adjourned.

Ken Rodgers, Recorder

Upcoming Events

Nov 10 Safehope Holiday Gala & Auction, 6:00pm, Meridian Center. To make reservation, call 316-284-6922 or visit www.safehope.net/gala/html

Nov 11 1st Mennonite Church Halstead Mission Supper, 5:00-7:00pm, German Sausage, sauerkraut, chicken borscht, zwieback, desserts. Proceeds benefit Halstead Neighbors Store, and missionaries.

Nov 16 Offenders in the Church: Who they are and how they operate, 6:30pm, MCC Center. Sexual Abuse Prevention Training led by Clarissa Sloan Dvorak, free and open to the public.

Nov 17 Ted Swartz, *Slightly Left of Normal: Theatrical Musings on Life, God, and Other Minor Details*, 7:00pm, Krehbiel Auditorium, Bethel College, \$12 adult, \$10 senior citizen, \$5 children 12 and under.

Nov 18 Hesston College Talent Show, 8:00pm, HMC sanctuary. Cookies and refreshments in community center from 7:15-7:45pm. Free for the whole family!

Elders Minutes

October 19, 2017

Our elders' meeting was begun by Jay. Jim gave the opening prayer. For devotions Emily told a personal story of a recent meaningful experience that connected to Rev. Bodden's 10/15/17 sermon on salt and light.

The minutes from September 21 were read and approved.

Clayton's pastor's report included information about time out of the office. He will have vacation days Nov. 3-5. October 26-27 is for a RAY retreat. And November 20 Clayton will be in Wichita for a Kansas Leadership Conference event, called "Your Leadership Edge Workshop." Earlier this week, he attended a family ministries conference, with reminders of teaching children and practicing what is taught.

Gordon described, in his report, a rewarding Bible Study time in the Sunday School class he is teaching as well as in the Wednesday night class. He has been invited to do Advent services at the Schowalter Villa.

Amy recently returned from a vacation which was a good time away. From the Triad Discipleship Circles, a Sunday morning worship in November will include experiences by some participants. Children's ministry and Sunday School continues to be challenged by the need for teachers.

Our pastors reported on the pastoral care needs in the congregation.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Barb.

*Respectfully submitted,
Barb Kaufman, Secretary to Elders*

Everence News

Getting ready to retire? *An overview of Medicare* will go over what's covered (and what's not), enrollment deadlines and plans that supplement Medicare on **Nov. 6, 6:30pm**. *Retirement income strategy* will help you think through your retirement income and expenses, discuss risks that can impact your savings, and strategies to help your income last throughout retirement on **Dec. 4, 6:30pm**. All seminars will be at Everence, 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. To reserve your spot, contact Michelle Ramer at (316) 283-3800, (877) 467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

International Gift Festival

The Ten Thousand Villages and Fair Trade International Gift Festival is coming to Newton in November and December.

WHEN: 10:00am-5:00pm—**Nov. 24-25, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16**
1:00-4:00pm—**December 3, 10, 17**

WHERE: Mezzanine above Prairie Harvest in Newton

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