



in touch

November 19, 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.

Christmas Program Rehearsals

Children in 1st-4th grade and all others involved in the HMC Christmas program, which is December 10th at 4:30, should plan to meet in the sanctuary at 6:30-7:45 on Wednesdays, November 29th and December 6th for practice. We will also practice during Sunday School on December 10th with children age 2 through Kindergarten. Please contact Susan Lamb with questions.

Pastoral Structure Update

Utilizing feedback and input gathered from the congregation in numerous ways and working with conference minister, Clarence Rempel, the Guiding Team has presented drafts of a pastoral structure definition and draft revised job descriptions to the Pastors, Church Council and Elders for their review and feedback. The Guiding Team will be taking feedback from these conversations and further refining these documents. They will also meet with the pastors an additional time. The hope is to present a recommendation to the Church Council and Elders on November 30. From there, the next step would be to bring these documents to the congregation. Please feel free to connect with a member of the Guiding Team should you have any questions/concerns. Thank you for your continued patience, involvement and prayers during this time of discernment.

Guiding Team Members: Jim Brenneman, Jon Friesen, Sara Jantz, Barbara Kaufman and Megan Smith

Resonate Hymn Sing



The Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, working under the name Resonate Team, has scheduled a series of regional hymn sings. On **Saturday, December 2, 6:30 pm**, Hesston Mennonite Church will host a hymn sing led by project director and general editor Bradley Kauffman.

Dorcas Circle



Thursday, December 7, 2017
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Project: MCC Returning Citizen Care Kits
Meal: Potluck
Devotions: Cheryl Hershberger

Returning Citizen Care Kits lists can be found on MCC's website: mcc.org/stories/expanding-care-offering-new-kits

Did You Know???

- The **Children's Globe Offerings** through the end of 2017 will go to Mennonite World Conference.
- MYF collected 68 Christmas sacks for the Hesston Resource Center. Thanks to all who helped fill the bags!

Thank You

Thank you for your care, concern and prayers when I fainted last Sunday in the community center. I was thoroughly checked out and no cause was found for my fainting episode. It was embarrassing to make such a dramatic commotion, but it was touching to have professional help from church people.

Thanks, Carol Friesen

Elders Minutes

November 2, 2017

Jay opened our meeting. Amy had prepared devotions from writings by Jan Richardson. The minutes from our October 19, 2017 meeting were received and accepted.

Clayton's report included his plans to stay in Hesston for Christmas. He has scheduled a KLC Leadership Edge Workshop on Nov. 20. The RAY retreat took place in late October. He appreciated the assistance from other adults in making it a success. The MYF will work at a food drive for Hesston Resource Center, gathering items on Nov. 8. Sunday School for Youth has focused on the Sermon on the Mount, the same theme used during worship. The Outreach Commission has been finding useful ways to be present in the community.

Gordon has been continuing with studies of Paul. He also performed a recent wedding.

Amy and Clayton are going to a Healthy Boundaries Training on Nov. 9. This training is required for all pastors in South Central Conference and held at Hesston College. Other Children's Ministry work involves procedures at HMC for child protection. She is also part of the planning committee for the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series weekend with Hesston College.

The pastors shared pastoral care concerns.

Our meeting closed with prayer by Gordon.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Kaufman, Secretary to Elders

Council Minutes

November 9, 2017

- I. Sara Jantz opened meeting.
 - a. Shared verse of the month: Psalm 31:3
 - b. Approval of October minutes
- II. Clarence Rempel led prayer for Jon Friesen's wife Kathleen.
- III. Sharing of Pastoral Structure Definition Draft and Draft Job Descriptions - Clarence Rempel
 - a. Clarence and guiding team have been working on new drafts of pastoral structure and 3 pastoral job descriptions based on feedback from recent survey and from 20 Pastoral Tasks survey and round table discussions done last year. Drafts given to those present.
 - b. Clarence noted some of the major changes based on feedback from congregation.
 - c. Clarence gave time for those present to look over the drafts and provide feedback- both affirmations and suggestions for changes and revisions.
 - d. Affirmations and suggestions of those present tonight, as well as feedback from those not present will be taken to guiding team so they can continue to make revisions.
 - e. Council to meet again on Nov 30 at 7pm to continue working towards final drafts. Elders included.
- IV. Education - Rachel Yoder
 - a. Policy draft review- Child Protection Policy and Abuse Response Procedure: Council to read it this month and will have conversation at next month's meeting. Needs to go to congregation for affirmation to approve policy at annual meeting in January.
- V. Finance - Budget Update - Sara Jantz/Ted Stuckey
 - a. We are below last year's giving by \$30,972.
 - b. Will begin to give more updates in bulletins. We will need to figure out how we can cut expenses- will be discussed at Finance Forum on December 3.
- VI. Commission reports for annual report due December 14.
- VII. Adjourn- Megan Smith

Jen Smalley, Recorder

Upcoming Local Events

- 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!**
- Nov 24 Luminary Walk: *The Prairie Sleeps*, 5:30-8:00pm, November 24-25, December 1-2. \$6 adults, \$3 children 3-15. Visit dyckarboretum.org.**
- Nov 24 Ten Thousand Villages Pop-Up Sale, 10:00am-5:00pm—Nov. 24-25, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 and 1:00-4:00pm on Sundays, December 3, 10, 17. Prairie Harvest Mezzanine in Newton.**
- Dec 2 1st Mennonite Church McPherson German Supper, 4:30-7:00pm. Free will donation. Verenika, sausage, bohne beroggi, zweiback, cherry moos, as well as other goodies at the bake sale.**

Hosting International Students

Are you looking to do "something different" this holiday season? Consider opening your heart and home to an International Student! Hesston College has several students from other countries who need someplace to stay when the dorms are closed for Christmas break. This is a fun way to get to know international student(s) who are part of the Hesston College family...and to share your holiday traditions with them. Host families are needed from December 15 through January 9. Even if your family is only available part of the time, you may still be able to help.

If you have any questions or are interested in being a host family please contact Carlota Ponds, Director of International Student Support, at 327-8210 or carlota.ponds@hesston.edu.

New Hope Shelter Needs

Napkins
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Pine Sol
Bleach Spray

Trash Bags
New Pillows
Bath Towels
Seasonal Coats, Caps, Gloves
Personal Devotionals



Newton Et Cetera News

Many people do their **Christmas shopping at the Newton Et Cetera Shop!** Please bring us your **clean, gently-used toys, shoes, jewelry and children's coats.** Your donated items might end up as cherished gifts under someone's Christmas tree! Support MCC Thrift Shops because you care...about your family, your community, and beyond.

Mennonite Central Committee News

Spread cozy, colorful warmth around the world! All you have to do is tie knots! Mennonite Central Committee has a generous number of comforter tops, and now **we need your help tying them!** MCC has paired tops and backs that are ready to be tied, and we are inviting you or your church group to pick some up (or we can ship them to you)! If you are interested, please either stop by the MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton, or contact Kate Mast at katemast@mcc.org, or 316-283-2720. We ask that you provide the batting and the crochet tying thread if possible. Thank you in advance for helping to spread warmth and love to our brothers and sisters around the world!

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