



in touch

January 7, 2018

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.

Continuing "Into the World"



The Bible doesn't spend much time in Jesus' younger years and quickly moves the reader to Jesus' most intense years of ministry into the world. This begins with the calling of his disciples and quickly into interactions with people of all kinds. We aren't nearly surprised enough when we read about the people that Jesus interacted with, nor are we startled by how they interacted with him. To us, this is all normal and we think nothing of it. Try taking off our innocent Sunday School and tolerant 21st Century glasses and you'll see that it was scandal after scandal!

Sure, we all know that Jesus didn't spend his time with the religious elite and we, as good Mennonites, think this is just swell. But a man claiming to be bringing about a new way of living picked a foolish place to start. And, if these people are willing to follow a person from Galilee they certainly must be fools themselves. Unless, it's just this kind of foolishness that Jesus was going for in the first place.

The mistake we could easily make here is that we're supposed to be as foolish as some thought Jesus to be. Many Christians have taken this approach with the outcomes one might expect. But in order to simultaneously seem foolish and yet actually accomplish exactly what you set out to do, there has to be a level of intentionality in understanding and holding to purpose.

Jesus speaks his purpose in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." In the stories we'll encounter until the beginning of Lent, we will see these things come to be as Jesus builds relationships with the unremarkable, ministers to the undesirable, and does the unexplainable. All of this done with an unwavering commitment to his purpose to go into the world and see it transformed through the grace and love of God.

Clayton Gladish

Did You Know???

- The Children's Globe Offerings for January through March will go to Peace Connections: Circles of Hope.



Bible Study on Philippians

Gordon Scoville will be teaching a four-session Bible study (Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Genesis room, beginning on January 10 through the 31st) on the apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. The focus of the class will be on Paul's desire to teach that *unity* is a death-in-Christ experience --- death to the notion that our life together depends on successful human achievement. We will learn, instead, that unity depends on sharing the *common mind* of Christ graciously given to us by Christ. Everything in Christian community life hinges on understanding this instruction in Philippians. Everything in Christian home life hangs on this understanding. *All are welcome to participate in this study, no sign-up required.*

Join us for
Communion
Sunday, January 14 during the worship service.

Reflections for the New Year

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
3. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
4. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
5. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your faith community, church or circle of friends?
6. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
7. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
8. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?
9. Who is the person you want to encourage the most this year?
10. What blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year?

Council Minutes

December 14, 2017

- I. **Welcome-** Megan Smith
- II. **Quote/Verse for the Month** - Sara Jantz
- III. **Approval of November Council Minutes**
- IV. **Commission Reports**
 - a. **Education:** Child Protection Policy and Abuse Response Procedure Review – Rachel Yoder. This policy will be voted on at annual meeting.
 - b. **Finance:** Budget Update/Finance Forum – Ted Stuckey. Ted discussed items that received the most mention at the Finance Forum. Budget update: Finance Commission sees their role as giving counsel regarding how much we think we can expect to get in contributions in the next year. Council's responsibility will be to decide allocation issues based on the likely deficit. At the end of November, we were about \$36,000 behind budget.
 - c. **Gifts Discernment:** Open Position Updates—Ken Rodgers. Discussed open council positions and those who will decide to renew terms. Elders: have a list of names, hope to have names to vote on at annual meeting for 2 open positions.
 - d. **Outreach:** LaMar Bender. Commission finished reading the book called “Smart Compassion” and are looking into how they will use what they learned.
- V. **Review of cover letter for pastoral structure definition and job description distribution.** Pass out documents for congregation to review on Jan 7, congregational meeting on Jan 14.
- VI. **Annual Meeting Planning** — January 28, 2018. Draft of agenda reviewed.
- VII. **Adjourn** - Megan

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14 – 7:00 p.m.

Jen Smalley, Recorder

Office Manager Hours

Effective January 1, Jasmine's weekly hours will be set to 34 hours and will stay consistent with the current office hours. We want to be clear that this is not a budget cut decision in any regard, but Jasmine's request as she has become more familiar with her role over the past year and a half. We are grateful for her good work! ~Personnel & Church Council

New Hope Shelter Meals

HMC is scheduled to provide meals on **January 17-20**. Please contact Jean Selzer, 327-2430, to get involved!



New Hope Shelter, Inc.
Following Christ, Building the Community

Mennonites and the Holocaust

Registration is now open for the academic conference “Mennonites and the Holocaust,” to be held on the Bethel College campus **March 16-17**, with speakers and scholars from Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine and the United States. See mla.bethelk.edu/MennosandHolocaust for more information or to register online.

Thank You Notes & Letters

Dear Dorcas Circle,

Thank you for so much for your recent donation of items for Returning Citizen Care Kits! I had just received an email from the Working Men of Christ that they needed more kits the same day Elaine brought your donations! What a blessing!
~Kate Mast, MCC Central States

Greetings from Chicago to my church family at Hesston Mennonite! It has now been 2.5 years since you blessed my venture into seminary education. I have one semester left to complete a Master of Divinity at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. These years have been full of growth and a growing sense of call to pastoral ministry.

This year I have a pastoral internship at Living Water Community Church, an ethnically diverse Mennonite church on the north side of Chicago. I have been given opportunities to preach, sing with the African choir, and am currently directing a series of Advent dramas I helped write. It is life-giving and challenging work.

I am far away geographically, but I give thanks for the continued impact you all have made on my life and for the ministry that continues among you. Your prayers and support have meant so much! As I finish up seminary, please pray for God's guidance in the pastoral job search ahead.

May the peace of Emmanuel, God-with-us, fill your hearts and homes this season,
~Laura Kraybill

Everence

Everence will continue its popular retirement workshop series in 2018, starting with *Your Medicare options* on Monday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. The workshop will be presented by Everence staff and will be held at the Everence office at 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. Reserve your spot soon by contacting Michelle Ramer at (316) 283-3800; (877) 467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

Memorial Benefit Run—The Neuf

Join friends & family of Russ Neufeld on **January 13, 2018** by participating in the inaugural running of The Neuf 9K & 2 mile run. The run starts at 10:00am outside Mojo's Coffee Shop on the Bethel College campus. Russ was a former Mennonite Church USA and Hesston College employee. The run will raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and a scholarship is Russ' name at Hesston College. Register online through Jan 10, or in person on the day of the race. Read other details about the race at www.runtheneuf.neuf.ca.

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