

## What Your Heart Clamors To Do

We often speak of pastors as having a divine “calling.” God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God’s people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a “call?”

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a father doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby’s diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that “work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do,” and that “we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride.” What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is your divine call?



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# The Church Corner



**First Mennonite Church**  
**427 W. 4th Street**  
**Halstead, KS 67056**  
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**Pastor Steve Wilcox**

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**Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.**

***\*The service is livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.***

**"We are a community of believers who follow Jesus Christ as we receive and share God's love."**

**We, of First Mennonite Church, valuing the convictions of our faith, endeavor to:**

- **Engage our members in ministry**
- **Expand community outreach and**
- **Embrace new people in the love of Christ.**

## A Psalm of Our Own

*A joyful remembrance of our congregational Psalm-writing*

A number of weeks ago, during a sermon on the Psalms, we tried something a little different—something playful, participatory, and deeply meaningful. Together, as a congregation, we wrote our very own Psalm. Using a Mad Lib-style format, I asked for your input—nouns, verbs, places, emotions—and you responded with creativity and heart. Then, with all those pieces in place, we shaped them into a prayer that reflected both the spirit of the Psalms and the unique voice of our church.

It was a beautiful moment—not just because of the laughter or the joy of hearing our own words woven together—but because it reminded us that the Psalms are not relics of the past. They are living prayers. They teach us how to bring our full selves—our awe, our weariness, our praise, our questions—before God. And that morning, we did just that.

Thank you for your willing participation and your joyful spirit. I hope you'll take a moment to read through our Psalm again below. May it bring a smile, stir your heart, and remind you that your voice belongs in the ongoing song of faith. (The words in bold are the words given by members of our congregation).

Our Congregation's Psalm:

O LORD, our Lord, how **gargantuan** is your name in all the earth!

When I look up and see the **mountains** that you have made, and watch as they **praise** across the sky, my heart is filled with **joy**, and I wonder at your mighty power.

What are we humans that you think of us? We are smaller than a **pebble**, yet you have made us greater than **clouds**! You have given us a **church** where we can meet with you, and hearts that keep **dancing** into your goodness.

You have blessed us with **Pastor Steve** and shown your love through **your mercy**. You have given our hands the ability to **create**, and surrounded us with **church family** who care for us.

How **loving** you are, O God! You fill our days with **family**, and give us **eternal life** to hold onto.

O LORD, our Lord, how **gargantuan** is your name in all the earth!

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve



**SING PRAISES TO HIM;  
TELL OF ALL HIS WONDERFUL WORKS.**

**P S A L M 1 0 5 : 2**

what works and what doesn't.

- Pastor's report – Steve reported he is working with the other churches in town on the Old Settlers service.

*The next council meeting will be  
August 18, 2025*

## Interfaith Council School Supply Drive

The 2025 - 2026 school year is about to begin. With contributions from Halstead congregations, the Interfaith Council has donated \$2135 to the Halstead / Bentley School District for school supplies for families in need. Every year we hear from the school district how important this donation is and how thankful they are that Halstead congregations care for the students of our schools. Our congregation contributed \$860. A big thank you to all who donated to this important community project.



## Former pastor's wife dies

Mary L. Gaeddert, wife of former pastor John Gaeddert, died on July 4, 2025, at Kidron Bethel Village, North Newton, Kansas. She was 94. She was born October 7, 1930, in Kingman County, Kansas, and was a graduate of Kingman High School and attended Bethel College where she received a teaching certificate. Mary taught first grade in Sedgwick, Kansas, before marrying John W. Gaeddert on June 1, 1951, at Bethany Mennonite Church in Kingman County.

Mary described herself as a “helpmate” to her teacher/pastor husband, moving from rural Kansas to urban Chicago; from Nebraska to Congo/Zaire; from a parsonage outside of Goessel to a house in North Newton and finally to Kidron Bethel Village. At each stop along the way Mary had many jobs: teaching Sunday School, hosting church members and visiting speakers at the family home, and being a stay-at-home mom to Susan, Dee and Russ. After her children were grown, Mary began a second career as a copy editor and proofreader for Faith and Life Press and a typesetter for Mennonite Press in Newton, Kansas, retiring in 1992.

The family will celebrate Mary's life in a private service at a later date. Memorial gifts may be made to Bethel College (Kansas) or MCC.



Council Meeting Minutes
from July 21, 2025

- Debbie opened the meeting with prayer. April minutes were approved as written.
- Discernment Team - No report
- Vision Team - Sandy reported they have been discussing changing some of the policy and procedures regarding Conference attendance and Chairperson committee/ministry requirements. She also mentioned that the Vision Team approved Steve to spend some time with the track team this spring as an outreach.
- Care Ministry - Ron reported communion will be August 3. They are looking at making a list of individuals to drive elderly members to church and to appointments if needed. Ruth Mueller and Maeanna Regier will be doing home-bound visitations.
- Hospitality Ministry - Kaitlen reported that the ice cream socials had good participation, there was a Care Portal gathering and they are planning to do end-of-month potlucks to hopefully involve more college age people.
- Mission Ministry - Sandy reported they are discussing doing a Harvest Mission Festival (Faspa) possibly at the end of September.
- Nurture Ministry - Debbie reported there will be no Sunday School August 10 for Old Settlers service, with the service beginning at 10 a.m. There will possibly be a 9:15 social

time before the service. The Fall mission offering will go for Angel Tree/Neighbors. Kids Club will start September 3 and go through October 22. Adult study will be for 6 weeks during that time. September 14 will be Christian Education Sunday (MCC school kits will be the offering). Third grade Bibles will be given to Emily and Isaiah.

- Stewardship Ministry - Treasurer's report - Larry reported a budget balance of \$1963.56 at the end of June. Items listed are currently being worked on or have been completed: set up and took down partitions in Stauffer Hall for VBS, the second phase of the pipe organ rebuild will be done this week, the HVAC replacement project has received a rebate of \$800 from Evergy (deposited under the Budget), a colony of bats have been found in the attic of Stauffer Hall above the stage area (cannot do anything with them until August because they are a protected species during the spring and summer) and we have decided to install bat exclusion valves that will only allow them to fly out and not back in the building (a quote of \$7000 was obtained to do this so we have decided to do the work ourselves at a minimal cost), working on several water leaks around the building, will be replacing an 8' fluorescent light in the Sunday School supply room with a LED fixture.
- Worship Ministry - Denice reported they are working on the Old Settlers community service. Looking at changes for the worship service,

Church Announcements

- The church calendar is now online! It can be found on the homepage of the church's website (firstmennonitehalstead.org).
- The deadline for the September newsletter is Monday, August 25.
- The Neighbors Store pantry requests mushroom cream soup and chicken cream soup for the month of August.
- Offering Schedule for August:
  - Aug. 3: Western District Conf.
  - Aug. 10: Church Budget
  - Aug. 17: Scholarship Fund
  - Aug. 24: MC USA
  - Aug. 31: Church Budget
- The link for our church online library is librarything.com catalog/FMCHalstead.

Treasurer's Report

Budget Balance @1-1-25	239.32
Jan.-May. Receipts	62,675.81
Jan.-May Expenses	(60,825.52)
Budget Balance @5-31-25	2,089.61
June Receipts	10,515.77
June Expenses	(10,641.82)
Budget Balance @6-30-25	1,963.56

AUGUST

August Calendar

Aug. 3	10:00 a.m.	Communion
Aug. 5	7:45 a.m.	Early Birds Breakfast
Aug. 6	6:30 p.m.	Community choir Rehearsal - Methodist Church
	8:00 p.m.	Community Praise Team practice - FMC
Aug. 8-9		WDC Assembly
Aug. 10	10:00 a.m.	Old Settlers Community Worship Service
Aug. 18	6:00 p.m.	Nurture meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Aug. 19	7:45 a.m.	Early Birds Breakfast
	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Team
	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting
Aug. 31	12:00 p.m.	Last Sunday Potluck

Looking Ahead

Sept. 3	Kids Club Begins
Sept. 14	Christian Ed Sunday and Potluck
Oct. 12	P & M Pumpkin Ranch

Upcoming Church Events

Last Sunday Potlucks

As the new school year approaches, the Hospitality ministry invites you to join us for Last Sunday potlucks! Food is something that brings us together throughout the year, and our ministry spent some time dreaming about a regular opportunity to extend an invitation for others to join. It is our hope to extend these invitations to our local colleges. We would love to partner with other ministries this year to give a few of these potlucks a special twist. We hope you can join as you are able, and we invite you to extend the invitation to those you interact with throughout the week. Mark August 31st on your calendar for our first Last Sunday potluck!



Halstead Old Settlers Community Worship Service

The Old Settlers Community Worship Service will be held in our church on Sunday, Aug. 10, at 10 a.m. There will not be any Sunday School that morning. Join believers from churches across our community for what has become a special time of shared worship. Ron Chronister will be directing a community choir that morning. If you're interested in singing in the choir, a rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church.



New Face in our Church Family

The Wilcox family is excited to share that they will be welcoming an exchange student from the Republic of Georgia this year. He is looking forward to being part of their family and getting to know our church community as well. Please join us in giving him a warm and loving welcome as he becomes part of our church family during his time here!

Pine Village Event

The Pine Village Benefit Day Bierock Dinner is coming up on Friday, August 15, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Dinner is \$7 and you can add an extra bierock for an extra \$3. Bierock pre-orders are available until Monday, August 11. You may order a half dozen for \$20 or a dozen for \$35. Order online at https://www.pinevillageks.org/shop. Pre-order pick up will be on Friday, August 15, from 3 - 6 p.m. at Pine Village Wellness Center.

WDC Women and Girls Retreat

Online registration is now open for the Women & Girls Retreat, taking place September 6-7 at Camp Mennoscah. The retreat is sponsored by Western District Women in Mission.

This year's speakers are Pastor Katherine Goerzen (Tabor Mennonite Church) and Pastor Laura Goerzen (First Mennonite Church, Newton).

The full schedule, registration and payment is available at westerndistrictwomeninmission.org, or forms can be downloaded to register and pay by mail. Registration is due by August 29.

Questions? Email us at westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.



- Jerry Keller
- (A) John & Pamela Keller (60 years)
- (A) David & Brocia Mueller
- Randi Schaff
- Rheannah Unruh
- (A) Garrison & Erin Gundy
- (A) Abram & Emily Rodenberg
- Derek Keller
- Virginia Berger
- Roberta Warren
- Crescent Haury
- (A) David & Monica Flask
- (A) Michael & Roberta Warren
- (A) Cody & Jessica Dyck
- Doug Auernheimer
- (A) Harley & Elaine Mohler (68 years)
- (A) Jim & Lois Loflin (62 years)
- Jennifer Penner
- (A) Larry & Sharon Finley
- (A) Rick & Sandy Allen
- Rachel Klassen Gadue
- Tia Regier
- Korbin Black
- Tim Lewis
- Abram Rodenberg
- (A) George & Diana Torres
- Betty Schowalter
- Debbie Castillo
- Marj VanWye
- Monica Flask
- Amy Buchholz
- Lloyd Voth
- Allison Smoker
- Jaren Smoker
- Abigail Mueller
- Richard Schmidling
- Arthur Rodenberg
- Marisa Schaff
- (A) Kenneth & Dee Ann Lintz
- Ashlee Stucky



## Senior High Youth Serve at Open Door Mission in Omaha.

Eight senior high youth and three sponsors traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, June 29 - July 3, to volunteer with Open Door Mission. The ministry has been in existence since 1954 and provides shelter, meals and homelessness prevention resources to hundred of people everyday.

The group participated in a variety of activities. On the first day of service, they worked in a warehouse sorting items for distribution through a store-like setting, as well as sorted and hung up donated clothing. Another day they served food at lunchtime, unboxed and hung up clothing items, and handed out food items. The final day they packed boxes of food at Foodbank for the Heartland.

The group also enjoyed playing sand volleyball and visiting some sites in Omaha.



Top left: The youth and sponsors who served in Omaha left to right: David Mueller, Brocia Mueller, Gregg Dick, Johnathan Haspels, David Bergman, Henry Harrington, Eli Wilcox, Ethan Wilcox, Kalyn Ortman, Maylin Bergman, Jonathan Bergman. Top right left to right: Eli, Johnathan and Henry serve food at lunch.



Boxing up food at Foodbank for the Heartland.

The group packs boxes of food at Foodbank for the Heartland.

## Ministry Opportunity

### A Ride Can Change Someone's Day

The Care Team is creating two lists of folks who are willing to share a little time—and a little gas—to make a big difference in someone's life.

We're looking for people who would be willing to:

- Drive someone to a doctor's appointment when they don't have a way to get there.
- Offer a ride to church on Sundays for someone in your neighborhood or area who needs transportation.

Even helping once in a while can be a gift. A ride may seem like a small thing, but for someone who's homebound, recovering, or without transportation, it's an act of love that opens doors to care, healing, and community.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the church hall if you're able to help with one—or both—of these needs.

As Frederick Buechner once wrote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." And as Galatians 6:2 reminds us: "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Thank you for considering how you can be part of this ministry of compassion and connection.

## PRAYER list

- Praise God for the safe travels of those in our congregation who traveled this summer.
- Pray for Anna Lee Ewert as she recovers from some fractured bones. Pray for complete healing and a quick return to her activities.
- Pray for Debbie Nightingale who is dealing with back issues that cause pain in her legs.
- Pray for Leon Schmidt who is experiencing ongoing challenges with recovery following a knee replacement. Pray for wisdom in moving forward and patience with the long process.
- Pray for Linda Aylward as she recovers from throat surgery.
- Pray for the family, friends and community who are grieving the loss of a young girl and her friend's father who lost their lives on July 3 at Kanopolis Lake.
- Pray for all those affected by the flooding in Texas in early July.
- Pray for all teachers, students and families as they begin a new school year.
- Pray for any unspoken prayer requests. Pray that each need will be met.



This month, we invite you to get to know Larry Regier, our church treasurer.

**How long have you attended FMC?** Larry has attended First Mennonite Church since the fall of 1981, when he transferred from Burrton Mennonite Church.

**What brought you to FMC?** It was the high school youth group—and the friendships he had with people in it—that brought Larry to FMC. He was a sophomore at Halstead High School when he made the decision to change churches. While there were younger children at Burrton Mennonite, there were no other high school-aged youth. With his mother's blessing—she continued attending the church in Burrton, which was pastored by Jim Gundy at that time—Larry made the move and was baptized by his uncle, Henry Goosen, who was FMC's pastor at the time.



Larry Regier

The youth leaders when Larry first began attending were Charles and Melody Robinson. Later, Bart and Maeanna Regier also served as his youth leaders. Family connections helped make the transition to FMC even smoother. In addition to having an uncle as pastor, Larry also had an aunt, Lorraine Siemens, and a cousin, Cindy Siemens, who were part of the FMC congregation.

Burrton Mennonite Church officially closed in early 2015, and FMC was blessed to welcome several of its former members into our congregation. On the Sunday they formally transferred their membership, Larry stood with the group, welcoming his original church family into his current one.

**In what ways have you served or been involved at FMC over the years?** During his nearly 44 years at FMC, Larry has served in several roles, including as a deacon and as treasurer for the Board of Education (now called the Nurture Ministry). His longest-standing role, however, has been church treasurer—a position he has held for the past 11–12 years. He also served a previous six-year term as

treasurer.

Larry's skills and experience make him a natural fit for this role. He is a CPA and currently co-owns his accounting firm with a friend.

**What about FMC means the most to you?** The relationships and friendships formed over the years mean the most to Larry. For the past 25 years, he and friends Gregg Dick, Kent Dick, and Dwight Mueller have taken an annual fall golf trip to Bella Vista, Arkansas.

**What's a special memory you have connected to FMC?** One of Larry's favorite memories is helping to start the FMC golf outing with Dwight, Gregg, and Chuck Mueller. It began one Sunday morning before the annual Sunday School picnic, which at the time replaced the church service for the day. A casual round of golf before the picnic was organized, and it quickly became a tradition—complete with donuts.

Eventually, the outing was moved to the evening and paired with a cookout, allowing more people to participate. The event celebrated its 30th year this past June.

**What's something people might not know about you?** Larry has been a CPA for many years and has owned his own firm for the past 12½ years—something he greatly prefers to working for someone else. "It's amazing how many people want to help you out when you start. It was a good decision," he reflects. "We can't take new clients anymore because we have plenty of work."

He also enjoys exercising by hiking

and walking, often planning vacations around places with great trails. His hiking adventures have taken him along Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota; into the Grand Canyon; and to Santa Fe, New Mexico. This year, he explored Dordt County, Wisconsin.

## MCC School Kit Challenge

MCC's School Kit Challenge is back, and we are joining the challenge! School kits provide essential supplies that families navigating war, displacement or financial struggles would not be able to buy otherwise. MCC hopes to provide 25,000 school kits for 25,000 kids this summer. Bring your items and place them in the box under the coat racks. We will dedicate all the school kits during Christian Education Sunday on September 14. Supplies to include:

- 4 spiral notebooks (70 sheets each)
- 8 new, unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality, must have cm markings)
- 12 colored pencils in their packaging
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new, black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small, all-metal sharpener

