

First Mennonite Church of Halstead

September 21, 2025

*It is harvest time — in grain
fields and mission fields. May
worship fortify us to be laborers
at God's service.*

Gathering Music – Kent Dick

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations - James Denton

I Love to Tell the Story - Sarah Douglas

Welcome and Announcements - Amy Buchholz

Centering Music – Kent Dick

Peaceful Rest - Lani Smith

***Call to Worship** - Pastor Steve

Leader: Come, people of God, set aside the noise and hurry of the week.

People: We come to rest in God's presence, to be centered in His peace.

Leader: Here we remember who we are: children of the living God, called to follow Jesus.

People: We come to listen, to be renewed, and to be made ready.

Leader: The world around us groans with need, with sorrow, and with longing.

People: We are called to bear witness, to share Christ's love, and to stand with those in need.

Leader: So let us enter this time with open hearts and willing spirits.

People: We are here, Lord. Meet us, shape us, and send us as Your people.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord!

***Song** – *Come Away from Rush and Hurry* – VT #9

1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still-ness of God's peace;
2 In the pas-tures of God's good-ness we lie down to rest our soul,

from our vain am-bi-tion's wor-ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
from the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep-ly, are made whole.

Come a - way from noise and clam-or, life's de-mands and fren-zied pace;
At the ta - ble of God's pres-ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.

come to join the peo-ple gath-ered here to seek and find God's grace.
With the oil of God's a - noint-ing in - to ser-vice we are led.

***Song - Blessed Assurance - VT #435**

D G D

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a
 2 Per - fect com - mun - ion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest. I in my

A E7 A D

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
 rap - ture now burst on my sight. An - gels de - scend - ing
 Sav - ior am hap - py and bless'd, watch - ing and wait - ing,

G D Em A7 D

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain G D

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my

Sav - ior all the day long. This is my sto - ry, this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

D Em A7 D

Offering & Offertory – Church Budget

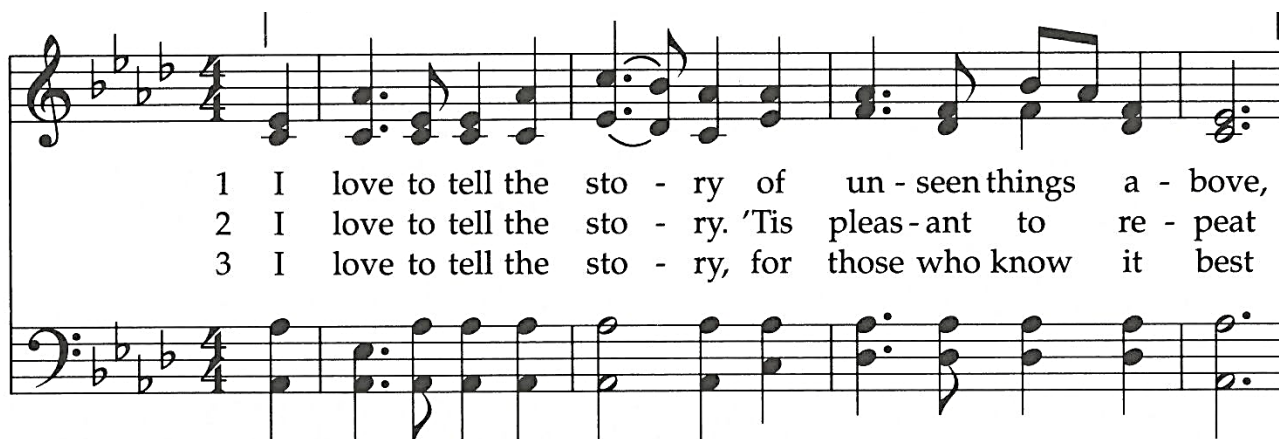
Tell Me the Old, Old Story - Robert Hughes

Kent Dick

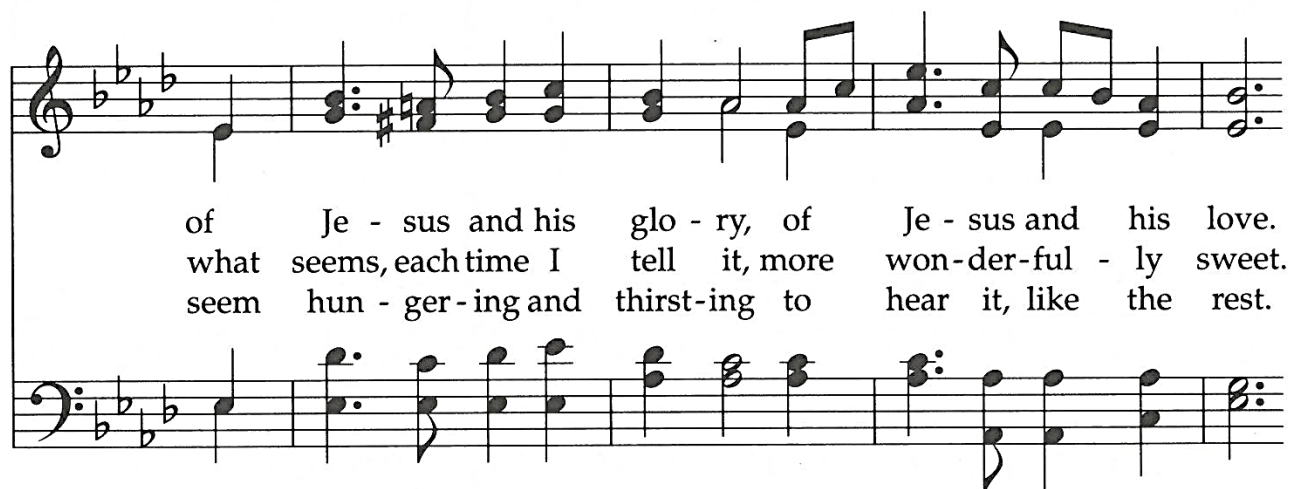
Children's Time – Pastor Steve

A nursery is available in the basement for children aged 4 and younger following Children's Time.

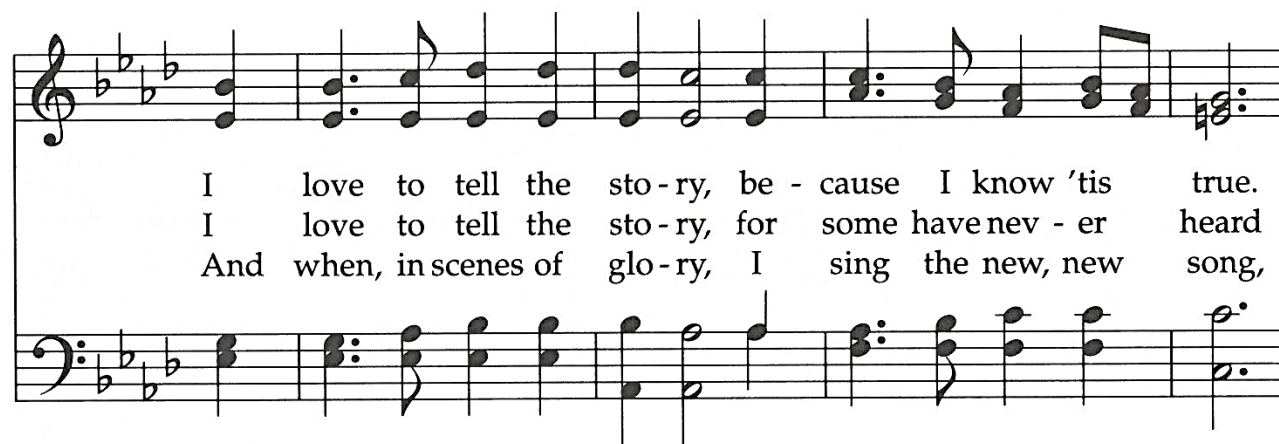
Worship Through Singing - *I love to tell the story* - HWB #398



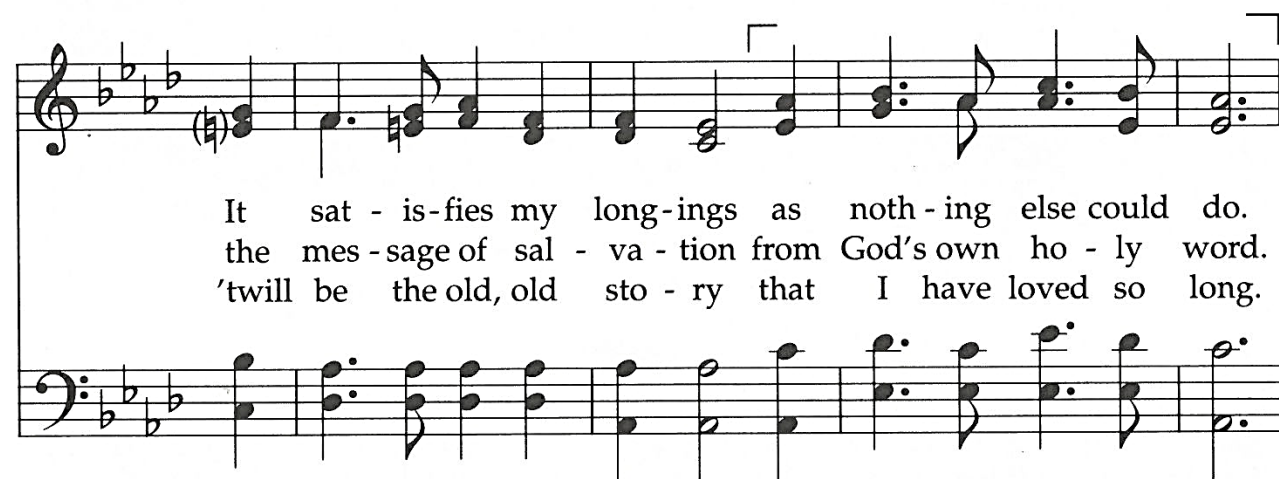
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry. 'Tis pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true.
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



It sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Worship Through Singing - *There is a place of quiet rest* - HWB #5



1 There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God,
2 There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God,
3 There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God,



a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.



Refrain



O Je - sus, bless'd Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,



hold us, who wait be - fore thee, near to the heart of God.



Congregational Prayer – Pastor Steve

Message – Weldon Martens

*Response Song – *Longing for Light* – VT #715

1 Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, — our world is troub-led. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C/G G Em Bm Em Am7 D
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! — Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

(☺) Last time

(☺) Last time

*Closing Prayer

*Sending Song - I Will Follow - VT #775

1 All your ways are good, all your ways are sure;
 2 Light in - to the world, light in - to my life,

I will trust in you a-lone. High - er than my sight,
 I will live for you a-lone. You're the one I seek,

high a-bove my life; I will trust in you a-lone.
 know-ing I will find all I need in you a-lone.

Refrain
 Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;
 when you move, I'll move. I will fol-low you. Whom you
 love, I'll love; how you serve, I'll serve; if this life I lose,
 I will fol-low you. I will fol-low you.

Bridge
 In you, there's life ev-er-last-ing. In you, there's free-dom for my soul.
 In you, there's joy, un-end-ing joy; and I will fol-low.

To refrain

***Benediction**

***Postude** – Kent Dick

Praise Him! Praise Him! – Mary McDonald

*Please stand if you are able

CHURCH CALENDAR

| | | |
|----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sept. 21 | 10:30 a.m. | Mission Sunday |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Lunch (provided) |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Givens family update and presentation |
| Sept. 22 | 6:00 p.m. | Nurture meeting |
| Sept. 17 | 5:00 p.m. | Kids Club |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Wed. Night Supper |
| | 6:45 p.m. | Adult Bible Study |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Choir practice |
| Sept. 25 | 9:00 a.m. | Prayer team meeting |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The rose on the organ this morning is in honor of Dale Dick's 90th birthday on Sept. 25. Happy Birthday Dale!

Welcome to Weldon Martens as he brings the morning message and presents an update on one of our mission partners, the Givens family, at 1:00 p.m. A sandwich lunch will be provided following the service and all are welcome to stay and eat. Visitors and senior citizens are invited to go through the line first. *The offering today is designated for the church budget. If you desire to support the Givens work, just indicate that on your check or envelope.*

The deadline for the October newsletter is this Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Adult Bible Study continues this Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 6:45 p.m. following supper at 6:00 p.m. The study will run through Wednesday, Oct. 22.

The choir will be practicing on Wednesday Sept. 24 at 8:00 p.m. We plan to sing during the worship service on September 28. Please plan to join us! More fall dates for the choir and the bell choir will be shared soon.

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 5, during the worship service. This is also World Communion Sunday

The Mission Ministry will be doing a toilet paper drive for the Neighbors Store during October. More information will be available soon!

"Where the Cottonwoods Grow" by Dale Hildebrand (Canada) will be shown at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, at the Fox Theatre in Hutchinson as part of the Salt City Film Fest. Tickets are \$5. The film tells the story of the Mennonite migration from Ukraine and Russia to North America.

Grace Hill Mennonite Church invites you to attend the 9th Annual Community Hog Roast, on Sunday, September 28, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the church, located at 10218 SE 12th, Whitewater. A pulled pork meal with sides will be served from 5:00-7:00 p.m. *The Flannelbacks* and Brett and Caleb Klingenberg will perform from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the free-will donation will support the Newton, Whitewater, and Potwin food banks.

Bethel College Updates: Thurs., Sept. 25 – Closing reception for Jordan Buschur and "Decororator," 6-7 p.m., Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center. **Oct. 2-5** - Bethel College's Fall Fest, which features music, food, class reunions, football (Bethel vs. Sterling), the Fall Fest play, and the ribbon cutting for the new Wellness Center. See bethelks.edu/fallfest/ for the complete schedule. **Fri., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m., Sat., Oct. 4, 3:30 p.m., Sun., Oct. 5, 2 p.m.** – The Bethel College theater department presents *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang. Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Ticket purchase required in Thresher Shop in Schultz Student Center weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or at the door. Contains adult content and may not be suitable for young children. **Sat., Oct. 4** – Miroslav Wolf, "Striving for Superiority and Striving for Excellence," 10

a.m., *Bethel College Mennonite Church*. Volf, a Croatian Protestant theologian, is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology and director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale University. **Camp Mennoscah Updates: Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat, October 10-12, is open.** Activities and lodging will be in the dining hall and bunkhouses. The link to register was emailed with the bulletin packet. **Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting** will be held at Hope Mennonite Church (868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita) on October 19 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. A silent auction for a few items will also take place. **The next tee shirt** comforter will be (silent) auctioned off at Bethel College's Fall Fest on October 4. Tee shirts and other souvenirs will be available, too.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Pray for Jessica Dyck who was in the hospital this past week with some health concerns.
- Western District Conference: Pray for leaders and participants in the *Voices Together* mini-webinar hosted by the WDC Resource Commission coming up on September 30, as they share ideas, resources and inspiration for meaningful worship and music.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Rejoice with the members of the Bolivia Mennonite Church, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Pray for them as they set goals and plan for the future.

SUNDAY INFORMATION

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| NURSERY TODAY | Marilyn Mueller, Maranda Whorton, Emmit Jacob |
| PIANIST/ORGANIST | Kent Dick |
| OFFERING LAST SUNDAY | |
| Church Budget | \$2,000.00 |
| Hesston College | 1,142.15 |
| MCUSA | 175.00 |
| Wednesday Supper | 68.00 |
| Western District Conference | 150.00 |
| ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY | 94 |
| OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY | MC USA |
| NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY | Kristin Burckhart, Lauren Mueller, Kalyn Ortman |

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Budget Balance @1-1-25 | 239.32 |
| Jan.-July Receipts | 90,379.57 |
| Jan.-July Expenses | (82,888.69) |
| Budget Balance @7-31-25 | 7,730.20 |
| August Receipts | 12,430.26 |
| August Expenses | (11,780.11) |
| Budget Balance @8-31-25 | 8,380.35 |

Givens Family (*Joseph, Rachel, Elijah & Micaiah*)

Serving in Calais, France

Joseph and Rachel Givens, along with their children, Elijah and Micaiah, serve with the Maria Skobtsova Housing Association in Calais, France. This ministry provides vital shelter and support to migrating people seeking refuge as they journey toward England.



Since 2022, Joseph and Rachel Givens have served in Calais, France, where they accompany volunteers at Maria Skobtsova House, a temporary shelter for women and children on a journey of migration. They work with many refugees, primarily those from the Middle East and Africa who flee to Europe in search of safety and stability for themselves and their families. War, death, famine, and oppressive political regimes force thousands of migrants to undertake this journey every year. As asylum is often refused in mainland Europe, Calais, France becomes an important crossroads. It is the nearest European city to the United Kingdom. There, refugees who have been unsuccessful at settling in Europe seek to cross the English Channel and claim asylum in Britain.

While migrants wait to cross, they crowd into temporary camps that lack access to sanitation facilities, transportation, clean water, and public safety. The local government discourages migrants by breaking up these temporary settlements and forcing the residents to relocate nearly every day. Women and children are especially at risk in this situation. The Maria Skobtsova House provides a safe space for up to 16 of them to live, work, laugh, play and pray together. The Givens family is called to manage the house, oversee daily activities, make connections with local nonprofits and churches, maintain a prayerful presence and shine a light for the gospel.

A few months ago, the ministry was able to move into a new building with the support of a French foundation. The larger house has a fenced yard for the children to play in, much larger bedrooms that will accommodate more guests, and two full bathrooms. The Givens family is excited about the opportunity to continue hosting and supporting people in this larger space.