

Thanksgiving Brings the Peace

The Women's Bible Study is going through *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer this fall. Each week we look at a different piece of the armor outlined in Ephesians 6, and our last lesson focused on shoes.... "and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace." Eph. 6:15 (ESV)

A Roman soldier's shoes had long spikes on the bottom. These spikes were there to give the soldier a firm footing regardless of the terrain he might need to cross. The peace that God gives is like these shoes. It gives us a firm footing. One statement made by Shirer in the video we watched resonated with me: "Life is hard to travel. The road we're traveling can be rocky or slick. But when we have peace, it allows us to be anchored and stand firm."

But how do we obtain that peace which allows us to stand firm? Being at peace with God through salvation provided by Jesus is foundational. And then three verses contain a very simple yet powerful way to activate God's peace in our lives: Phil 4:6-7 and Col. 3:15. Both these passages let us know that thanksgiving activates peace.

Thanksgiving activates peace. God's peace is there, ready and waiting. My practice needs to be disciplining my mind and heart to be thankful...at all times and in all situations so that God's peace can be present inside me.

This year, as I head into a time of intentional thanksgiving, I am also going to observe how that activates God's peace in my heart, mind and soul. Won't you join me in that too? *Melanie Haspels*

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The Church Corner



First Mennonite Church
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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.



The Grace of Growing Older

This year, turning 47 has brought with it a number of challenges and new physical limitations. While I hope to overcome some of these, the experience has made me feel more acutely the reality of aging—that sense of somehow falling apart, piece by piece. Of course, I realize that for those in our church family who are in their 80s and 90s, my complaints might sound a bit like a 5-year-old groaning about their aching knees and back at their incredibly advanced age! Yet despite my relative youth, I find that as the years advance and things begin to change, I need to adjust my thinking—to find new avenues of self-worth, new ways of accomplishing tasks, new approaches to exercise and diet, and new rhythms for life itself.

This adjustment, I've come to see, is not merely about physical adaptation. It's about something deeper: learning to value what God values as the seasons of life shift beneath our feet.

Our culture esteems youth, strength, and productivity. We measure worth by what we can do, how much we can accomplish, how independent we remain. But Scripture paints a radically different picture. "The glory of young men is their strength," Proverbs 20:29 tells us, "and gray hair the splendor of the old." There is a beauty—a glory—in aging that our world cannot see but that God esteems.

Consider the progression of life that Paul describes: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting

away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). What a profound truth! As our bodies weaken, as limitations multiply, as we trade certain abilities for new frailties, something glorious is happening within. The soul can grow stronger—more patient, more understanding, more filled with grace. Day by day. Moment by moment.

This means that aging, rightly understood, is not a slow defeat but a refining process. Each limitation becomes an invitation to depend more fully on God's strength rather than our own. Each adjustment in how we serve teaches us that our value was never in our productivity but in our identity as His children. Each gray hair (which I'm starting to get a few of) represents not decay but the accumulation of wisdom, experience, and a deeper knowledge of who God is.

Moses was eighty when God called him to his greatest work. Caleb was eighty-five when he asked for mountains to conquer. Abraham and Sarah became parents in their old age. The elderly Simeon and Anna recognized the Messiah when younger eyes missed him entirely.

Church family, our worth is not diminishing with age—it's being refined, redirected, transformed. "Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you!" (Isaiah 46:4). The same God who formed us in the womb carries us still, and will carry us home. This is not defeat. This is grace.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

The Broader Mennonite Church

Tabor Mennonite Chicken BBQ

The Mennonite Men of Tabor Mennonite Church will be hosting their annual Chicken BBQ on Thursday, November 6, from 5-7 p.m. The meal is dine-in or to-go and no reservation is needed. This year's donations will go to Joseph and Rachel Givens, Mennonite Mission Network missionaries in Calais, France, and Bethesda Home, Goessel. Tabor Mennonite Church is located at 891 Chisholm Trail, Newton.

Hope Mennonite Craft Bazaar and Peppernut Sale

Hope Mennonite Church's annual Craft Bazaar and Peppernut Sale will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at 868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita. All proceeds from the event will help support Hope Mennonite Church service projects: MCC, Camp Mennoscah, Family Promise and Justice Together. There will be live music, a bake sale featuring peppernuts, kids'



activities, local vendors, Quilter's Corner, and breakfast and lunch – cinnamon rolls, German sausage, bierocks, pie, and more. All are welcome – entry is free!

Camp Mennoscah Verenike Casserole Fundraiser

Camp Mennoscah will be having a Verenike Casserole Fundraiser on November 8, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton.

The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zweibach, and fruit crisp. You may either drive-through and pick up your meals or dine in. Reserve your meals by scanning the QR code. Suggested donation of \$20 per meal or \$40 per pan.

Buhler Mennonite Meal Packaging

Buhler Mennonite Church needs your help to package 50,000 meals on Saturday, December 6, at the Sand Hills Event Center (4601 N Plum St, Hutchinson). Use the QR code to sign up to volunteer. There is a job for all ages 7 to 147 years of age. Job orientation is provided and no previous experience is needed!



Good Grief: Books on Loss

Important people deserve to be missed. Growing up, my church family understood that. When my dad passed away at 40, one wonderful lady came to eat school lunch with me, just so we could talk about him. Another took my brother and I shopping at holidays so we could pick something out for Mom. And every fall for years, an anonymous "guardian angel" left notes in our front door reporting on how pleased our dad was with how we were growing up. I think they honored him very well.

When this congregation was grieving the loss of the vivacious Joyce Franz, and we were taking over her work in the church library, Raquel suggested that we separate out some of the "Inspiration" books for an easy-to-find section on "Grief." I appreciated that very much. A couple dozen books were selected for a low shelf on the north wall. A 365-day devotional by Grief Share was added this fall.

If you're looking to grieve well, check it out. While you're there, admire Joyce's cross-stitch of our round stained glass window of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane--and grieving beautifully

Casey Jacob, Church Librarian

Church Announcements

- 1. The church calendar is now online! It can be found on the homepage of the church's website (firstmennonitehalstead.org).
- 2. The deadline for the December newsletter is Thursday, Nov. 20.
- 3. The Neighbors Store pantry requests hamburger helper and canned fruit (in juice) for the month of November.
- 4. Offering Schedule for November:
 - Nov. 2: Church Budget
 - Nov. 9: Harvest Mission Festival
 - Nov. 16: Western District Conf.
 - Nov. 23: Church Budget
 - Nov. 30: MCC Christmas Tree
- 5. The link for our church online library is librarything.com catalog/FMCHalstead.

Treasurer's Report

Budget Balance @1-1-25	239.32
Jan.-Aug. Receipts	102,809.83
Jan.-Aug. Expenses	(94,668.80)
Budget Balance @8-31-25	8,380.35
September Receipts	8,603.11
September Expenses	(11,430.96)
Budget Balance @9-30-25	5,552.50



November Calendar

Nov. 2	10:30 a.m.	Beginner Bells play during the worship service.	Nov. 25	7:45 a.m.	Early Birds Breakfast
Nov. 4	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting	Nov. 30	8:15 a.m.	Waffle Breakfast
Nov. 9	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups		10:30 a.m.	Christmas Tree Decorating Service
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study			
Nov. 11	7:45 a.m.	Early Birds Breakfast	Dec. 6		Christmas Brunch for women and girls
Nov. 12	6:30 p.m.	Choir practice	Dec. 7		Children's Bells play during the worship service
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bells practice	Dec. 14		Children's/Youth Christmas program during the worship service
Nov. 15	5:00 p.m.	Mission Supper	Dec. 24		Christmas Eve service
Nov. 19	6:30 p.m.	Choir practice	Dec. 31		New Year's Eve party
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Bells practice	Feb. 15		Bob Ross painting afternoon
Nov. 20	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Team meeting			
Nov. 23	10:30 a.m.	Choir sings during worship			
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups			
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study			

Upcoming Church Events

Mission Supper

This year's annual Mission Supper will be held Saturday, November 15, from 5-7 p.m. in Stauffer Hall. The meal consists of German sausage, chicken borscht, fried potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, zwiebach and pie. Proceeds from the supper will benefit the Neighbors store and the Givens family, one of our mission partners serving in Calais, France.



Waffle Breakfast & Christmas Tree Decorating Service

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Nov. 30, when we will have our Waffle Breakfast and Christmas Tree Decorating Service. The Waffle Breakfast will be from 8:15-9:15 a.m. in Stauffer Hall with waffles and toppings, bacon,



sausage, hot drinks and more. Cost will be by donation and proceeds will assist people in the Halstead community with utility bills.

Then help decorate our Christmas tree with much needed items for MCC:

- New infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes)
- New onesies (6-12 month sizes)
- Bar soap
- Wide-toothed combs

Join us for one of our favorite Sundays of the year!

Christmas Brunch

A Christmas Brunch for all women and girls will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, at the church. Other details will be communicated later, but save the date for an enjoyable morning with the ladies of the church!



- 1 Megan Ortman
- 1 Bennett Mueller
- 2 Duane Knoll
- 2 Kenneth Black
- 4 Jack Cannon
- 4 Jessica Dyck
- 4 Cole Finley
- 5 Jace Whorton
- 5 Stacey Hackler
- 6 Ron Colbert
- 6 Gregg Dick
- 6 Shaun Whitesell
- 6 Joshua Stucky
- 7 (A) Jarod & Dakotah Cannon
- 8 Chuck Haspels
- 8 Cody Dyck
- 8 John Auernheimer
- 8 Rachel Ellis
- 8 Jane Fitch
- 8 Alex Stucky
- 8 Beth Nemeth
- 9 Melanie Haspels
- 9 Steven Ewy
- 9 Richard Regier
- 11 James Davis
- 12 Leah Koehn
- 12 Amber Lintz
- 13 Matthew Finley
- 14 Paul Kaufman
- 15 Waldon Regier
- 18 (A) Ron & Sara Dick

- 18 Reuben Kawanguzi
- 19 Betsy Davis
- 20 Ken Fast
- 20 Rita Mueller
- 20 Charles Robinson
- 21 David Wiens
- 22 Maliki Kawanguzi
- 22 (A) Mick & Mary Bean
- 23 (A) Tom & Tina Koehn
- 25 Ruth Stucky
- 27 Robert Koehn
- 27 John Back
- 28 Ruth Mueller
- 29 Ian Navarro
- 30 (A) Delton & Denice Klassen
- 30 Marilyn Auernheimer
- 30 Arletta McGinn
- 30 Wilma Mueller

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 2



Our Care Portal Connection



Care Portal was launched in 2015 by The Global Orphan Project. It was designed to connect children and families in crisis with churches, businesses, volunteer organizations, etc. with the resources and desire to help strengthen the family and keep kids out of the foster care system.

In 2018, FMC partnered with Care Portal, and began meeting needs in Harvey, Reno and Sedgwick counties.

Here's how it works: Agencies like DCF, St. Francis, Cooper Early Ed, and several schools systems identify needs of vulnerable children and families. These needs are then sent to participating churches. If we think we can meet a need, we respond and connect with the family. The hope is that meaningful connections will be made, families will be strengthened, and children who might have otherwise been placed in foster care, will be able to stay with their family.

In the 7 years that FMC has been part of Care Portal, we've provided clothing, beds, dressers, diapers, carseats, furniture, appliances, household items, medical supplies, school supplies and financial assistance for rent, gas, food, utility and medical bills, etc.

In the past two months, FMC has responded to several needs. A crib was delivered to grandparents in Newton who recently took in their infant grandson. Winter boots have been ordered for a Halstead Middle School student. Five people from our church assisted in removing heavy items, organizing and cleaning parts of a home and delivered a bed to a young Halstead mom. At the beginning of September, clothing and shoes for three kids were purchased for a Moundridge family. Thank you to those who have given of their resources and time to be able to meet these needs.

There are many ways to be involved with Care Portal at FMC.

- Add your name to our email list.
- Donate kid-related items to our Care Closet, located in the old kitchen in the basement.
- Help sort items in the Care Closet.
- Donate to our Care Portal/Closet line item in the church budget.
- Help deliver items to families.
- Pray for families that have needs.
- Talk to your friends at other churches about joining Care Portal.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of the families who live in our communities.



Church Life



Care Packages For Our College Students

Let's bless our college kids with a care package! During the month of November, we will be gathering items to send to our college kids at Bethel. The package will be sent in the month of December. Some ideas of things to include are are gift cards (for gas, fast food, Ebay, Amazon), snacks, candy, etc. Items can be given to Brocia or Kaitlen through Nov. 23. Thank you for helping Hospitality with this project!



Model Railroads at Pine Village

Phil Aylward's model railroad group will be displaying their model railroads at Pine Village in November. The displays will be available November 15-16 in the Wellness Center meeting room. Pine Village is located at 86 22nd Ave. in Moundridge.



No Last Sunday Potluck in November & December

Since the last Sunday of November falls on the same day as the Waffle Breakfast, and due to the Christmas holiday in December, the next Last Sunday Potluck will be in January. There will not be a Last Sunday Potluck in November or December.

Mission Ministry Toilet Paper Challenge Exceeds Expectations

The Mission Ministry's Toilet Paper Challenge was completed faster than expected. The ministry challenged the congregation to bring 500 rolls of toilet paper for the Neighbors store during the month of October. Just over 530 rolls were provided by the third Sunday. The rolls have been delivered to Neighbors. Thank you to everyone who participated in this mission challenge!



This month we invite you to get to know Mick and Mary Kay Bean.

How long have you attended FMC?

Mick and Mary Kay Bean aren't exactly sure when they began attending FMC. Their involvement was gradual over the past several years, but their attendance became more regular following the passing of Mick's mother in December 2022.

What brought you to FMC? Chuck Mueller is what brought the Beans to FMC. "He started inviting us to the Hog Roast, so we came at his urging and it gradually grew from there," Mick said.

Although Mick graduated from high school with Chuck and the couple has known other FMC members for years, they were involved with other congregations at various times. In 2022, when Mick's mother, Carole Bean, passed away, he knew her church wouldn't be large enough to hold her memorial service. They contacted

Pastor Steve about holding the service at FMC, and he readily agreed. "That really cemented it," Mick said, and the couple began attending more regularly from that point on.

What ways have you served or been involved at FMC over the years? Together, the Beans narrated the Christmas cantata last

December, and they serve on the Social Committee with Chuck and Ruth Mueller. Mary Kay has also participated in women's Bible studies and helped prepare meals for the Wednesday night dinners.

What about FMC means the most to you? "The fellowship, leadership, and it feels like family," Mary Kay shared. Mick appreciates the many opportunities to build community through church

activities outside of the regular Sunday service—such as the Sunday School picnic in June and the church weekend at Camp Mennohah. He also mentioned the group of people that regularly have lunch at D'Angelo's after church on Sunday, appreciating the wide cross-section of those



Mick & Mary Kay Bean

from FMC who eat and fellowship together.

"We like it so much here that one time when we were at Kanopolis Lake, we drove back for a Wednesday night Bible study and then went back to the lake," they said.

What's a special memory you have connected to FMC? "Getting to know people more all the time is wonderful!" Mary Kay said. For Mick, the opportunity to hold his mother's funeral service at FMC when he was worried about where to have it meant a lot to him.

What's something people might be surprised to learn about you? Mick grew up in Halstead and started attending Halstead schools in the middle of 5th grade. Mary Kay grew up in Wichita, where she attended Catholic schools and church. The two met through a job fair, which was hosted by the organization Mick worked for at the time. Mick worked for KETCH, where he helped adults with disabilities find employment, and Mary was sent as a representative for her company.

The two eventually both worked as technical writers for Cessna/Textron Aviation. Mary worked for 20 years writing flight documents—checklists, emergency procedures, etc.—for test pilots. Mick worked for 25 years writing maintenance documents for mechanics and scheduled inspections for citation airplanes. While Mick was busy writing during the day, he was busy coaching and officiating football games during the afternoons and evening. He coached wrestling at Halstead for 17 years and spent 30 years officiating football.

Mick and Mary Kay will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary on November 22. They have four children and seven grandchildren.



- Pray for Mission Supper on November 15. Pray for those planning the supper, for those guests who will come and for the recipients of the money raised, that it will be a blessing to them.
- Pray for the Beginner Bell and Children's Bell ringers as they practice and share what they've learned with the congregation.
- Pray for the Nurture committee as they prepare for the Children's and Youth Christmas program on Dec. 14.
- Pray for college students connected to our congregation—Ethan Wilcox and Henry Harrington. Pray they will stay focused on their studies and healthy as they approach the end of their first semester of college.
- Pray for those who have lost a loved one this year. Pray for peace in their heart during the upcoming holiday season.
- Pray that we will be a thankful people.
- Pray for Chuck and Ruth Mueller as they spend several weeks in November serving at Jubilee Partners in Georgia.
- Pray for any unspoken prayer requests, that each need will be met.