

To Our Pastor

Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month, and you are encouraged to show your appreciation for Pastor Steve and his family by sending a card, writing a note of encouragement, or by some other means. Above all, remember to pray for Pastor Steve and the work God has called him to do at First Mennonite.

*The Truth found in the Bible
Offers hope and so much more.
Your dedication to God's Word
Is something we are grateful for.*

*Christ is surely the answer
May He strengthen you today,
For even God's finest get weary
Helping others along life's way.*

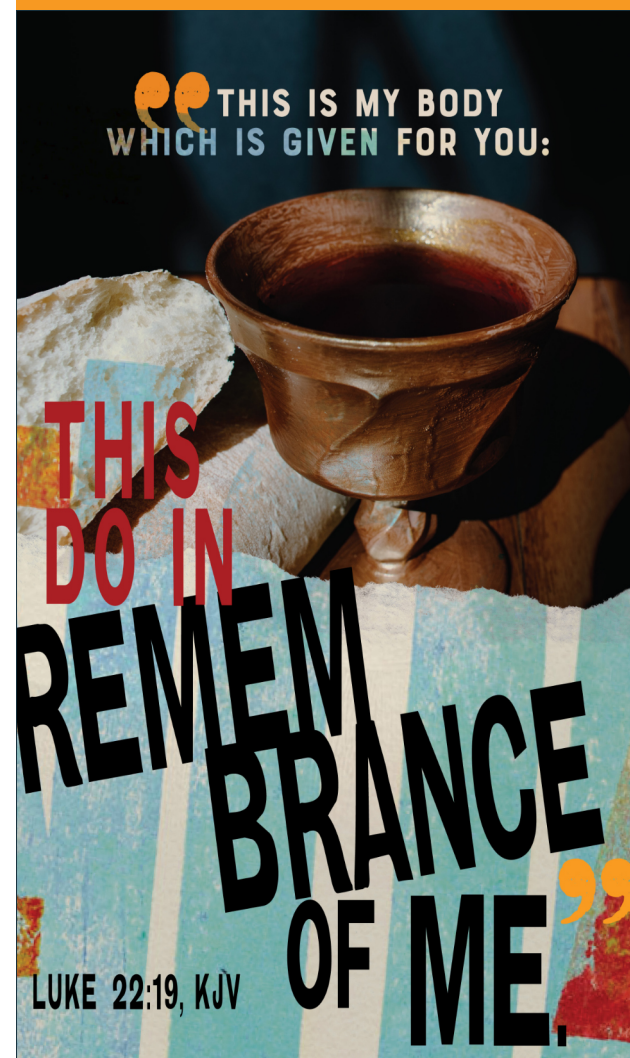
*Wisdom, guidance, loving concern
And encouragement mean so much.
Our prayer for you, dear pastor,
Is God's ever refreshing touch.*

*"I pray that out of his glorious riches
he may strengthen you with power
through his Spirit in your inner being."
Ephesians 3:16*



October 2025
Volume 49, No. 9

The Church Corner



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

Phone: 316-835-2282
Email: office@firstmennonitehalstead.org

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 Table as Wide as the World

Every first Sunday of October, Christians around the globe pause to share in a remarkable tradition known as World Communion Sunday. For us as Anabaptist believers, the Lord's Supper has always been a moment of remembrance, humility, and unity. Yet on this particular day, we are reminded that we are not alone at the table. The bread and cup are being lifted in

countless languages, in humble homes and grand cathedrals, in places of safety and in places of persecution—all testifying to the one Lord who unites us.

What makes this day especially striking is the way time itself weaves the celebration together. Because of the turning of the earth and the differences of time zones, the remembrance of Christ's broken body and shed blood begins in the Pacific islands while we are still asleep. Then it continues hour by hour, nation by nation, until the sun finally sets across the Americas. For twenty-four hours, the Church of Jesus Christ is breaking bread and lifting the cup, so that every hour of that day is thick with prayer, remembrance, and thanksgiving.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). That is what World Communion Sunday proclaims so



beautifully. In the midst of our differences—of language, culture, tradition, and worship style—there is one Savior. There is one sacrifice. There is one hope.

It humbles us to realize that this table is not our own. It is Christ's table. He is the host. And as He welcomes us, He also welcomes the countless others who call upon His name. What a reminder that the kingdom of God is far larger than our small corner of it. "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one

could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9).

On World Communion Sunday, we taste a small foretaste of that heavenly vision. The bread and cup in our hands are connected to the bread and cup in the

hands of believers everywhere. Together we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

As we come to the table this October, let us remember not only our own fellowship, but also the fellowship of believers everywhere. And let us pray that the unity we experience at Christ's table would move us to greater faithfulness in our witness, greater love for one another, and greater hope in the day when the whole family of God will be gathered at that heavenly table.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Camp Mennoscah Events

Scrapbook & Crafts Retreat

Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat, October 10-12, is open. Activities and lodging will be in the dining hall and bunkhouses. Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com>

Annual Meeting

Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting will be held at Hope Mennonite Church on October 19 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. Hope Mennonite Church is located at 868 N. Maize Road in Wichita. A silent auction for a few items will take place.

T-shirt comforter to be auctioned

The next tee shirt comforter will be (silent) auctioned off at Bethel College's Fall Fest on October 4. T-shirts and other Camp Mennoscah paraphernalia will be available too.



Pine Village Event

Pine Village is gearing up for our 2025 Benefit Day Auction and Sausage Supper on October 23. Supper will be served from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and the live auction will begin at 6 p.m. Auction items are on our website for viewing beforehand at www.pinevillageks.org. Our raffle item this year is a Patrick Mahomes Autographed Football Helmet in case. Gift cards/certificates and church baskets are available for online bidding. All links are on our website. We hope to see you all here for the live auction! Thank you for your support!

Hope Mennonite Church Anniversary

Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, (868 N. Maize Rd.) invites you to their 40th anniversary celebration October 11-12. Former pastors Marvin Zehr (Jeannie), Matt Friesen (Teri), Linda Ewert (Morris), Doug Luginbill (Paula), Brett Dewey (Esther) and Carole Stevens (representing Dave) will all be sharing personal stories on Saturday from 2 - 3 p.m. followed by a time of fellowship from 3 - 5 p.m. On Sunday morning, Hopeful Blues will begin playing at 9 a.m. and the worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m. We will conclude with a catered lunch from Chipotle for all our guests.

Council Meeting Minutes
from Sept. 15, 2025

- Pastor Steve opened the meeting with prayer. August minutes were approved as written.
- Discernment Team – No report. Ruth said they will be meeting in October.
- Vision Team – Discussion of potential membership guideline changes in the Policy and Procedures.
- Care Ministry – Ron reported World Communion Sunday will be October 5. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for changes in the potluck serving order (elderly/visitors first). He mentioned the elderly in our congregation have appreciated it.
- Hospitality Ministry – No report.
- Mission Ministry – Dwight/Sandy reported there will be a Mission Sunday sandwich luncheon September 21. A 500 roll toilet paper challenge will be for Neighbors store in the month of October.
- Nurture Ministry – No report. They will be meeting next week.
- Stewardship Ministry – Treasurer’s report – Larry reported a budget balance of \$8380.35 at the end of August. James reported there was some roof and window damage from the recent hail storm (working on the claim). An application is being submitted for a \$1000 grant from Everence.
- Worship Ministry – No report
- Pastor’s report – No report

The next council meeting will be
Oct. 27, 2025

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 November newsletter is Tuesday, Oct. 21.
3. The Neighbors Store pantry requests cash to buy items for Thanksgiving boxes for the month of October.
4. Offering Schedule for October:
Oct. 5: Church Budget
Oct. 12: Hog Roast - Mission
Oct. 19: Western District Conf.
Oct. 26: MC USA
5. The link for our church online library is librarything.com catalog/FMCHalstead.

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	<u>(11,780.11)</u>
Budget Balance @8-31-25	8,380.35

OCTOBER				
October Calendar				
	Oct. 19	12:00 p.m.	Beginner Bells practice	
Oct. 1	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Supper	6:00 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study
	6:45 p.m.	Adult Bible Study		
	8:00 p.m.	Bell Choir practice	Oct. 22	5:00 p.m. Kids Club
Oct. 5	10:30 a.m.	Communion	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study	6:45 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting	8:00 p.m.	Praise Team practice
Oct. 8	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club	Oct. 26	10:30 a.m. Bethel College Choir at FMC
	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Supper	12:00 p.m.	Last Sunday Potluck
	6:45 p.m.	Adult Bible Study	12:30 p.m.	Beginner Bells practice
	8:00 p.m.	Bell Choir practice	5:00 p.m.	Hog Roast
Oct. 12	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bells play	Oct. 28	7:00 p.m. Adult Bells practice
	12:00 p.m.	Beginner Bells practice		
	3:00 p.m.	P & M Pumpkin Ranch outing		
Oct. 13	7:00 p.m.	Hospitality meeting		
Oct. 14	7:45 a.m.	Early Birds Breakfast	Nov. 2	Beginner Bells play in the worship service
Oct. 15	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club	Nov. 15	Mission Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Supper	Nov. 23	Choir sings during the worship service
	6:45 p.m.	Adult Bible Study	Nov. 30	Waffle Breakfast & Christmas Tree Decorating Service
	8:00 p.m.	Praise Team practice		

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Church Events

Why Do We Do That?

Pastor Steve will begin a four-week sermon series on October 5 that looks at answers to why we do certain things the way we do in our church. Join us as we



look to uncover the meaning behind the postures we take, the words we speak, the music we hear and the rhythms that shape our worship.

P & M Pumpkin Ranch Outing

Join us October 12 at P & M Pumpkin Ranch (311 16th Ave., Moundridge). We have a campfire reserved from 3 - 7 p.m., but you are welcome to start your fun earlier! Admission is \$16.99 (ages 3+); mention First Mennonite to receive a 10% discount that day. The church will provide hot dogs, chips, drinks & s'mores. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help us plan for food.



Hog Roast

The annual Hog Roast will be held Sunday, Oct. 26, from 5 - 7 p.m. in Scout Park. A pulled pork supper with fixings will be served. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy music by the local bluegrass group *Prairie Highway*. Cost is by donation with proceeds going to Camp Mennoscah. In case of inclement weather, it will be moved inside the church.

Bethel College Choir & Last Sunday Potluck

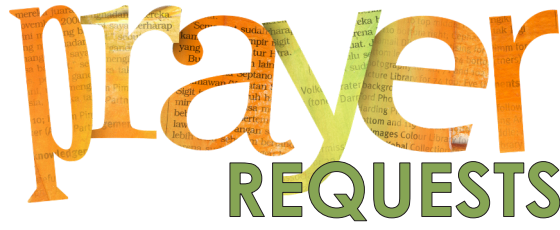
October’s Last Sunday Potluck will be Oct. 26. The Bethel College Choir will be joining us for our morning worship service and our meal following. We invite you to bring a little extra, as there potentially could be at least 40 extra individuals eating. As always, please extend the invitation to join us for church and the meal to those you interact without throughout the week!



OCTOBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Jake Nightingale |
| 1 | Deanna Sutcliffe |
| 1 | Kristen Linn |
| 2 | Linda Aylward |
| 3 (A) | Andrew & Melisa Kaldenbach |
| 3 | Kenneth Holzrichter |
| 4 | Brian Keller |
| 5 | John Vogt |
| 7 | Orville Voth |
| 7 | Dakotah Cannon |
| 7 (A) | Charlie & Melody Robinson |
| 7 | Dennis Holzrichter |
| 8 | Jim Ellis |
| 8 | Julia Kaufman |
| 9 (A) | Bill & Anna Lee Ewert (70 years) |
| 9 | George Torres |
| 10 | Sue Conard |
| 10 | Autumn Schowalter |
| 11 (A) | Don & Arnita Haury (58 years) |
| 11 | Julianne Ramsey |
| 12 | Dale Ortman |
| 12 | Breanna Miller |
| 12 (A) | Mark & Kim Brandt |
| 13 | Allen Unruh |
| 13 | Audra Black |
| 13 | Dustin Jones |
| 14 | Dan Mueller |
| 15 (A) | Trevor & Rachel Gadue |
| 16 | Traci Dumond |
| 17 (A) | Garrett & Maranda Whorton |
| 18 (A) | Jim & Rachel Ellis |
| 18 | Kody Keiser |
| 20 | Michael Reier |
| 22 (A) | Katie Nightingale & Josh Heath |

- | | |
|--------|---------------------|
| 22 | Katie Holub |
| 23 | Kristen Burckhart |
| 23 | Emma Rose Allen |
| 25 | Richard Stucky |
| 27 | Mike Westerman |
| 27 (A) | Quinn & Katie Holub |
| 31 | Audrey Snell |



- Pray for the families in our congregation who are expecting babies in the next year. Pray the babies grow and develop as they were designed to do and for a safe delivery at the right time.
- Pray for the Junior and Senior High Youth Group leaders as they lead and minister to the youth of our church and community.
- Pray for the committee organizing the Hog Roast. Pray the event will be well attended and will be a successful outreach to our community.
- Pray for Pastor Steve and his family as they serve our congregation.
- Pray for one of our mission partners, the Givens family in Calais, France, that the support they need will be provided.
- Pray for those in our congregation with new or ongoing healthy issues, that God will meet their need.
- Pray for any unspoken prayer requests, that each need will be met.

A Special Room to Check Out

Down in our church basement, tucked between the stairs and the elevator, is a special room for meeting with God. Under the slope of the stairs are a few chairs and a contemplative altar. Until recent growth inspired a change of venue, the church's Prayer Team met here. Now, with the addition of the historic pastor's bench, my preschool Sunday School class occasionally tiptoes in to be quiet with God. The change from our normal space is just what we need to get centered on God again. If you ever find yourself in need of that, I invite you to check out the Prayer Room, too.

Just inside the door is a tall white bookcase that we call our Children's Library. Its picture books explain things that are too big for words alone: big feelings; our big world; big, strong, and mighty God! There are full-color Bible stories, modern-day parables, and imaginative tales of the messy consequences of unforgiveness. There are also illustrated versions of favorite hymns and stories of mission work through the eyes of a child--or of a cow. On the top shelf, you can find many of

these stories and songs on video. Be sure to check out the Children's Library and the forty new items we added this summer.

Finally, if it's still hard to meet God in your head, there is a place to work things out with your hands. In quiet or with friends, a little creativity is sometimes just what we need to connect with our creative God.

Who knew there were so many ways to meet God between the stairs and the elevator? I hope you'll check them all out.

Casey Jacob, Church Librarian

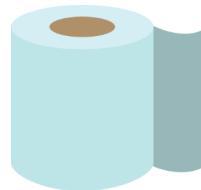
MCC School Kit Update

This year's MCC School Kit Challenge went above and beyond the goal of 25,000 kits, with a total of 29,639 kits packed for children around the world. First Mennonite Church of Halstead contributed 108 completed kits plus some additional supplies. Thank you for your participation in this project!

Mission Opportunities

FMC Mission Ministry Toilet Paper Challenge

The Mission Ministry invites you to help them complete a 500-roll, toilet paper challenge during the month of October for the Neighbors Store. Bring your rolls of any kind of toilet paper and place them under the coat racks at any time during the month of October. The recipients of our last toilet paper challenge were very appreciative. Let's bless them again!



Can with MCC in the Name of Christ

Four canner operators and eight pressure cookers are beginning their rounds of MCC-affiliated churches and warehouses, canning meat for neighbors in need around the world. Volunteers from our church will be needed at the MCC Material Resource Center in North Newton on November 5, 6 & 7 to pack the protein and send it on its way.

These cans provide sustenance and loving care that make a lasting impact. One man touring the mobile cannery at a stop in Pennsylvania a few years ago had eaten what they called "Mennonite beef" at Mennonite Vocational School (MVS) in South Korea as a boy. He had received shelter, education and job training at MVS after his father was taken in the Korean War and never

heard from again. He could still remember the taste and aroma of the canned beef with the label "In the name of Christ."

Watching the mobile cannery in action 65 years later, he was impressed by the volunteers' hard work and commitment: "It was an elaborate and time consuming and labor-intensive operation — grinding chicken to smaller pieces, filling, weighing, sealing, boiling, wiping, wrapping, inspecting and packing. While I was wiping water off and affixing labels on cans, I was overwhelmed with emotion. The emotion of utmost gratitude! And my distant memories came flooding back, as if it happened only yesterday," he said.

Read his full story at <https://mcc.org/our-stories/name-christ>

Sign up to be one of the volunteers at the mobile meat cannery in North Newton on November 5, 6 or 7 at <https://tinyurl.com/MeatCanning2025>



This month's focus is on Giorgi Tsikarishvili, an exchange student from the Republic of Georgia, who is living with the Wilcox family during the 2025-26 school year.

What is your name? Giorgi Tsikarishvili. Though he prefers to go by Giorgi, he shortened his name to Gio (pronounced *Gee-oh*) to make it easier for people he would meet in the U.S.

Where are you from? Gio lives in the city of Kareli in the Republic of Georgia. Kareli is similar in size to Newton and is located in the center of the country, approximately 50 miles west of the capital, Tbilisi. The city is surrounded by the Likhi Mountain Range, which is part of the greater Caucasus Mountains. Georgia is bordered by the Black Sea to the west, Russia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east, and Armenia and Turkey to the south.

How did you come to the U.S.? Gio is an exchange student through the FLEX

program-Future Leaders Exchange-which is a highly competitive, merit-based scholarship program funded by the U.S. Department of State. It operates in Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and Asia. Thousands of students compete annually in multiple rounds of testing to earn a FLEX scholarship, which provides for an academic year in the United States.

How did you get interested in the FLEX program? Gio was encouraged by his aunt to apply for the program, and included an incentive of a trip to Spain if he was selected as a finalist. "When I return home, she'll take me to Spain for a week," Gio said. "I've always wanted to go to Spain. I hope she will keep her promise."

What was the application process to earn a FLEX scholarship? The application

process included three steps: an online language test and essay portion, an in-person essay portion, and a meeting with both U.S. and Georgian psychologists to ensure he would be able to adapt and handle life in another culture. Gio can remember the exact date and time he found out he was a finalist-Feb. 10, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.--which meant he



Giorgi Tsikarishvili

had been one of 16 people selected from Georgia to receive the FLEX scholarship and spend a year in the U.S.

What did you do to prepare to come to the U.S.? "I learned how to make Georgian dumplings so I could make them here," Gio said. "And of course I thought about what to pack. I didn't pack enough, though. I wish I had brought more shoes."

Who is in your family? Gio's family includes his dad, who works as a handyman; his mom, who is a stay-at-home parent; his younger brother, who turns 12 in October; and his grandma. They all live together in one house.

What things do you like to do for fun? When in Georgia, Gio enjoys walking around the city, watching movies, "playing" (getting) on his brother's nerves and helping in the kitchen. "It's fun when you make something and people like it," he said. While he's been in Halstead, Gio has helped with the Cross Country team, joined FBLA and is finding ways to volunteer.

What foods do you enjoy in Georgia? Dumplings, cheesy bread, fried pork meat, and apples.

What new foods have you tried and liked (or not liked) in the U.S.? While he says that he's enjoyed most things he's tried, specific things he mentioned liking were pineapple pizza and a Chipotle burrito. However, he does not care for turkey or peanut butter.

What is one difference between school in Georgia and school in Halstead? In Georgia, students stay in the same classroom all day and the teachers move between rooms. The use of iPads in

school is also new, and he mentioned that teachers are not as strict here as they are in Georgia.

What are some unexpected experiences you've had? On Gio's very first day of school, he did not realize there were two lunch periods and went to lunch at the wrong time, causing the counselor to come find him and inform him that he was supposed to be in class.

He recently worked in the concession stand at a home football game and thoroughly enjoyed making foods he hadn't made before-hotdogs, pretzels, popcorn, etc. "It was so fun, I want to work concession stands anytime I can," he said.

The church experience has also been different for Gio as well. In Georgia, he attends an Eastern Orthodox church when he can. The church there has services everyday in the morning and the afternoon. There's singing but no instruments and only the pastor and pastoral assistants say prayers.

How does the weather compare? Georgia has four seasons but Gio's hometown is surrounded by mountains and it's already very cold there. While everyone keeps telling him that the amount of rain Kansas has had lately is not normal, Gio said, "I have only seen rain in Kansas, so I don't believe it."

What will you do when you return to Georgia? Gio will attend the university in the capital city to study international relations and learn German. He has a dream of one day being a diplomat and working at the United Nations in New York City.