



Newsletter

Volume 40 No. 10 November 2016

Mennonite Church of the Servant
2401 N. Woodland
Wichita, KS 67204

www.mcswichita.net

Worship: Sundays, 10:00 a.m

Jerry Truex, Teaching Minister

November 6: *Peace Sunday*

Worship Leader: Doug

Teaching: Jerry

Communion

Focus on Mission: Mennonite
Housing (Jeanette)



November 13: *Mission Sunday*

Worship Leader: Bret

Teaching: Jerry

Focus on Mission: Open Door Food Ministry (Sally)

November 20: *Thanksgiving Sunday*

Worship Leader: Geneva

Teaching: Pat

Focus on Mission: MCC Relief Kits (Karissa)

ADVENT WORSHIP THEME: *The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's heart*

November 27 (First Sunday in Advent): *God's peace is at hand*

Worship Leader: Doug

Teaching: Lois

Healing Prayer

Focus on Mission: Gun Violence (Pat)

Other Advent Services:

December 4: *God's harmony is at hand*

December 11: *God's healing is at hand*

December 18: *God's restoration is at hand*

December 24, 7:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service



Christian Faith
AND THE
POLITICAL PROCESS

Please join us in a discussion of faith and politics

**Forum on Christian Faith
and the Political Process**

Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.
2401 N. Woodland, Wichita

Can Christian faith inform our voting?
Can the Bible help us decide the issues and candidates to support?
Does a Christian perspective give us the criteria for making political choices?

Join Lois Barrett, Pat Cameron, and Jerry Truex for discussion and questions
or participate via live streaming at www.youtube.com/user/MennChOfTheServant.

The church had a successful forum on Tuesday, October 25, with 20 in attendance and 32 watching through live streaming. With the forum on YouTube, it is available for additional people to view the forum. To review the forum, or see it for the first time, you can access the video from the church website, or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/MennChOfTheServant/videos>

Help MCS' Bottom Line with 5th Sunday Offering

According to Tom Ewert, "Every Sunday, MCS members and participants give their *tithes*. Having a 5th Sunday in October gives us an opportunity to give an *offering*." Finances are tight, and your tithes and offerings are needed. If everyone who can would give a gift of an additional 10% beyond your usual tithe, the church will be able to end up the year in the black.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

(see more information on page 2)



Through AARP's Tax-Aide, our church will offer free tax filing assistance to our neighborhood during the 2017 tax season. Tax-Aide helps low income families and seniors, who

are often vulnerable and can't afford to pay for tax preparation. It will also offer assistance with the Tax Code and the Affordable Care Act that are both more complex this year. We will also prevent people from seeking Rapid Refund tax preparers who take large percentages of the refunds for their fees. And it's a great outreach tool for our church. This is an opportunity to show the neighbors that we care about them.

In January, we will start taking appointments for Saturday mornings, and possibly some afternoons, from February 1 through April 18.

Four MCS members are already willing to help with tax preparation and translation. There are additional opportunities for tax preparers, as well as client facilitators, whose job is to welcome people to our church, see if they have all the necessary documents and help them fill out a Federal Intake sheet.

Since our church is located in a largely Hispanic neighborhood, we qualified for a grant from the Federal Government to help our neighbors. The grant will cover lap top computers for three volunteers, a wireless printer, a wireless "hot spot" connecting us to the Internet, and \$500 for advertising.

Any other suggestions or questions about how all this will work? Thank you for praying for us. Contact Sally, who will serve as the Site Coordinator for the project.

MCC SCHOOL KIT WRAP-UP

Collections for MCC school kits have come to an end for this year. School kits are MCC's most requested item. Notebooks and pencils become treasures to families who struggle to afford basic school supplies. School kits are given to refugee and displaced children, helping students and teachers add some normalcy to their disrupted lives, in places like Afghanistan, Jordan, and Kenya.

We have 20 bags completed and ready to be filled. Please help fill the bags after worship on October 30.

The next project: Relief Kits—watch for information soon.



ACT LOCALLY, IMPACT GLOBALLY: ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET NOVEMBER 12



Join in a fun, ecumenical, city-wide market experience! Give gifts that have a positive impact on the world — gifts that sustain the earth, promote peace and justice, and address the needs of our local and global neighbors.

Alternative gifts do exactly what traditional gifts do: express love, celebrate occasions and show you care. But alternative gifts are different: things like books for school libraries in Ethiopia, food for pantries in the US, or milking goats for families in Haiti. You can purchase these tax-deductible gifts to honor your family and friends, then present your gift insert describing the project in a beautiful greeting card. The fairtrade, hand-made crafts of global artisans from **Ten Thousand Villages** will also be featured at the Market.

The Alternative Gift Market will be held at East Heights United Methodist Church, 4407 E. Douglas, 10 a.m—4 p.m.

PLASTIC BAGS FOR HOMELESS, ETC.

Please save plastic store bags to make mats for the homeless. Sally will pick them up each Sunday that she's in church. She'll also take donations of tread, fabric, etc. to make quilts, school kit bags, dresses and shorts for children in Africa and washable sani-pads for young women in Central and South America.

PEACE CENTER ANNUAL MEETING FOCUSES ON IMMIGRATION

The Annual Meeting of the Peace and Social Justice Center is Friday, December 2 at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church. The title of keynote speaker, Maxine Phillips' address is "No Safe Haven: Forced Migrations and U.S. Immigration Policy." daughter of an Italian immigrant, was raised on stories of both opportunity for and opposition to immigrants. Her church, Judson Memorial in New York City, works with the New Sanctuary Movement to protect and advocate for immigrants facing deportation.

The dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program. For reservations and more information, contact the Center at 263-5886 or admin@wichitapeace.org, or talk to Pat.



EVERENCE: The quarterly Everence reports that I send in help track Everence related activities in our congregation. These reports help Everence retain their fraternal status with the US Department of the Treasury which allows Everence to fund stewardship programs in our churches. The third quarter report states that we participated in a discussion involving Everence services. This happened during church life meetings. It also states that some of us met with an Everence representative. This happens primarily by phone and e-mail. It also states that we sent copies of our newsletters to our Church Relations Representative. Someday before I retire as your Everence Advocate. I hope to coordinate a project to raise money for the sharing fund and a specific need in our church. Then I can fill in the part of the report about number of volunteers and hours donated. It's great fun and a great team effort. building for activity for our church.—Sally

NOVEMBER 2016 CALENDAR (all meetings at the church building, unless designated by *)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct. 30 9:00 Mdl Schl SS 10:00 Worship/Pre-Schl-K SS 11:15 MCC School Kit Assembly <i>Happy Birthday, Doreene Esau-Rutherford!</i>	31 HALLOWEEN	Nov. 1 ALL SAINTS DAY 1:30pm NT Greek *	2 7:30 Immigration Servant Group*	3	4 2:30 Shepherds*	5 9-5 AARP Tax Prep. Orientation
6 9:00 Mdl Schl SS 10:00 Worship (Communion)/Pre-Schl-K SS 11:45 Potluck	7	8 1:30pm NT Greek *	9 <i>Happy Birthday, Lois Barrett!</i>	10	11	12 10-4 Alternative Holiday Fair*
13 9:00 Mdl Schl SS 10:00 Worship/ Pre-Schl-K SS 11:45 Discipleship Group	14	15 1:30pm NT Greek *	16 <i>Happy Birtday, John Stoesz!</i>	17	18 <i>Happy Birthday, Adam Cameron!</i>	19 9-5 AARP Tax Prep. Orientation
20 10:00 Worship/Pre-Schl-K SS 11:45 Church Life	21	22 1:30pm NT Greek *	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26 6:30-8:00 Women's Reading Group
27 9:00 Mdl Schl SS 10:00 Worship (Healing Prayer)/Pre-Schl-K SS 11:45 Discipleship Group	28	29 1:30pm NT Greek *	30	Dec. 1	2	3