



Newsletter

Volume 45 No. 2, February 2021
Mennonite Church of the Servant
2401 N. Woodland
Wichita, KS 67204
www.mcswichita.net

Saturday Book Study and Video Series

You are invited to join a Video/Discussion on the first and third Saturdays of the month, 9:30-11:00 a.m. For the next several months, the videos will be from the Great Lectures series on the "Meaning of Life." You are also invited to join the book study group, on the second and fourth Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m. The group is reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. For more information, contact Jerry.

Anti-Racism Discussion

Join in a discussion of what we've read and what we've done to equip ourselves to become anti-racist in the midst of a culture based on white privilege. The next discussion is Thursday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Jan or Pat.



February 21, 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Worship Leader: Vangie



Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

On Zoom, until further notice. Join Zoom Meeting: enter link in browser— <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/644908398> or enter in Zoom app—ID 644 908 398. Phone: 301-715-8592 (you will be asked to enter ID), View us on Facebook Live on Mennonite Church of the Servant's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mcswichita/>

Sunday Worship, 10 00 a.m.

February 7: Glory & Light (Communion)

Worship Leader: Doug

Teacher: Lois

Scripture: Colossians 1: 24-29

11:15 Break-out groups

February 14: Glory and Light (Transfiguration Sunday)

Worship Leader: Bret

Teacher: Lynn

Scripture: Matthew 9: 2-9; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

11:15 Break-out groups

February 21: Lent 1—Deep in the Sea: Called to deep relationship.

Worship Leader: Geneva

Teacher: Pat

11:15 Church Life

February 28: Lent 2— Deep in the Woods: Called to deep commitment.

Worship Leader: Jan

Teacher: Lynn

11:15 Break-out groups

11:45 Women's Reading Group

Raindrops on my Face

Pastor Lynn Schlosser

At home in my living room this morning I work to engage the words of Romans 8 through the understanding and insights of others. I am preparing for a message still a week and a half away. Paul works to hold together a wrestling tension between present and future when he writes, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us (8:18)."

We are likewise engaged in the struggle. It feels good to close the long and dreary chapter on the year 2020 and open ourselves to the possibility of a blank slate new year. Last night we came together as a nation to lament the Covid deaths of over 400,000 people in this country. Such suffering. And yet...a vaccine offers a sob of hope that soon, please God soon, the bleeding of lives lost might be staunched.

I close my commentary and Bible to turn on the TV and watch the inauguration of Joe Biden in live time. Biden, with heart-warmed words, speaks of the hardships and trials that have been and are, but asks all who are listening to believe something better can be. He quotes scripture, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning (Ps. 30:5b)." Then a young, black woman named Amanda Gorman walks to the mike and speaks her truth powerfully and passionately. "But one thing is certain, if we merge mercy with might and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright." We hear her words and the breath of the Holy Spirit seems to be blowing.

Back to my commentary, nose buried deep, I encounter hope within the context of suffering yet again as theologian Paul Achtemeier writes,

"This passage in Romans (8:18-30) therefore points to God's future which already gives meaning to our present and assures us that we already enjoy a foretaste of his final redemption. We are like people on a drought-parched land, who hear the distant thunder of the approaching storm. The freshening wind brings with it the smell of rain and the first few drops of moisture. We rejoice as we

stand on that barren land, knowing it will soon be washed with the life-giving rain whose presence we already sense. So we stand in our parched and barren present, looking forward with confidence to God's redemption we see begun in Christ, a redemption sure to come because with the Spirit's presence, we already feel those first showers of God's own healing love (Interpretation Series: Romans)."

Opening to evidence of God's love, here and now, raindrops on my face, I whisper, "Thank you."

News from Camp Mennoscah

Applications for Camp Mennoscah Summer Staff positions are now being accepted! Although there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find the application and information online at www.campmennoscah.org under Summer Youth Camps!

Celebrate the new year by coming to Camp Mennoscah! Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful space for families and groups needing space to spread out! Facilities for differently sized groups are available with a variety of gathering areas. Trails and fields are waiting to be hiked and used for fun activities, too!

Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org to reserve. You are invited to enjoy this sacred space!

The Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors is pleased to announce that **Olivia Bartel has accepted the position of Executive Director.** Olivia has an undergraduate degree from Bethel College and a Master of Arts from AMBS with a focus in Theological Studies. She has been with Camp Mennoscah since 2008 and is a familiar face on campgrounds and at camp sponsored events. Olivia will continue to be responsible for camp programming while taking on additional supervisory and executive responsibilities. Please join us in congratulating Olivia on her promotion and welcoming her to the role of Executive Director.

Registration is open for the **Spring Scrapbook and Crafts** Retreats at Camp Mennoscah on March 5-7 and March 19-21! Once the retreats are full, sign up on the waitlist. Register at

2 www.campmennoscah.org! (more on page 4)

AMBS Offers New Scholarships

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is offering two new scholarships:

- ◆ The Multicultural Church Scholarship is for students who are currently serving in or preparing for ministry assignments in a multicultural context and/or who belong to historically underrepresented racial or ethnic groups within the Mennonite Church. Each year, this award will provide a limited number of 100-percent tuition grants to full-time students beginning a master's program, or a limited number of 75-percent tuition grants to part-time students beginning a master's program.
- ◆ The MDiv Connect Student Scholarship provides a limited number of 75-percent tuition grants to students beginning the Master of Divinity (MDiv) Connect program.

MCC Webinars on Service Opportunities

Are you ready to step out and into service? To spend a year serving abroad or the summer serving your church or a local community organization? Check out the webinars happening this winter that will introduce these MCC service opportunities to you! Learn more at mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities.

Kansas MCC Relief Sale

Please put July 2 and 3, 2021 on your church calendar for this year's MCC Sale. We are hoping and praying that COVID-19 will be under control by July so we can hold the MCC Sale this year.

Tim Miller is the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Treasurer and he has an address change. Please send all donations for KMRS to this address

Tim Miller
2712 Morris Rd
Hutchinson, KS 67502

WDC Annual Assembly Resolutions

The Assembly will be held **July 30-Aug 1**, in a hybrid model with the possibility of both virtual and in-person activities. WDC encourages the development of resolutions that facilitate discernment, educate, build unity, and provide an area conference understanding while acknowledging dissenting voices. Any proposed church statement should be discerned through congregations or WDC commissions and task forces and submitted for consideration to the WDC Resolutions Committee **a minimum of 120 days prior to annual conference sessions (April 2, 2021)**.

Mennonite Men Plant Trees

Mennonite Men, a constituency group of Mennonite Church USA, has launched JoinTrees, an initiative to plant a million trees and protect 5,000 acres over the next decade. Learn how to get involved at mennonitemen.org/jointrees

New Hymnal

The new hymnals have arrived! Read how the new *Voices Together* hymnal connects to our Anabaptist roots in the blog, "Sixteenth-century Anabaptist material in Voices Together." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/16century>

"Cooked: Survival by Zip Code"

The KIPCOR Film Series at Bethel College is serving up a second helping of *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code*, which focuses on the deadly 1995 Chicago heat wave to illustrate how Black, Indigenous and People of Color and low-income citizens suffer the most negative impact from natural disasters. The film is an indictment of U.S. disaster preparedness, and connects extreme weather, extreme disparity (income and other) and extreme racism. Go to kipcor.org, "Film Series," for a link to watch *Cooked* for free and a link to register for the **Feb. 7 virtual discussion; advance registration is required to participate in the discussion**, which will be held in break-out rooms, with leaders who include Chicagoans who experienced the 1995 heat disaster.

Poor People's Campaign

Pray for the new administration: As Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris assume the offices of President and Vice-President of the country, and as members of the U.S. Congress take their place as legislative leaders, we ask all persons of faith and moral conscience to pray for our new national leaders and call on them to embrace the 14 Policy Priorities to Heal the Nation: A Moral and Economic Agenda for the first 100 days. The only way forward for our nation is if love is tied to justice, light is grounded in truth and we have leadership rooted in a moral agenda for the nation.

Kansas Poor People's Assembly - Save the Date From February 10-13, 2021 we will hold our first ever statewide Assembly. Mark these dates and plan to join us as we celebrate the work of the Kansas Poor People's Campaign in 2020 and come together for the important work ahead. The gathering will be virtual and exact times with registration will be announced soon. It will feature workshops on the KS PPC's work on utility shut-offs, Medicaid expansion, PPC 101, Moral and Biblical study, and a session facilitated by Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice and Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

There are a number of teams working on aspects of this Assembly that could use more team members to help us pull off this important gathering. Please email kansas@poorpeoplescampaign.org if you are interested in serving on a team to help plan the Poor People's Assembly.

Forward together, not one step back!

Rev. Dr. William Barber, II & Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Co-Directors, Poor People's Campaign

Mennonite Disaster Service

The January edition of Mennonite Disaster Service's newsletter, *On the Level*, is now available from MDS. "In our current issue we invite all to participate in the MDS Annual Celebration, there's a deeper look at the challenges of scheduling volunteers during a pandemic, and we'll share how the Lancaster, PA unit is collaborating with the community to repair fire damage at a house for homeless families."

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/35XumvX>

Mental Illness Awareness and Training

Last Fall, NAMI Wichita offered an 8-week Family to Family class with twelve family members and one friend completing the class with much appreciation for the information learned and the support felt among the group - even on ZOOM. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI Wichita is a local affiliate.

A second class offered via ZOOM is scheduled to begin on Thursday evenings, from March 4 through April 22, 7:00 - 9:30 pm. NAMI Wichita invites family members and friends of adults living with mental health conditions to participate in the 8-week education program, Family to Family. Family members who attend the class include parents, spouses, siblings, adult children of a parent living with mental illness, grandparents, aunts, uncles, as well as significant others and friends.

Mental health conditions/ major mental illnesses covered in the class include Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, Borderline Personality disorder, Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder, Co-occurring Brain Disorder, Addictive Disorders, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The class is offered FREE OF CHARGE. More information about the class is available at www.nami.org. Click on Support & Education; Mental Health Education; NAMI Family to Family.

More News from Camp Mennoscah

There are **volunteer opportunities** for you! Camp Mennoscah continually has year-round work to support the maintenance and upkeep of the campus and facilities. We can accommodate every group size, skill set and length of project you would like to tackle. Check out these ways to Get Involved! Email office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to volunteer.

Mennonite Church of the Servant Financial Narrative As of December 31, 2020 :		
We collected:		
Budget Offerings	\$41,923.31	
Designated Offerings	1,167.00	
In-kind Donation	1,422.06	
Hope Fund Grant	4,731.67	
Habegger Donations	50.00	
Sharing Fund Donations	823.30	
Total income		\$50,177.34
We spent offerings on:		
Conference Support	\$ 1,079.60	
Congregational Enrichment	667.19	
Leadership	29,214.52	
Local Outreach	100.00	
Meeting House	10,909.86	
Habegger Memorial	100.00	
Hymnals	1,605.39	
Operating Expense	1,744.94	
Sharing Fund	456.60	
Retreat	-	
Total expense		(45,868.30)
We paid down our loans		(5,872.51)
We spent more than we collected		\$ (1,623.47)

Important Dates in the Season of Lent

- **Ash Wednesday service** via Zoom, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 17
- **Spiritual pilgrimages** via designated Zoom breakout groups after Sunday worship on March 7 and March 14. Please let Pat Cameron know, which Sunday you would prefer.
- **Lenten study series**, three Wednesday evenings, February 24, March 3, and March 10, via Zoom; time to be announced. Theme: Deep Prayer.
- **Covenanting service**, Thursday, April 1, time to be announced.

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 31 10:00 Wor- ship 11:15 Break- out groups	Feb. 1	2	3	4 2:00 Worship Committee 7:00 Aposento Alto Support Committee	5	6 9:30 Video Series <i>Happy Birth- day, Nancy Hurd!</i>
7 10:00 Wor- ship 11:15 Break- out Groups	8	9 7:00 Shepherds	10	11 <i>Happy Birth- day, Karissa Truex!</i> 7:00 Anti- Racism Discus- sion	12	13 9:30 Book Study
14 10:00 Wor- ship 11:15 Break- out Groups	15 <i>Happy Birth- day, Geneva Hershberger!</i>	16	17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	18 7:00 Church Council	19	20 9:30 Video Series
21 10:00 Wor- ship 11:15 Church Life	22	23	24 <i>Happy Birth- day, Bret Preheim!</i> 7:00 Lenten Study: Deep Prayer	25	26	27 9:30 Book Study
28 10:00 Wor- ship 11:15 Break- out Groups 11:45 Wom- en's Reading Group	March 1	2	3 7:00 Lenten Study: Deep Prayer	4	5	6 9:30 Video Series