



Newsletter

Volume 45 No. 6, June 2021

Mennonite Church of the Servant

2401 N. Woodland

Wichita, KS 67204

www.mcswichita.net

Pastor: Rev. Lynn Schlosser

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Saturday Mornings at MCS

On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, members and friends watch a video on Zoom. The current video series is on "The Meaning of Life" from the perspectives of various philosophies and religions.

The 2nd and 4th Saturdays are for book studies. A new book will be selected to study, beginning June 12, so this would be a good time to join this group.

The time is 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. For more information, contact Jerry Truex.

Mennonite USA Webinars

Mennonite USA is offering the following webinars:

"How to Use Laboring Toward Wholeness: A Training on Dismantling Patriarchy" Thursday, May 27 6 p.m. CDT/5 p.m.

"Church Faith & Anti-Asian Violence" Friday, May 28, 6:30 p.m.

"The Land is Not Empty: A Webinar with Sarah Augustine" Thursday, June 3, 5 p.m. CDT

For more information and to register for these webinars, go to <https://mailchi.mp/mennoniteusa/livestream-glen-guyton-on-covid-19-at-noon-ct-3073574?e=718152a859>

Worship with us live, or online via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/644908398>) or Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/mcswichita>). Worship time is 10:00 a.m.

May 30 - The Joseph Story: From Suffering to Grace (Genesis 37)

Teacher: Lois

Worship Leader: Jan

11:15 Break-out Groups

June 6 - The Joseph Story: From Suffering to Grace (Genesis 39-41)

Teacher: Lynn

Worship Leader: Vangie

11:15 Break-out Groups

June 13 - The Joseph Story: From Suffering to Grace (Genesis 42-47:12)

Teacher: Pat

Worship Leader: Geneva

11:15 Break-out Groups

June 20 - The Joseph Story: From Suffering to Grace (Genesis 48-50)

Teacher: Lynn

Worship Leader: Bret

June 27 - The Joseph Story: From Suffering to Grace (Genesis 47: 13-26; Exodus 1; Exodus 13:7-12)

Teacher: Lois

Worship Leader: Doug

11:15 Break-out Groups

11:45 Women's Reading Group

News from the Western District Conference

The **WDC Annual Assembly** will be held July 30-August 1, focusing on the theme of "Woven Into God's Story", based on Colossians 2:2-7. Some parts of it will be only virtual, and other parts will be only on-site at Faith Mennonite Church in Newton, KS. Much of it will be hybrid with people on-site and virtual sharing together. Information is posted as it becomes available, and online registration will be available at the beginning of June at: <https://mennowdc.org/2021-wdc-annual-assembly/>

Special Annual Assembly Storytelling Opportunity! WDC's Assembly theme July 30-August 1 is "Woven into God's Story." When was the last time you really listened to the story of someone who doesn't see the world as you do? The folks at StoryCorps have invited WDC to partner with their storytelling project, *One Small Step*, to share and record our own stories within WDC. *One Small Step* is an initiative to facilitate conversations across differences, between people who may disagree politically. It's not a debate. It's a chance to spend time virtually with someone different than you and discover the stories behind each other's beliefs. To join another WDC member for an online conversation, sign up at <https://onesmallstep.storycorps.org/wdc/>. The registration deadline is June 25 and virtual recordings will be scheduled July 28-30 (space is limited).

BIG NEWS from the Western District Women in Mission! The **Women's Retreat** at Camp Mennoscah will happen in-person this September! Details are being discussed but please circle the dates of Saturday, September 11 and Sunday, September 12 and consider joining our fellowship and reconnecting. Of course, some things will look different including no programming for girls, only meeting on Saturday and Sunday, building use being limited, bodies being one year older, etc. We'll send out more details and registration information later this summer; hope to see you there!

Church Women United

In May, CWU celebrated Mental Health Awareness month. CWU decided to partner with Breakthrough Club, collecting towels, soap, and hygiene products for the club and its friends. CWU is also helping with the "Shower Up" truck which stops in several locations to accommodate people who don't have access to a shower. Shower-Up will be in the Breakthrough Club parking lot once a week. If you have new or gently used towels and other supplies, contact Belinda or Sally.

News from Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA profiled Amy Yoder McGloughlin – mom, pastor and peacemaker with Christian Peacemaking Teams – as part of its Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of War initiative. Read about Yoder McGloughlin's journey in "From Palestine to Pennsylvania, peacemaking is not passive." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/palestine-to-pa>

Carlos Romero shared about his experience as the first Latino executive director of Mennonite Education Agency and about his anti-racism work in the education system in a recent interview. Read more. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/table-mennonite-education> En español: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/por-ampliar-la-mesa>

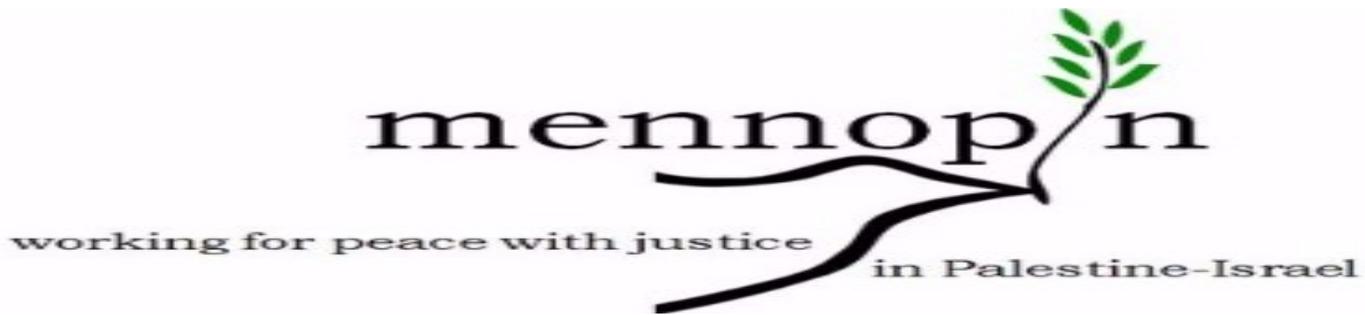
Glen Guyton has been reappointed for a second three-year term as executive director of Mennonite Church USA. Read about his goals and accomplishments here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/glen-second-term>

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC Central States COVID-19 update: We look forward to re-opening the MCC office in North Newton on July 6. Please keep us in your prayers as we consider our protocols, processes and capacity. Material resources donations continue to be accepted in the 24-hour donation room. Financial donations can be made at mcc.org, mailed to the office (MCC Central States PO BOX 235 North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off by appointment. Please call the MCC office at 316-283-2720 with any questions. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

MCC needs hygiene kits. Each kit consists of a hand towel, soap, nail clipper, a wide-tooth comb and a tooth brush. Keeping clean is helping stay healthy for people whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster.

Pockets for Change is working on hygiene kits, school kits, and comforters for MCC. Pockets will also be working on dignity kits. Dignity kits are new to MCC. They provide sustainable support to women and girls around the world. The kits include hygiene and sanitary items that are eco-friendly, washable and help the women stay healthy with dignity.



MENNONITE PALESTINE ISRAEL NETWORK

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to you about Gaza, a place that I have studied and written about for the last 35 years, a place that I consider another home, filled with the kindest and most generous people you will ever meet—have you ever been there? But I am writing not only as a scholar of the region but as a Jew and one whose parents survived Auschwitz.

I have a question for you, Mr. President: When is the death of a child acceptable? Or perhaps I should ask the question this way: When does the death of a Palestinian child become unacceptable? You have experienced the unspeakable loss of your own children so you are better placed than most to answer my questions.

Last week after 87 Palestinians in Gaza were killed and over 500 wounded you stated that you had not seen a “significant overreaction” on Israel’s part to Hamas’s rocket attacks. Among the dead at that time were 18 children. I did not know any of them but I know people who do. Would you please help me explain to my friends why the death of these 18 children does not constitute an overreaction? This brings up another question I have for you, Mr. President: How many children must die in Gaza before you would consider Israel’s response excessive particularly since you have made human rights the center of your foreign policy? I need to know so that I can explain it to my friends. As I write this, over 60 Palestinian children have been killed by the government of Israel. Is that enough to qualify?

I know people inside our government who work on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I need to tell you something I heard from one of them about the death of Gaza’s children. This individual implied that some of the dead were likely the children of Hamas officials so their deaths don’t really matter, that is, their deaths are acceptable. Is this the answer to my first question? Should this be the way I explain it to my friends? Please help me out here.

It is tragic that after more than three decades of research and writing, I still find it necessary to argue for the humanity of Palestinians, even to you.

One more thing before I end this letter if you’ll indulge me. It is about my mom. When she was imprisoned in the Lodz ghetto during the Holocaust, she risked her life hiding children who were chosen for deportation to Auschwitz and other extermination camps. The Nazis eventually found the children and sent them to their deaths. But my mom tried to save them even though she knew she was powerless to do so. And I can assure you, knowing her and learning from her as I did throughout my life, she would have done the same for any child under threat, Jewish or Christian or Muslim. She would have been horrified by the senseless killing of children in this terrible conflict, both Palestinian and Israeli, and she would have railed at the injustice of it all. And this is my last question for you: Why haven’t you done the same?

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara Roy

(Dr. Roy is a Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University)

**Mennonite Church of the Servant
Financial Narrative
As of April 2021**

We collected:		
Budget Offerings	\$	13,673.88
Designated Offerings		-
In-kind Donation		-
Sharing Fund Donations		100.00
Total income		<u>\$ 13,773.88</u>
We spent offerings on:		
Conference Support	\$	158.68
Congregational Enrichment		618.12
Leadership		10,159.00
Meeting House		5,302.22
Operating Expense		427.29
Sharing Fund		50.00
Retreat		75.00
Total expense		<u>(16,790.31)</u>
We paid down our loans		<u>(1,950.87)</u>
We spent more than we collected		<u><u>\$ (4,967.30)</u></u>

Sharing Fund		
Balance at beginning of year	\$	938.80
Contributions from Everence		-
Contributions from members		100.00
Paid Out		(50.00)
Balance		<u>\$ 988.80</u>

Fund Balances		
Building Fund	\$	1,483.79
Sharing Fund		988.80
Immigration Fund		315.00
Operating Fund		22,395.95
Cash in Bank		<u>\$ 25,183.54</u>

Building Equity		
Building Cost	\$	163,034.28
Owed to Everence		(68,145.50)
Owed to WDC		(3,961.45)
Equity in Building		<u>\$ 90,927.33</u>

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 30	31	June 1	2	3	4	5
10:00 Worship				7:00 Anti-Racism Discussion		
11:15 Break-out groups						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 Worship		<i>Happy Birthday, Tom Mierau!</i>	7:00 Shepherds			
11:15 Break-out groups		2:00 Worship Committee				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00 Worship			7:00 Church Council			
11:15 Break-out groups						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00 Worship						
11:15 Church Life						
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10:00 Worship						
11:15 Break-out groups						
11:45 Women's Reading Group						