



Newsletter

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Mennonite Church of the Servant

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Wichita, KS 67204

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Special Events:

Retreat, May 7

This year's church retreat is Saturday, May 7, at Camp Mennoncah. We will gather from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for food, fun, and enjoyment of the great outdoors. Lunch and dinner will be served. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, or pay what you can—all are invited. If you're planning to attend, let Vangie know.

Graduation Reception, May 14

Becca Schlosser is graduating from Moundridge High School at 2:00 p.m. on this day, followed by a reception to which MCS is invited to attend. The reception is a come-and-go event from 3:30-5:30 at the Opera Block Venue, 107 S. Christian Ave., in Moundridge.

Worship/Potluck at the Schlosser's, May 22

Worship on this day will be at the Schlosser's home 3225 Southwood Ct. in Newton. The service will be outdoors, so bring lawn chairs, and also food to share for the potluck that follows the service. You can also attend the service on Facebook Live (no Zoom meeting for this service).

Wedding, June 11

Newcomers, Jim Yoder and Joyce Roads, are getting married at 2:00 p.m. in the church building. Lynn will officiate. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sunday morning services are hybrid. Join us in person or online on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/644908398>) or on Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/page/643747492342153/search/?q=facebook%20live>). *Note: on May 22, the online service will be on Facebook Live only (no Zoom meeting on this day)*

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.

May 1 (Easter 3): Before the Throne: Hymns and Images of Revelation (Revelation 4:8, 11) (Communion)

Teacher: Lois

Worship Leader: Doug

May 8 (Easter 4): Before the Throne: Hymns and Images of Revelation (Revelation 7:9-17)

Teacher: Lynn

Worship Leader: Bret

May 15 (Easter 5): Before the Throne: Hymns and Images of Revelation (Revelation 21: 1-6)

Teacher: Pat

Worship Leader: Geneva

11:30 Church Life

May 22 (Easter 6): Before the Throne: Hymns and Images of Revelation (Revelation 21: 10, 22—22:5)

Teacher: Lynn

Worship Leader: Jan

May 29 (Ascension Sunday): *Lection Divina* (Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Rev.22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; Luke 24:44-53)

Worship Leader: Vangie

11:15: Women's Reading Group



Mennonite Central Committee

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC) STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2022

MCC calls for peace, nonviolence in the midst of war

What does it mean to be people of peace in these times? It is challenging to watch people directly impacted by war in Ukraine and many other places like Colombia, Syria, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Amid the devastation of war, how do we respond in a way that reflects Anabaptist values?

At MCC, our vision is to see communities in right relationship with God, one another and creation. This is a call to peace and active nonviolence based on our faith. Christian peacemaking starts with the belief that God has made peace with us through the gift of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Peacemaking is a response to Jesus's gift of grace and peace. We all continue to sin. All of us are complicit in systems of violence and oppression. We constantly fall short in proclaiming and living out Christ's peace. God's grace, however, empowers us to follow Christ as active peacemakers in a spirit of humility. (You can read more about our peace position in our publication, "[Pursuing Peace: The Essence of Mennonite Central Committee.](#)")

For MCC, peace is more than a wish, it's our work. We do this by partnering with grassroots and faith-based organizations and churches that actively work for peace and nonviolence, and with your support. We witness the power of people coming together with hope to respond to impossible situations and ensure the human dignity of all. We walk alongside communities in processes of conflict transformation and reconciliation. We experience the spaces of creativity and imagination that are opened when violence is not seen as an option.

From these relationships, we have learned that peacemakers have many tools they can use to create positive change. Gathering together in prayer and worship is a powerful response. Diplomacy, dialogue, disarmament, development, conflict resolution, peace education, active nonviolence and strategic peacebuilding are only a few other nonviolent approaches available to prevent war and to work for peace during war. A refusal to be enemies is a powerful way to reduce the harm of violence and build positive peace.

One way we engage in peacebuilding at MCC is through conversations with our governments. In response to the conflict in Ukraine, we ask the Canadian and United States governments to continue considering approaches that do not rely on military intervention or military support. We ask our governments to be global leaders in promoting the use of nonviolent tools such as diplomacy, disarmament, dialogue, the use of international law and support for grassroots peacemakers. We caution against the selling and providing of weapons or direct participation in military missions. We believe nonviolent leadership for peaceful resolution is a way that our countries can make a positive difference.

A focus on trauma healing and assistance to meet basic needs will continue to be urgently needed. We ask our governments to provide support for the most vulnerable, including Russians who are also deeply impacted by this conflict. We encourage careful deliberation around the possible unintended negative consequences of broad sanctions.

Christ invites us to step into the pain and suffering of others. The skills and tools we take into these encounters and learn along the way include: the ability to listen with care and patience, to mediate and resolve conflicts, to analyze political and historical realities, to seek out voices unheard, to support community-based actions, to be courageous allies, to imagine and create options and alternatives and to embody hope. We invite you to join us as we walk this path, together with all those impacted by wars and conflict.

Rick Cober Bauman, MCC Canada Executive Director
Ann Graber Hershberger, MCC U.S. Executive Director

MCS Anti-Racism Group Focuses on Land Acknowledgment

The Anti-Racism group proposed, and Church Life agreed, that MCS would become Recovery Congregation, in affiliation with the Anabaptist Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition. The first step in the process is reviewing guides that describe how to create a Land Acknowledgement Statement. This step was the agenda for the April 28 meeting. Subsequent meetings will take additional steps toward developing a Land Acknowledgment Statement for Mennonite Church of the Servant:

Wednesday, May 25—Step 2: Whose land was this (the land that is now the church's property)? By what mechanism did the people lose it? Where are their descendants today?

Thursday, June 23—Step 3: Explore congregational Land Acknowledgment Statements

Wednesday, July 27—Step 4: Write our own Statement

Thursday, August 25—Step 5: Decide when and how we will use our statement.

All meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. To become part of the process, contact Lois for the Zoom link.

AMBS Webinar on White Nationalism

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is hosting a webinar, "**Political Idolatry: Countering Christian Nationalism**" on May 4, 1-2 p.m. CST. Register here: ambs.edu/what-is-christian-nationalism/

MC-USA Webinar: How Congregations Steward Their Land

Join Andrew Hudson, an Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary student, for a webinar on "How Congregations Steward Their Land" on May 10 at 6:30 p.m. CST.

Hudson will share reflections on his work with Mennonite Creation Care Network and Mennonite Men's Join Trees. Here is the Zoom link: mennoniteusa.org/zoom-steward-their-land. Sign up here to receive a reminder email: mennoniteusa.org/creation-care-leaders

New MCC Position Helps Congregations Connect with Refugee Agencies

Mennonite Central Committee has created a new staff position related to our congregation's focus on immigrants/refugees. Charity Stowell has been hired as the Newcomer Connections Coordinator. She will help connect Mennonite congregations with those who are working with refugees.

How to Follow Jesus in a Time of War

Heidi Regier Kreider, conference minister for Western District Conference, contemplates what it means to be **a follower of Jesus in times of war**. Read her reflections here: mennoniteusa.org/lament-face-of-war

Racial Justice in the U.S. Immigration System

"If the conditions or requirements of hospitality are that the stranger be familiar to us, then are we truly willing to welcome the stranger?" write Daniela Lazaro-Manalo and Hannah Markey-Roberts. In their blog, they address the systematic immigration issues at the southern border of the United States in relation to Ukrainian refugee resettlement initiatives. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/welcoming-white-stranger

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alex and Haley who have welcomed a baby boy into their household: Cedar Sparrow Esau, born April 23, 8:50 p.m., weighing pounds, 1 ounce.

May 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Worship (Commuion)/ Children's Sunday School</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Latyionna Cheaney!</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2:00 Worship Committee</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00=8:00 Retreat at Camp Menoscha</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Jenny Wynn-Hurd!</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Worship/ Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 Shepherds</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 Book Study</p> <p>3:30-5:30 Becca's Reception</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Worship/ Children's Sunday School</p> <p>11:30 Church Life</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 Worship at Lynn's home</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 Anti-Racism Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 Book Study</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Worship/ Children's Sunday School</p> <p>11:30 Women's Book Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>June 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>