

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen Piano: Erin Vanderschaaf
Worship Leader: Erin Vanderschaaf Audio: Jim Ensz
Hosts: Gayland & Marcia Regier PowerPoint: Katie Jantzen
Ushers: Daryl Riesen & Justin Schardt Video: Dan Kunzman

Last Sunday Attendance: ??

Offering: FMC \$1700; MTM \$200; MCC \$1230

Offering today: FMC **Next Sunday:** Bethel College

Happening this week:

Sunday, Aug 18 9:30 am Sunday School for youth & adults
 Noon-2 pm Peace Club & Prayer Partners
 Lunch & service project@ Park
 Noon: JYF and SYF lunch & planning mtg
Tuesday, Aug 20 1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, August 21 3:00 pm Ladies Aide meet at PEO for coffee
Sunday, August 25 9:30 am Sunday School for youth & adults
 10:30 am Worship

August Birthdays

1: Miles Esau 6: Steph Janzen, Rebekkah Stutzman
7: Mitch Williamson 11: Scarlett & Raelynn Heinz
11: Debbie Keeney 12: Abby Trantham
16: Jerry Reimer, Kathy Thimm 21: Kyle Baade
22: Gentre Esau 22: Henry Vanderschaaf
27: Pam Kunzman 29: Pat Penner
31: Sam Vanderschaaf

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- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
 - **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
 - **Food Pantry** items may go in the box in the narthex. Cash donations may be given to Dolores Jantzen.
 - Have a project for Men's Brotherhood? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
 - Our service is on <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and heard on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org, under the More tab; select documents; church docs, minutes & bulletins.

First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org

Church office: 402-251-7180

Website: fmcbeatrice.org **Church email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857)
Don Esau (402-223-9210). **Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



Welcome

Call to Worship

Erin Vanderschaaf

L: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

P: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!

L: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

P: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.

L: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

P: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. AMEN.

Prayer

Hymn: "Jesus Calls Us"

VT 30

Prayer of Confession (based on Psalm 51)

L: Have mercy on us, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, forgive us. Free us from the guilt that weighs us down, from the sin that controls us.

P: We have sinned against you and done what is wrong in your eyes. We are well aware of the wrong we do: the words we speak which wound, the unloving thoughts and actions which hurt others and ourselves. We know that these things distance us from you and keep us from recognizing your life in us. Forgive us.

L: You desire complete honesty from us. We know that nothing can be hidden from you. And so we lay open our hearts to you now— we lay before you those things for which we need your forgiveness, and those things from which we long to be set free. Gracious God, enter our hearts. Teach us what it means to have you at the center of our lives.

P: God, we need your mercy and forgiveness. Only you can make us whole again; only you can fill us with lasting joy, only you can transform our weakness into strength. O God, look no longer on our past mistakes, but on the aspirations and longing of our hearts.

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God, open and receptive to your Spirit.
P: Create in us clean hearts, O God, washed clean from bitter thoughts, from shame, guilt, envy and anger.

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God, free from anxiety about the past or the future, confident in the presence of your Holy Spirit, and in your gift of peace.

P: Create in us clean hearts, O God, cleansed by your mercy, and made strong by your love.

L: Loving and merciful God,

All: we have so little to bring to You. But what we have, we willingly give: our humble spirits and contrite hearts. We long to be your disciples, to follow your path for our lives, and to share with others the good news of your love and mercy.

Words of Assurance (based on Psalm 103:8)

L: Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, full of unfailing love.
Today, receive God's forgiveness.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: *"God of the Bible"* VT 420

Scripture: Exodus 20:14, Matthew 5:27-30

Sermon: *"Fixing What is Broken"* Pastor Josh

Hymn: *"O God, We Read the Holy Law"* VT 571

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn: *"As You Go Out from Here"* VT 841 (2x)

Offering for FMC

Welcome! We are glad you are here! We hope to see you again soon! Our service is live streamed on YouTube. Search Fmcbeatrice.

Welcome Back Celebration! All are invited this morning at 9:30 am for breakfast, conversation, and to hear about the Faith Formation opportunities for all ages this year!

The Junior High and Senior High Youth will gather for lunch today, Sunday, August 18th at noon for pizza and to plan for the coming year.

Peace Club will meet with Prayer Partners today Sunday, August 18 in the basement for lunch following church. After lunch, our prayer partners & youth will be transported to Charles Park where the children & their adult mentors will pick up trash in that area. The money earned will be used to buy school supplies for MCC kits. We will join the school kit challenge of trying to make 24,000 kits. Parents, please pick your child up at Charles Park at 2 pm. Let Barb, Jane, Kathy or Sue know if you cannot come.

Each Sunday we have people who assist with the audio, video, and PowerPoint needs for our worship service. **We need a few more volunteers to help with the audio controls and a few to help with advancing the PowerPoint slides.** Please consider volunteering to help with this. It is **very easy to do** and there are no special skills necessary. As a volunteer, you will receive training and will have people to support you. Let the church office know if you can help and we will schedule a training session.

Ladies Aide will have coffee at the PEO with Mag Boyce on Wednesday, August 21 at 3 p.m. Please bring a snack to share.

We are collecting school supplies for MCC school kits. The kits will be put together during a church community gathering on Wednesday, September 10th. There is a collection box in the narthex for donated supplies (unused):

- Spiral or perforated-page notebooks (8.5 in x 11 in)
- New unsharpened pencils
- Ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm (inch markings optional)
- Colored pencils (in packaging)
- Large eraser
- New black or blue ballpoint pens
- Small all-metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

We can't begin to **express our gratitude** towards everyone in our church family. From the simple encouraging words in church, to the cards and generosity, we truly are overwhelmed by the love and support that we have received from all of you. As you are reading this, I have just completed my 6 weeks of radiation. The next steps will be to continue my ADT hormone treatment and active surveillance. We continue to put our trust and faith in the Lord! Thank you all for your continued prayers and support! **Justin, Linsey, Riley, Graham.**

Church Picnic is Sunday, September 15, 5:00 p.m. at Chautauqua Park Tabernacle. Dan will be in touch with Shepards with requests to compliment pulled pork sandwiches.

First Mennonite Church General Fund Summary: June and July 2024

General Fund Balance 5/31/24	\$ (2,008.97)
June general fund offerings	17,430.00
June Expenses	<u>(18,775.60)</u>
General Fund Balance 6/30/24	(3,354.57)
July general fund offerings	13,108.27
July Expenses	<u>(13,831.45)</u>
General Fund Balance 7/31/24	(4,077.75)

First United Presbyterian Church of Fairbury has invited FMC to their **End of Summer Concert featuring the Brad Ramp Band** on August 24th from 5-9. Brad Ramp is a touring worship leader based out of Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska. He is passionate about using God's gift of music as a vehicle to deliver the Good News! Brad grew up in Friend, NE, and is excited to share a night of worship, hope, and encouragement with communities.

Today, Ice Cream Social! Sunday, August 18, 4-6 pm at Ellis United Methodist Church. Serving Sandwiches, Ice Cream, Desserts. Free Will Donation **benefits Stephanie Patterson's medical expenses.** (Sponsored in part by Thrivent.)

Big Give Gage 2024 is September 12. Participating non-profits may be found at biggivegag.org. Among them are Mother to Mother and Sewing for Babies.

It's almost here - 150th celebration on August 23-25, at Eden Mennonite Church. seminars, Readers' Theater, poppyseed break, threshing Red Turkey wheat, ethnic supper, entertainment. Children's activities. We still have tee shirts and mugs and books for you to remember the weekend. And lots of meeting new and old friends under the banner of "*Schweitzers and Friends.*" Better register now. All the events will be recorded and put on the www.swissmennonite.org website so you can see anything you missed. I can't wait! See you there. --Kathy Goering

From MMN: Friends, Thank you so much for your continued support for MMN! Your incredible generosity is so wonderful and important! Please let me know if any questions arise. Best wishes as you continue to spread God's love throughout your community! – Jason Ault, Mennonite Mission Network

Western District Conference Report on 116th Annual Assembly

Approximately 170 people gathered for the Annual Assembly of Western District Conference, August 2-4 at First Mennonite Church and Summit Street Church in Beatrice, NE. Over 155 adults, youth and children attended in-person, plus virtual delegates and others viewing worship services and workshops online. (continued)

(continued) Credentialed ministers were honored with an appreciation reception, and with a blessing during Friday evening worship. Worship services on Friday and Sunday focused on the assembly theme, *In Community We Transform*, featuring sermons by Adrion Roberson and Michelle Armster. Roberson teaches at the Kansas Leadership Center, is a pastor and is the Executive Director of KC United! Youth/Family Sports & Education Initiative in Kansas City. Armster is the Executive Director for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Central States and is an ordained minister and a trainer, teacher, and practitioner in conflict transformation, mediation, anti-racism/anti-oppression and restorative justice.

At the delegate session on Saturday, delegates approved membership in WDC for three congregations formerly affiliated with South Central Mennonite Conference: New Life Christian Center, San Benito, TX; Crystal Springs Mennonite Church, Harper, KS; and Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS. Representatives from each congregation offered a response, followed by a prayer of blessing led by WDC conference ministers. Delegates also approved the release of West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, following the congregation's decision to withdraw from WDC and join the Evana Network, and received an announcement that Hanston (KS) Mennonite Church had closed this past year due to decline in membership. Other delegate business included welcome to institutional partners, updates from the WDC Listening Process and Dismantling Racism Action Team, reports from the four commissions, financial reports, approval of the 2025 budget, election of new leaders, and bylaw amendments to adjust the fiscal year and Executive Board budget-related duties. In her state of the conference report Conference Minister Heidi Regier Kreider highlighted the assembly theme, noting that God is doing transformative work through congregations' unique differences and their shared experiences, and also through the mutual sharing of gifts and resources between the conference and congregations.

During delegate sessions, an intergenerational faith formation track took place at Summit Street Church for non-delegate adults, youth and children, led by Sarah Neher, Pastor for Faith Formation at First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, who also led an intergenerational Sunday school session on Sunday morning. Saturday afternoon workshops by a variety of presenters focused on topics such as communication for social transformation, the legacy of Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church, Anabaptism at 500, congregational stories of racial justice, updates from the WDC Listening Process, congregational health and adaptive change, estate planning and charitable giving to benefit the church, and commentary for a tour of the Homestead National Historical Park near Beatrice.

Displays around the gathering space offered an opportunity to learn about Mennonite Church USA denominational agencies and other Mennonite-related organizations, and to have conversation with their representatives who were present. A family festival on Saturday evening offered an informal time to enjoy ice cream, indoor and outdoor games, and fellowship together.

---Heidi Regier Kreider, WDC Conference Minister