First Mennonite Church
427 West 4th
Halstead, KS 67056

# Church FAMILY PRAYER LIST

- Pray for the Mission Supper, that it will be well attended and the funds raised will bless the recipients.
- Pray for Chuck and Ruth Mueller as they travel to Georgia to serve at Jubilee Partners for a month. Pray for safety in travel and that they can minister to both the regular staff and the people who are currently living there.
- Pray we can be a thankful congregation, focusing on all that we can be grateful for instead of what we don't have. Pray we can praise God for His goodness in all circumstances.
- Pray for the Nurture Ministry as they prepare for the upcoming Children's & Youth Christmas Program.
- Pray for the Bell Choir as they perform at Mennonite Friendship Communities in South Hutch, that their music will encourage and bless the residents there.
- Pray for those in our congregation who have experienced health issues recently. Pray for their return to full health.
- Pray for those who are struggling mentally or emotionally. Pray God sends people to minister to and walk with them.
- Pray for those for whom holiday celebrations are hard. Pray they will find joy in the midst of any challenges.

November 2026
Volume 50, No. 11

# The Church Corner

**First Mennonite Church**
**427 W. 4th Street**
**Halstead, KS 67056**
**www.firstmennonitehalstead.org**
**Pastor Steve Wilcox**

**Phone: 316-835-2282**
**Email: office@firstmennonitehalstead.org**

**Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.**
**Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.**
***The service is livestreamed on the church's Facebook page.***

**"We are a community of believers who follow Jesus Christ as we receive and share God's love."**

**We, of First Mennonite Church, valuing the convictions of our faith, endeavor to:**

- **Engage our members in ministry**
- **Expand community outreach and**
- **Embrace new people in the love of Christ.**

## Thank You Church!!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. This was started back in 1992 as a dedicated time to encourage congregations to uplift and support their pastoral staff. It is a tradition rooted in the biblical instruction found in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, which asks believers to "acknowledge those who work hard among you... and to hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

It's not always the most comfortable thing for me; if I am entirely honest, it has always felt easier to be on the giving end of such things rather than on the receiving end. Yet I find my heart overflowing with gratitude for the love this congregation has shown my family and me; experiencing your kindness has been a profoundly humbling blessing.

The video of our church's children answering questions about what they think I do was an absolute delight. Hearing their sweet, unscripted thoughts brought joy and delight to me and my family. And for the record, while tomatoes might not actually be my favorite food, it was incredibly fun to listen to all of their enthusiastic guesses!

I was also moved by the sticky notes written during the service. Reading the single words you each chose to describe me was a deeply humbling experience. I am constantly aware of my own imperfections, so to see myself through your gracious, loving eyes is a gift I will try to hold onto.

We also appreciate the financial gift to assist with our family's short Thanksgiving getaway. We look forward to a little break in the mountains to see a different aspect of God's beautiful creation.

I could not have asked for a better church to be a part of over the last 10 years. Thank you for your ongoing prayers, your partnership in the gospel, and your remarkable generosity. As Philippians 1:3 beautifully states, "I thank my God every time I remember you all."

Blessings,
Pastor Steve



## Church Announcements

1. The deadline for the December newsletter is Monday, November 23.
2. The Neighbors Store pantry requests tomato sauce and rice not instant) for the month of November.
3. Offering schedule for November:
   - Nov. 1: Church Budget
   - Nov. 8: Harvest Mission Festival
   - Nov. 15: Western District Conf.
   - Nov. 22: Church Budget
   - Nov. 29: MCC Christmas Tree
4. The link for our church online library is librarything.com catalog/FMCHalstead.

into investment opportunities for the funds we have on hand at Halstead Bank. James reported the shingles have all been replaced from our hail storm a year ago. The insurance premium will be going up. The west sidewalk along Santa Fe will get replaced next week and the city is paying for $3,800 of the $5,000 cost. Tyler and Nadya Gehring are doing some landscape work in the court yard.

- Worship Ministry: Steve reported they met last Thursday. Casey shared about her Kids Meet Christ workshop, and ways to incorporate the ideas. We received the full $10,000 technology grant from Kids Meet Christ so we can stream the service to the nursery and Stauffer Hall. They are incorporating a variety of new people in a rotating schedule to help lead music up front. Steve surveyed this new group and received positive reviews, so they will continue this. Gregg shared they went through their policies and procedures. They presented changes to Council to be approved.
- Pastors Report: Steve reported it's been a busy season the last couple of weeks, and he is continuing to try to figure out how to meet the needs of our homebound members.
- New & Continuing Business: Steve, Kaitlen and Sara met and went through the revisions to the constitution that council discussed at the August meeting. They presented a rough draft to Council. Council went through the changes and made additional revisions. Kaitlen will update the rough draft and bring it back to the next Council meeting. Once Council approves the draft, it will be presented to the congregation for a vote.
- Polices and Procedures Manual updates: Care Ministry, Hospitality Ministry and Worship Ministry presented updates to their policies and procedure manuals. James moved we approve the changes. Kaitlen seconded the motion. Council approved with a majority vote. Missions and Discernment will bring their policies and procedure manual to have to officially updated and approved by Council.

*Next Council Meeting: November 16, 2026*

### Camp Mennoscah Verenike Casserole Fundraiser & Annual Meeting

Camp Mennoscah's annual meeting will be combined with a Verenike Casserole Fundraiser on November 7, at Faith Mennonite Church in Newton. Starting at 5:30, everyone is welcome to come partake in a verenike casserole meal, and stay for the annual meeting beginning at 6:00. If you would like your meal(s) to go, drive-thru begins at 5:00. The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zweiback, and fruit crisp. Reservations for meals can be made by calling 620-297-3290. Cost is by donation with a suggested donation is $20/meal, $40/pan.

## Council Meeting Minutes

*from October 5, 2026*

- Pastor Steve opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes were approved from August as written.
- Discernment Team: Sara reported that they met September 27 and looked at the positions that need to be filled: two Mission members, Et Cetera Board member, Discernment member, and a WDC Delegate/ Advocate. We have begun going through our list of people to ask to fill the empty positions. We also looked at our policies and procedures manual. Debbie reported that Amy Buchholz is joining them on Nurture.
- Vision Team: Chuck reported they have everything in place for the Congregational Review on October 25. The training date is Oct. 19 for the focus group leaders/recorders. The schedule for Oct. 25 will include a shortened Sunday School hour and church service, followed by break out meetings and then lunch.
- Care Ministry: Ron reported they went over their policies at the last Care Ministry meeting and are making some changes. A rough draft has been presented and approved by Care Ministry and will be presented tonight to Council for a vote at the end. Caring and Sharing will be added as a sub-committee under Care Ministry (moved from Hospitality). They are getting a matching fund from Everence to help with car repairs for someone.
- Hospitality Ministry: Kaitlen reported they met September 14. They reviewed their summer activities. P&M is coming up Sunday, October 11. It may be the last year for this as admission prices are getting very high. November 1 they are organizing small group mobile potlucks at the home of a couple of our homebound members. They updated their policies and procedure manual and brought it to Council for approval.
- Mission Ministry: Sandy reported the Mission Supper is scheduled for November 21. The proceeds will go to Care Portal (25%) and the rest will be split between our missionaries. They are looking for a Moment in Mission speaker for November 22.
- Nurture Ministry: Debbie reported they met September 28. Amy Buchholz has joined their team. They evaluated their adult summer Sunday school and Christian Ed Sunday. The fall Sunday School term is up and running. No Little Blessings class right now because there are no children currently that age. Wednesday night programming is going well. They discussed Safe Sanctuaries and are wondering if they need to do background checks more regularly, like every 5 years. The Children's Christmas program will be December 13.
- Stewardship Ministry: David reported we have a $3,800 budget deficit for the year. He is looking



# NOVEMBER

## November Calendar

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nov. 1 | 12:00 p.m. | Lauten Bells practice |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mobile Potlucks |
| Nov. 4 | 8:00 p.m. | Bell Choir practice |
| Nov. 8 | 12:00 p.m. | Lauten Bells practice |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| Nov. 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Vision Team meeting |
| Nov. 11 | 7:00 p.m. | Bell Choir practice |
| Nov. 12 | 9:00 a.m. | Prayer Team meeting |
| Nov. 15 | 10:30 a.m. | Lauten Bells perform |
| Nov. 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Council meeting |
| Nov. 18 | 7:00 p.m. | Bell Choir practice |
| Nov. 19 | | Bell Choir performs at Mennonite Friendship Communities |
| Nov. 21 | 5:00 p.m. | Mission Supper |
| Nov. 22 | 10:30 a.m. | Bell Choir performs |
| Nov. 22 | 6:00 p.m. | Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| Nov. 29 | 8:15 a.m. | Waffle Breakfast |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Christmas Tree Decorating Service |

## Looking Ahead

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dec. 6 | 10:30 a.m. | Children's Bells perform |
| Dec. 13 | 10:30 a.m. | Children's and Youth Christmas program |
| Dec. 24 | 6:30 p.m. | Christmas Eve Service |
| Jan. 31 | | New Year's Eve Party |

## Upcoming Church Events

### Mission Supper

Mark your calendars for First Mennonite's Mission Supper on Saturday, November 21, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in Stauffer Hall. The meal consists of German sausage, fried potatoes, green beans, chicken borscht, sauerkraut, zwieback and pie. Cost is by donation and proceeds from the supper will benefit Care Portal and our mission partner families: the Woodward-Breckbill famil in Paris, France, and the Givens family in Calais, France.

### Waffle Breakfast & Christmas Tree Decorating Service

The annual Waffle Breakfast and Christmas Tree Decorating Service will take place on Sunday, Nov. 29. The Waffle Breakfast will be from 8:15-9:15 a.m. in Stauffer Hall with waffles and toppings, bacon, sausage, hot drinks and more. Cost will be by donation and proceeds will assist people in the Halstead community with utility bills.

Then help decorate our Christmas tree during the worship service with hand towels for MCC. Hand towels that are medium weight, dark or bright colors, and approximately 16"x26" are preferred. Join us for one of our favorite Sundays of the year!

### Care Packages For Our College Students

College Care Packages are going to be given to Ethan Wilcox and Henry Harrington at Bethel College again this fall. We would love to bless them with some goodies before their finals at the beginning of December. Some ideas for the care package: baked goods, snacks, gas money/gift cards, Dillons gift cards, laundry detergent, bathroom cleaner, cards, or something creative! Please put your donations in the plastic tub under the coat rack by November 22.

Clockwise from top left: a game during Kids Club; the jumping mats and mini golf at the pumpkin ranch; preschool prayer during Kids Club; the Women's and Girls' Lunch; eating together at our reserved pumpkin ranch fire pit; Hog Roast food. Center: roasting hot dogs at the pumpkin ranch.

## Fall Activities at FMC

There are many activities at FMC in the fall that help us both grow in our faith and have fun with each other. Clockwise: The annual Hog Roast was held October 18; the P & M Pumpkin Ranch outing is a much anticipated and enjoyed event; a Women's and Girls' Soup and Salad Lunch was a new event this year and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended; preschoolers work on their craft during Kids Club; games are a Kids Club favorite.

## NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

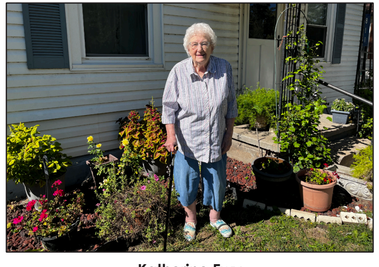
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Bennett Mueller |
| 1 | Megan Ortman |
| 2 | Kenneth Black |
| 2 | Duane Knoll |
| 4 | Jack Cannon |
| 4 | Jessica Dyck |
| 4 | Cole Finley |
| 5 | Stacey Hackler |
| 5 | Jace Whorton |
| 6 | Ron Colbert |
| 6 | Gregg Dick |
| 6 | Joshua Stucky |
| 6 | Shaun Whitesell |
| 7 (A) | Jarod & Dakotah Cannon |
| 8 | John Auernheimer |
| 8 | Cody Dyck |
| 8 | Rachel Ellis |
| 8 | Jane Fitch |
| 8 | Chuck Haspels |
| 8 | Beth Nemeth |
| 8 | Alex Stucky |
| 9 | Steven Ewy |
| 9 | Melanie Haspels |
| 9 | Richard Regier |
| 11 | James Davis |
| 11 | Hannah McGlothlin |
| 12 | Leah Koehn |
| 12 | Amber Lintz |
| 13 | Matthew Finley |
| 14 | Paul Kaufman |
| 15 | Waldon Regier |
| 18 (A) | Ron & Sara Dick |
| 18 | Reuben Kawanguzi |
| 19 | Betsy Davis |
| 20 | Ken Fast |
| 20 | Rita Mueller |
| 20 | Charles Robinson |
| 21 | David Wiens |
| 22 (A) | Mick & Mary Bean |
| 22 | Malachi Kawanguzi |
| 23 (A) | Tom & Tina Koehn |
| 25 | Ruth Stucky |
| 27 | John Back |
| 27 | Robert Koehn |
| 29 | Ruth Mueller |
| 29 | Ian Navarro |
| 30 | Marilyn Auernheimer |
| 30 (A) | Delton & Denice Klassen |
| 30 | Arletta McGinn |
| 30 | Wilma Mueller |

### Hope Mennonite Craft Bazaar and Peppernut Sale

Hope Mennonite Church's annual Craft Bazaar and Peppernut Sale will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at 868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita. All proceeds from the event will help support Hope Mennonite Church service projects: MCC, Camp Mennoscah, Family Promise and Justice Together. There will be live music, a bake sale featuring peppernuts, kids' activities, local vendors, Quilter's Corner, and breakfast and lunch – cinnamon rolls, German sausage, bierocks, pie, and more. All are welcome — entry is free!

A lifelong Halstead resident, Katherine Ewy has attended First Mennonite for nearly 70 years. She is a part of our congregation today thanks to her late husband Forrest, who passed away in 2006.

Katherine grew up in the country, a mile and a half north of the cemetery on Highway 50, and graduated from Halstead High School in 1954. Before marrying Forrest, she attended the Presbyterian Church in town. When they married in March of 1957, she began attending First Mennonite, where Forrest and his family were members.



Katherine Ewy

Forrest was a farmer, and he and Katherine farmed together for more than 30 years. They lived a mile west of where Chuck and Ruth Mueller live today, along Highway 50. In 1991, they decided to sell the farm and move to town. Katherine has lived on Spruce Street ever since.

Before moving to to town, Katherine worked at The Halstead Bank for 15 years. Her favorite part of the job was visiting with the people who came into the bank.

"I liked the people more than the numbers," Katherine said.

At First Mennonite, Katherine taught Sunday School and helped with Vacation Bible School for a few years. She also spent many years drying dishes in the kitchen during the verenike and mission suppers and helping prepare funeral meals. For more than 25 years, she volunteered to fold, tape, and label the church newsletter each month before it was mailed. One of the highlights of church life for Katherine was attending her Sunday school class and enjoying fellowship with the people there.

Katherine turned 90 in September. Although it is not as easy for her to attend church every Sunday these days, she tries to come as often as she can. Simply being in church and listening to Pastor Steve's messages brings her joy.

"I like Pastor Steve," Katherine said. "I really enjoy visiting with him. He's so friendly. I've really enjoyed going and listening to him. I try to go as much as I can."

When she can, Katherine enjoys working in her yard and growing flowers. Although she enjoys all kinds of flowers, she has the most success growing zinnias. She also likes getting out and about when the weather allows, exercising, playing bingo at the Senior Center, and visiting her sister-in-law.

"I get out when I can," Katherine said. "I like to be around people. I don't like to see winter come because then I can't go outside."

Katherine has two children, two granddaughters and four great-grandchildren, all of whom live in the area.



### Treasurer's Report

| | |
|---|---|
| Budget balance @ 8-31-26 | $8,118.71 |
| September Receipts | $10,237.64 |
| September Expenses | ($13,839.58) |
| Budget balance @ 9-30-26 | $4,516.77 |

## YOUTH Spotlight

This month's Youth Spotlight is Whitney McGlothlin, a senior at Halstead High School

**What class would you choose to stay in all day, and why?** ACT Prep because it's fun and only has 5 people in class.
**What activities are you involved in in school? Which one is your favorite?**

XC, Kays, FCA and Track. Whitney likes XC because of the people and cheering for everyone at races.
**If you could do anything you wanted for a day, what would it be?** Go to a Formula 1 race and meet all my favorite drivers.
**If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it?** I'd save at least 90% for future use. The rest I would spend on books, things for my room, and I'd buy my mom a nice car.
**What is your favorite food?** My mom's crockpot stew.
**What is your favorite ice cream flavor?** Chocolate 100%
**What are your plans after high school?** I'm interested in library science. I want to work as a librarian in a small town in the mountains and have 12 cats.