

World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday originated in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Conceived by the Reverend Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, the tradition began as an effort to emphasize Christian unity during a era marked by global instability and the Great Depression. Kerr sought a way to bring diverse congregations together through a shared, central act of faith: the sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

The movement gained momentum when the Presbyterian Church officially adopted the observance in 1936. Recognizing its potential to foster ecumenical harmony, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) endorsed the initiative in 1940, expanding it into a global, cross-denominational tradition. Today, it is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of October by dozens of Protestant traditions worldwide.

World Communion Sunday serves as a powerful symbol of Christian unity, transcending geographical, cultural, national, and denominational boundaries. While individual church practices and theological traditions vary, partaking in Holy Communion on the same day reminds believers of their shared fellowship in Christ.



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The Church Corner



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

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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.



YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD.
I will be joyful
IN GOD MY SAVIOR.

HABAKKUK 3:18, NIV

A Little Reminder from the Weather

For the past month—or perhaps it has only felt like a month—it seems as though summer has been determined to prove a point. Day after day, the thermometer has climbed toward 100 degrees, as if the sun had singled out Kansas for punishment. Each morning I have found myself looking at the weather forecast, wondering when will it finally cool down. And then, today, it happened.

It's as if someone found the thermostat for Kansas and finally turned it down. Instead of temperatures pushing toward 100, the high today was only 75. Seventy-five! I even saw people wearing jackets and sweatshirts. I'm not ready to go that far, but it was encouraging! While enjoying this cool weather, I thought about how God's timing is rarely our timing. Of course, this isn't a new revelation for me. I've preached about it before. I've quoted the familiar verses. I've encouraged people to trust God when His timetable doesn't match their own. I believe it. I know it.

And yet, knowing something and consistently living as though we believe it are two different things. I know God is sovereign over time. I also know I would have turned the temperature down several weeks ago. And to me there seemed little sense in the continued heat. As I thought about this, it made me smile. There is

something quite humbling about discovering that even in something as ordinary as the weather, I still have a strong opinion about how things ought to be scheduled.

We can understand God's sovereignty in the big picture and still find ourselves wishing He would adjust the smaller details according to our preferred schedule. We know God has a plan, but we would really appreciate seeing the plan and being able to make adjustments to it. We trust that God knows what He is doing, but we would prefer that He do it in a time that makes sense to us. We believe that God is faithful, but sometimes we would like Him to demonstrate that faithfulness according to our calendar and preferences.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God's ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). Ecclesiastes tells us that there is "a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We know those verses. We may have heard them dozens of times. The challenge isn't always learning the truth. Sometimes the challenge is remembering it when we're waiting. And that's why I appreciate little reminders from ordinary life.

Today, the weather gave me one. For weeks, I have thought, It would be nice if it would cool down. Today, it did. And biking into the office in that cool air, I found myself thinking, God knew what He was doing.

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OCTOBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Kristen Linn |
| 1 | Jake Nightingale |
| 1 | Deanna Sutcliffe |
| 3 (A) | Andrew & Melisa Kaldenbach |
| 4 | Brian Keller |
| 5 | John Vogt |
| 7 | Dakotah Cannon |
| 7 (A) | Charlie & Melody Robinson |
| 7 | Dennis Holzrichter |
| 8 | Jim Ellis |
| 8 | Julia Kaufman |
| 9 (A) | Bill & Anna Lee Ewert (72 years) |
| 9 | George Torres |
| 10 | Sue Conard |
| 10 | Autumn Schowalter |
| 11 (A) | Don & Arnita Haury (60 years) |
| 11 | Julianne Ramsey |
| 12 (A) | Mark & Kim Brandt |
| 12 | Breanna Miller |
| 12 | Dale Ortman |
| 13 | Audra Black |
| 13 | Dustin Jones |
| 13 | Allen Unruh |
| 14 | Dave McGlothlin |
| 14 | Dan Mueller |
| 15 (A) | Trevor & Rachel Gadue |
| 16 | Traci Dumond |
| 17 (A) | Garrett & Maranda Whorton |
| 18 (A) | Jim & Rachel Ellis |
| 18 | Kody Keiser |
| 20 | Michael Regier |
| 22 (A) | Katie Nightingale & Josh Heath |
| 22 | Katie Holub |
| 23 | Emma Rose Allen |

Church Announcements

1. The deadline for the November newsletter is Monday, Oct. 26 .
2. The Neighbors Store pantry requests chunky soups for October.
3. Offering schedule for October:
Oct. 4: Church Budget
Oct. 11: Hog Roast - Mission
Oct. 18: Western District Conf.
Oct. 25: MC USA
4. The link for our church online library is [librarything.com catalog/FMCHalstead](http://librarything.com/catalog/FMCHalstead).

Treasurer's Report

Budget Balance @ 7-31-26	\$9,657.58
August Receipts	\$12,516.92
August Expenses	(\$14,055.79)
Budget balance @ 8-31-26	\$8,118.71

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—

- Pray for Pastor Steve and his family during Pastor Appreciation Month.
- Pray for Jesse Mueller and Michaela Forkenbrock as they are married this month. Pray not only for the final wedding plans, but also for their transition and adjustment into marriage.
- Pray for the parents in the church raising children of all ages. Pray they would have the wisdom and insight they need to parent their children. Pray each child would follow the Lord all their life and be a powerful witness for the Kingdom of God.
- Pray for anyone who has lost a family member in the recent months and years. Pray for comfort in the times they miss their loved one the most.
- Pray for the Mission Ministry as they plan and organize the Hog Roast and the Mission Supper. Pray their plans come together well and that the events are well attended and that the funds raised will be a blessing to the recipients.
- Pray for the pastoral and congregational review process at the end of the month. Pray it would be a positive time of reflection and finding direction for the future.

Of course, life isn't always like the weather. We can't assume that every difficult season will end simply because we've waited long enough. Sometimes we wait for things that don't change. Sometimes we pray for circumstances that remain difficult. Sometimes God's timing is not merely different from ours; it is something we may never fully understand. But that doesn't make the reminder any less important. There are things in my life where I still want God to hurry. There are prayers I would prefer He answer today rather than someday. There are circumstances I would gladly rearrange if He would hand me the schedule. And perhaps that is one of the reasons Scripture so often calls us to wait, not because waiting is easy, but because waiting reminds us who is actually in charge.

Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Thankfully, God seems willing to use even the weather to help me remember these things. So today, I'm enjoying the 75 degrees. I'm enjoying the cool breeze. And I'm trying again to tuck away the little lesson that came with it. God's timing is not my timing. And perhaps I don't need a new lesson about that. Maybe I just need the occasional reminder. Today, that reminder came with a cool breeze, a sweatshirt, and a very welcome 75 degrees. Praise God!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

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OCTOBER

October Calendar

Oct. 4	10:30 a.m.	Communion & Choir Sings
	12:00 p.m.	Beginner Bells Practice
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Oct. 5	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Oct. 7	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club
	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Night Meal
	6:45 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
	8:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
Oct. 11	12:00 p.m.	Beginner Bells Practice
	3-7 p.m.	P & M Pumpkin Ranch Outing
Oct. 14	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club
	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Night Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
Oct. 18	10:30 a.m.	Beginner Bells Perform
	5-7 p.m.	Hog Roast
Oct. 19	7:00 p.m.	Congregational Review Focus
		Group Training
Oct. 20	7:00 p.m.	Vision Team Meeting
Oct. 21	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club
	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Night Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice

Oct. 25	Congregational Review
	9:15 a.m. Sunday School
	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
	11:00 a.m. Focus Groups
	12:30 p.m. Lunch
	6:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Oct. 28	7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice

Looking Ahead

Nov. 29	Waffle Breakfast & Christmas Tree Decorating Service
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Upcoming Church Events

P & M Pumpkin Ranch Outing

FMC is headed back to P&M Pumpkin Ranch on Sunday, October 11. We have a campfire spot reserved from 3-7 p.m., but you are welcome to go earlier. The church will provide hot dogs, chips, s'mores and drinks. Admission is \$19.49 plus tax for ages 3 and up; mention First Mennonite to receive 10% off at the gate. A sign up sheet is posted on the board to help with food planning. Come join the fun!



Hog Roast

The annual Hog Roast will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the gazebo in Scout Park. A pulled pork supper with fixings will be served. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy music by Eric Schrag and family. Cost is by donation with proceeds going to Camp Mennoscah. In case of inclement weather, it will be moved inside the church. Invite your friends and neighbors!

MCC Meat Canning

Every year, MCC packs thousands of cans of meat for people in need of safe, healthy protein. And we get to help! Our church is invited to join in October 27-29. Canning volunteers are needed to don aprons and measure the meat into cans for the pressure cookers. Even more volunteers are needed at the wiping and labeling tables to get the cooked cans ready to ship out. There's a place for everyone! Sign up at tinyurl.com/MeatCanning2026 or talk to Casey.



Liara Dunn (left) and Cindy Siemens wipe cans after they've come out of the canner at last year's meat canning.



Clockwise from top right: Tyler & Nadya Gehring; Marj Gundy; John Will; Phil Aylward; Ron & Sara Dick; Alan & Marilyn Mueller; Dale & Janet Ortman; Jason Smoker, Gregg Dick, Johnathan Haspels & Eli Wilcox. Center: James & Debbie Nightingale.



Christian Education Sunday focuses on the Fruit of the Spirit

First Mennonite celebrated Christian Education Sunday on August 30 by recognizing Sunday School teachers, dedicating school kits for MCC, and focusing on the Fruits of the Spirit. Following a potluck lunch, people were encouraged to show their fruit spirit with cardboard fruit cut-outs. Clockwise from right: Kent Dick & Gregg Dick; Jo Pjesky & Katherine Ewy; Ewan Jacob, Isaiah Haspels & Jamison Smoker; Ruth Mueller & Marilyn Schrag.



Congregational & Pastor Review

Every three years, the Vision Team conducts a review process of both the pastor and our congregation. This process is used to identify the positive ways our congregation is working together in ministry, as well as discover the areas in which we desire to see growth and development.

All those who call FMC home and are involved in the current life of the church are invited to participate in a focus group on Sunday, October 25. Junior and senior high youth will participate in the review process the following Sunday during their Sunday School hour.

There will be an adjusted Sunday morning schedule (see below), with childcare provided during the focus groups and a lunch provided for all at the conclusion of the morning. The questions used will be available in mid-October for people to review. Anyone who is absent on October 25 is welcome to fill out the questions and return them to Melanie Haspels' mailbox.

Schedule for Sunday, October 25

9:15 - 9:50 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Focus Groups
12:30 p.m. - Lunch

Kids Korner

Get to know Lakyn Ortman this month. Lakyn is a third grader from Moundridge and the daughter of Shaun and Kaitlen Ortman.

What is something you like learning about? Science. I liked learning about storms.

What is the best part of your school day? PE—She likes the volleyball and skating units best.

What is your favorite sport or activity to play outside? Softball

If you could eat only one food for all your meals for a whole week, what would you choose? Carrots, cooked with butter, pepper and salt.

What is your favorite color? Pink

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Peppermint

What is something you like doing with your family? Playing games

What is your favorite thing to do with your church family? The swimming party and going to Camp Mennoscah



Denice Klassen had no idea what a Mennonite was when she moved from Colorado to Kansas to attend Tabor College in Hillsboro. She was a city girl who didn't know much about farming when she first met Delton through a mutual friend. In spite of both those things, she has spent the majority of her adult life living in a rural, farming community and attending Mennonite churches.

Denice was born in California, lived in Arizona for a year, and spent most of her growing-up years in Denver, Colorado. She attended a variety of churches as well until she moved to Colorado. A Baptist church drove a bus through her neighborhood picking up kids and taking them to church, and that was where Denice found a church home.

Delton grew up on a dairy farm near Hillsboro, Kansas. He attended Johannestal Mennonite Church, a rural church outside Hillsboro that merged with another rural church, Brudertal Mennonite Church, in 1966 to form Trinity Mennonite Church in Hillsboro.

When Denice was in high school, her school's football team was doing well and Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, came to scout players on the team. Denice filled out an interest card for Bethany, which put her name into the database of several private Christian colleges in central Kansas.

She received mail from Tabor College in Hillsboro, liked what she saw, and went sight unseen to Tabor. She knew nothing about Mennonites. After two years, she transferred to Bethel College to finish her nursing degree. It was while she was at Bethel that she met Delton through a mutual friend at Carousel Skating Rink in Newton.

Delton had graduated from K-State with a degree in business administration and finance and worked at Hesston Corporation (now AGCO) in Hesston. When he met Denice in 1982, he had just taken a voluntary layoff from the company and returned to farming with his dad.

The two married in 1985 and lived in Hillsboro while Delton farmed and Denice worked in the NICU at Wesley in Wichita. After three years, it was time for a change. Delton left farming, they moved to Newton, and the family was in the middle of figuring



Delton and Denice Klassen

what was next when a job at Superior Boiler Works in Hutchinson, in Delton's preferred field of cost accounting, dropped into their laps.

After five years in Newton, two girls—Becca and Rachel—had been added to the family, and life had their family going in four different directions. It was then that they decided to make Halstead their home, moving to town in 1995. Though they were part of a church in Newton, an unexpected invitation changed the trajectory of their church attendance.

Waldo Mueller visited their home and told Delton, "I've heard your wife can sing," to which Delton replied, "Well that's what I've been told." Waldo invited Denice to come sing special music, and within a few months it felt like home. The church building reminded Delton of his childhood church building, which only added to their sense of belonging.

In their 31 years at FMC, Denice has been heavily involved in the music ministry of the church. She sings in the choir and with the Praise Team, plays bells, serves on the Worship Committee, was on the Praise Team when it first started in the 2000s, and directed the children's choir that met the first 15 minutes of Sunday School to practice songs to perform during the worship service. She also taught Sunday School and served as Sunday School Superintendent for many years.

Delton used his background in finance to serve on the auditing committee and the endowment committee, in addition to ushering. Together, they served as high school youth leaders for a couple years.

The music, community, and traditions have been an important part of their time at FMC. Everything from the musicals that used to be performed every other year to the verenike dinners, the children's Christmas Eve programs to the Sunday School picnics and the Hog Roast, are things they appreciate about the church.

"Being part of the community and having weekly contact is something that means the most," Denice said. "When I'm not here, there's something out of my week that's missing."

Denice has worked in the medical field throughout her entire career, a desire that began when her younger sister was born prematurely and spent 2 ½ months in the NICU. She worked in the NICU, as an oncology nurse at Hertzler Clinic, and spent 20 years working at Homestead of Halstead (formerly Halstead Place) while also teaching.

"I took care of a lot of people from FMC in my various positions," said Denice. "That's always been a privilege—to take care of the people in my community, that I went to church with, that I worked with, or the parents of the people I worked with."

Denice now is the Clinical Education Manager at Galen College of Nursing in Wichita. Delton currently works for Kansas Land as the pricing analyst for all of their tires for 52 stores in 5 states.

Delton and Denice's daughters are married and living in the Kansas City area. They have one granddaughter, Hunter, who was born in June of this year.