

**Welcome to Alexanderwohl!** On this first Sunday of June, as we approach harvest time in Kansas, we hear from Nathan Stucky, a native of Kingman. Nate loves God and loves the soil; he'll talk about the stories of creation, how it all started with soil (which is messy), and about finding our hope and healing in God in the midst of the messiness of life. We'll also bless our VBS staff and children as they head into an exciting and busy week.



**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Prelude** Jason Peters  
*Prelude in Classic Style* ~Young  
*How Great Thou Art (VT 436)* ~Carter  
*Christians, We Have Met to Worship (VT 25)* ~Hayes

**Welcome and Opportunities for Celebration and Service** Eric Schrag

**VBS Blessing** Pastor Lois Harder

**\*Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 8

Leader: O God, you have set your glory above the heavens!

**People: How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Leader: When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of us?

**People: Yet you have made humanity a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**

*All: How majestic is your name in all the earth.*

**Peace Prayer** Julianna Schrag

**\*Gathering Song** VT 179  
*At the Dawn of Your Creation (omit verse 2)*

1 - At the dawn of your creation, God, you spoke: "Let there be light!" You divided earth from heaven, you created day and night. You made sunbeams dance with shadows, you created energy! Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows, all began with "Let there be!"

3 - When you made us as your children, sending us throughout your lands, you commanded, "Have dominion, care for earth; it's in your hands." Yet we hurt this world you've given; we harm earth and sky and sea. We forget it's your creation, you, who once said, "Let there be!"

4 - At this joyful celebration, may we hear your word anew: may we care for your creation, knowing it's a trust from you. Just as daily there's a dawning, bringing light to all we see, so we daily hear your calling, you, who once said, "Let there be!"

**Scripture Reading** Steve and Sandy Banman  
 Genesis 2:4b-9

**Song of Response** VT 120  
*For the Beauty of the Earth (verses 1-2)*

1 - For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 - For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**Scripture Reading** Genesis 2:15-19, 21-22

**Song of Response** VT 120  
*For the Beauty of the Earth (verses 3, 4, 5)*

3 - For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

4 - For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

5 - For each perfect gift and sign to this world so freely giv'n; graces human and divine, love uniting earth and heav'n: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois

**Children's Story**

Eric Schrag

**Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings**

First Fruits Giving

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 3:1-13

**Song of Confession**

*Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)*

VT 147

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 3:22-24

**Song of Confession**

*Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)*

VT 147

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 4:1-5

**Song of Faith**

*Touch the Earth Lightly (verses 1-2)*

VT 145

1 - Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 - We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live, we who still foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 4:8b-16

**Song of Faith**

*Touch the Earth Lightly (verses 3-4)*

VT 145

3 - Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses, and air that is sweet, health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.

4 - God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun, teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.

**Sermon**

"Soil Stories. God Stories."

Nathan Stucky

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Song of Response**

*Beautiful Things*

VT 551

1 - All this pain. I wonder if I'll ever find my way; I wonder if my life could really change at all.

2 - All this earth. Could all that is lost ever be found; could a garden come up from this ground at all?

*Refrain: You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.*

3 - All around, hope is springing up from this old ground. Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

*Bridge: You make me new, you are making me new. You make me new, you are making me new.*

**Benediction**

*The Lord Your God Is with You*

VT 173

The Lord your God is with you, who is mighty to save. God will take great joy in you; God will quiet you with love; and God will rejoice over you with singing. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Postlude**

*Earth and All Stars ~Leavitt*

Jason Peters

**Message from Nate Stucky** - I am delighted to bring this morning's message to you! If only I could be there in person, it would be wonderful to catch up with many of you. I would also genuinely love to hear your feedback on the message. What does it bring to mind for you? What are your stories of God and soil? What questions do you have? If you are willing to offer any feedback, I'd love to hear it! Please feel free to reach me via email at [nathan.stucky@ptsem.edu](mailto:nathan.stucky@ptsem.edu). Also, if you'd like to learn more about the Farminary, you can do that at [farminary.ptsem.edu](http://farminary.ptsem.edu).

**\*Please stand if able**

**Song Leader:** Renae Peters

**Greeters:** Matthew and Laura Voth

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Nursery Staff:** Laura Voth, Kim Voth

**Worship Technology:** DeAlan Unrau, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth, Steve Unruh

**May 23 Attendance:** 128 in person; 6 Zoom household

**Next Sunday** we will hear from the VBS children. Plans are for the service to be held outdoors on the north side of the church, weather permitting.

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for Maryanne and Evan Esau as they grieve the sudden death of Maryanne's brother Phil Hett and his daughter, Abby in a car crash last Sunday. Jillian, the older daughter (age 13) survived the crash and is at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita; we pray for her recovery.
- ❖ We pray for the Church family as Braxton and his mother Amanda are in Boston this week where Braxton will undergo multiple, specialized surgeries. Kelcey and Natalie are here at home this week. We pray for God's blessings, healing and safe travels.
- ❖ We pray for your blessings, God, on the children and adults who will participate in VBS this week; we ask that their hearts are open to learn and share about Jesus' love.

### **Coming Events**

Today, Sunday, June 6	10:30 am	Worship service in the sanctuary and via Zoom
Monday, June 7	1:00 – 6:00 pm	Goessel Blood Mobile
Monday, June 7	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force
Monday, June 7	6:30 pm	Board of Christian Education
June 7-11	9:00 – 12:00	Vacation Bible School – Rocky Railway
June 9-11		Serve evening meal at New Hope Shelter, Newton
Sunday, June 13	10:30 am	Outdoor VBS program, lunch & afternoon activities
Wednesday, June 16	7:00 pm	Book study on the lawn
Friday, June 18	10:00 am	Senior Fellowship (formerly Coffee & Conversation)
Wednesday, June 23	7:00 pm	Book study on the lawn
Saturday, June 26	3:00 – 9:00 pm	Community Junior High Camp at Goessel Church
Wednesday, June 30	7:00 pm	Book study on the lawn
Sunday, July 4	9:30 am	Sunday School classes resume for all ages

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Vacation Bible School program will be held at 10:30 am next Sunday, June 13. This will be an outdoor service, weather permitting.** Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the service or you may listen in your car on the FM station. A grilled hamburger/hotdog lunch will be provided in the Shelter House. This is not a potluck meal – everything will be provided, including table service and drinks. Donations will be accepted. Immediately following the program, there will be outdoor carnival games, barrel train rides, playground play, basketball, treat bags for the kids, and free snow cones for all! Come join the fun!

**As Sunday school officially begins on July 4, all adult classes will have an opportunity to meet in the sanctuary with Tim Schrag and Jeff Koller to learn more about MDS and its work.** Tim and Jeff are both members at the Eden Mennonite Church near Moundridge and work together with Mennonite Disaster Service. Tim is the Regional Board Chair and Jeff is the Regional Operations Coordinator. They will give a brief overview of MDS' recent work and would love to have conversation and exchange of ideas about how MDS moves forward in the future. Come to the sanctuary at 9:30 to listen, to learn and to discuss. At our 10:30 worship service Tim will bring the message and Jeff will have a Moment in Mission.

**Church mailboxes are ready to be used again.** Please note that they have been rearranged so look for your name under the box before you take mail out. If you wish to have your mailbox moved to the other lobby, contact the church office.

**The June-July-August issue of *Rejoice*** is available in the NE entryway.

***Creation & the Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective on a Sustainable World*, edited by Calvin Redekop, is a collection of essays written by various Anabaptist thinkers and writers.** Selected essays will be chosen to read and discuss together on each of the six Wednesdays (June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14 and 21). Topics on environmental care, peacemaking, economics, Anabaptist faith convictions and how all of these relate to one another as well as how they relate to our everyday faith journeys. Order your copy of this book published by Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000. Used copies can be found for under \$12 and Gary Lyndaker is willing to assist with ordering. Call or text Gary at 573.378.8462 or email [garylyndaker@hotmail.com](mailto:garylindak@hotmail.com). We will begin our study with the first essay.

#### **Schedule of services for June and July:**

- **June 13** – Children's Day! A worship service outdoors (hopefully) following a week of VBS.
- **June 20** – Pastor Lois will preach.
- **June 27** – Sara Dick will preach. Sara is the general manager of the Et Cetera Shop in Newton.
- **July 4** – Tim Schrag and Jeff Koller – Tim will preach and Jeff will have a Moment in Mission to tell us about the recent work of Mennonite Disaster Service.
- **July 11** – Sheryl Wilson – Executive Director at KIPCOR (Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution) will bring us a recorded message in which she speaks about the intersection of the work of restorative justice and anti racism. Sheryl has been invited to speak nationally about her work.
- **July 18** – Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen will preach. The Duerksen family vacation is coming up! And what does that have to do with Micah 6:8, the house built on a rock, and Galatians 5:8?
- **July 25** – Pastor Lois will preach.
- **August 1** – Travis Duerksen will bring the message based on recent podcasts he has produced at Mennonite Mission Network.

**Scholarship applications for all full-time students attending a Mennonite College for the 2021-22 school year are due July 1, 2021.** Please fill out the form now if you plan to be away for the summer. The application form is on the church website (under resources). Please return to the church office or Carol Reimer Duerksen as soon as possible.

**Bloodmobile:** The need for blood products is ongoing. Because of the busy farming season we are still short of our quota and have many mid-afternoon appointments available. Please consider donating single or Power Red units on June 7 between 1:00-6:00 pm at the Goessel Mennonite Church. Sign up for your appointment time online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). For more information contact Rosie Reimer 620-367-2418 or Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

### **CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS**

#### **Western District Conference**

Pray for WDC children, youth and their leaders participating in vacation Bible School, and at Camp Mennoscah and other camps this summer.

#### **Mennonite Mission Network**

Praise God with Mennonite Mission Network for the dedication of Service Adventure leaders who are transitioning into other ministries this month. Pray for Cindy Headings (four years), Michelle and Rudy Moyer-Litwiller (three years), and the Eric and Julie Yoder family (three years).

### **COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Camp Mennoscah**

**Kitchen staff needed!** Camp Mennoscah is still looking for kitchen staff for June 6-12 and July 18-24. No professional cooking skills needed--just an ability to follow directions and some happiness to share! Contact [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) or 620-297-3290.

**There's still time to register for camp!** Camp Mennoscah has a few openings at most camps. Register online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)!

**Camp Mennoscah campers and parents!** If your camper is fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the final shot) for COVID-19 before they come to camp, they will not have to quarantine (go home) if they are a close contact unless they have symptoms. Preventative measures are being taken, but that virus can be sneaky. Completed vaccination cards can be uploaded to the camper's account.

## **Bethel College**

**The summer day camp program at Kauffman Museum, Uncle Carl's Camps, starts June 1 and runs through July 16. All camps still have some spaces available.** Most camps will be in-person with reduced enrollment, masks required while indoors, and many activities held outdoors where campers will not be required to wear masks. Camps are: "Trash and Treasure" (9-12/completed 3rd-6th), archaeology with Monty Graber; "Watercolor My World" 1 (6-8/completed K-2nd) and 2 (9-12/3rd-6th) with LaDonna Unruh Voth; "The Prairie is ALIVE!" (6-8/K-2nd) with Kendall Smith; "Little Houses on the Prairie" (ages 4-5, not yet in kindergarten) with Kristin Neufeld Epp; "Pedal Power" (9/3rd through adult), biking camp with Karen and Stephen Kreider Yoder. See <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/uncle-carls-camp/> for dates, cost and online registration.

## **Mennonite Church USA**

**Join Jerusalem Seminar this winter!** Bethel College and Tabor College are again sponsoring a trip to Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, from December 26, 2021, to January 15, 2022. The four emphases of the trip are to (1) understand the Bible in its context, (2) learn about the three major religions of the area (Judaism, Islam, Eastern Christianity), (3) understand the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and (4) take time for reflection, worship, and prayer together. There is currently room for additional persons to participate. If interested, contact Peter Goerzen ([pgoerzen@bethelks.edu](mailto:pgoerzen@bethelks.edu)) immediately. Cost is estimated at \$4700-\$4900 per person.

**When life gets hard, it is difficult to find the peace.** In her blog, "Feel the Peace," Ana Alicia Hinojosa, who will be the July 6 worship speaker at MennoCon21, reflects on her conference topic by grappling with where the peace goes when everything feels like it is falling apart. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/feel-the-peace/>

**Jen Helmuth Sherk felt the need to deepen her spiritual walk, so she began meeting with a spiritual director.** Read about Sherk's journey – from being a stay-at-home mom, to a photographer, to a pastor – in Evan J. Miller's blog, "Where God's Spirit is Already at Work." <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/gods-spirit-already-at-work/>

**Tim Nafziger reflects on the power of stories in fighting against militarism in his blog,** "The Courageous, Vulnerable, Improbable Story of Peace." The blog is part of Mennonite Church USA's Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of War initiative. Read more about Nafziger's story here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/courageous-story-peace/>

## **Peace Connections Opportunities**

Peace Connections is looking for volunteers to help supervise the children/grandchildren of families attending Circle of Hope and participating in the Getting Ahead Class. We are in need of 2-4 volunteers willing to donate their time on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:15 PM. If you have caring hands, a loving heart, and enjoy working with children and youth then please contact Peace Connections. Starting in July, volunteers are needed. You can donate your time once a month, twice a month, or every Tuesday. Whatever fits your schedule. Thank you so much!

**Upcoming golf tournament benefiting Harvey County Circle of Hope** - The 5th Annual Oswald Memorial Golf Tournament is June 12 at Hesston Golf Course. We have great prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Last Place Teams, as well as Hole Prizes. Registration includes 18 holes, cart, lunch, refreshments, and a goodie bag. Event flier is attached and can also be found at [www.peaceconnections.org](http://www.peaceconnections.org). Thank you! ~ Jennifer Rose, Executive Director

## **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/>