



Joy Mennonite Church Community News

September 2013
Vol. XX No. 2

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A New Beginning for our Church Newsletter

After talking to members of our community, I have decided to create a short monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Joy Mennonite community. We still will be publishing *The Mennonite Worker* (of Oklahoma City) newspaper but it will come out less often and will feature longer length commentary, discussion, etc. (You can find it online at www.mennoniteworker.org.)

A limited number of printed copies of this newsletter will be available for those attending the first Sunday service of each month but they will also be sent by email to our list of subscribers, as well as posted on our website at www.joymennonite.org.

Please let me know what you like (and don't like) about this new format. Thanks! - James

Sunday Worship Schedule for JMC

Date	Location/Details	Speaker	Worship Leader
Sept. 8	Chapel at Epworth Methodist at 1901 N. Douglas, OKC	Katherine Marshall	Zach Gleason
Sept. 15	Joy Mennonite, 504 NE 16th (with meeting to follow services)	James Branum	Jonathan Marshall
Sept. 22	Joy Mennonite, 504 NE 16th (with Potluck to follow)	Cheryl Chrichley	Moses & Sadie
Sept. 29	Joy Mennonite, 504 NE 16th (with Potluck to follow)	Kathy M.	Misha
Oct. 6	Chapel at Epworth Methodist at 1901 N. Douglas, OKC	Zach Gleason	Richard
Oct. 13	To be announced	James Branum	Kristen Swartley
Oct. 20	To be announced	Zach Gleason	Ralph Ediger
Oct. 27	Combined Worship with Trinity Presbyterian Church and Pax Cristi at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2301 NE 23rd St., OKC	TBA	TBA

If you are scheduled to speak or lead worship and need to swap Sundays, please let Ralph Ediger know so he can update the schedule.

Anti-Racism Training to come to OKC

We are co-hosting an anti-racism event called "Becoming an Anti-Racist Community: First Steps" on Friday, Oct 4 from 7-9 pm (with a deeper training happening on Saturday, Oct 5 for those who pre-register) at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2301 NE 23rd St, Oklahoma City. For more information, call Sadie Mast at [405-771-4743](tel:405-771-4743) or email paxchristiokc@gmail.com.

AMBS - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible (short course)

Online, non-credit, six weeks, \$200, Taught by Perry B. Yoder, Oct 23-

Dec 3

Reflect on peace and justice practice today through the study of Biblical passages. Focus on issues such as the relationship between peace and justice, how God acts for peace and justice and how we should act. [Get details and register by October 2](#)

Wednesday Night Book Discussion Group

To find out more about the regular book discussion group, please contact Kristen Swartley or Zach Gleason.

Oklahoma Center for Conscience News

The Oklahoma Center for Conscience is in the process of major reorganization which will include a new mission of working for a holistic vision of peacemaking as opposed to our prior focus which was focused only on war and conscience.

Our hopes are to kick off a newly reconstituted board (which will meet on a quarterly basis to plan the "big picture" aspect of our work and to provide financial oversight) as well as an Action Committee (which will meet at least monthly to organize actions for our long-term permanent projects as well as to work with our new short-term projects). We hope to have both of these groups in place by October.

If you would be interested in getting involved in this work (either as a board member, action committee member, volunteer or donor), please contact James Branum, Rena Guay, Moses Mast or Sadie Mast.

OCC Legal director James Branum is also excited to announce that we have received positive recommendation on three conscientious objector applications this fall. One of the applicants is a Marine stationed in Hawaii. The other two applicants are soldiers stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. We are now waiting for final consideration of the claims by the commanding generals of these servicemembers.

Western District Conference News

* A successful **WDC Assembly** was recently held at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas.

* Our friend, **Nathan Koontz** will become the Associate Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS, on October 1.

* Sept. 27—All are invited to **The Loss of Turtle Island** at Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, KS at 10am. This exercise provides an opportunity to interactively explore the historic relationship between Europeans, specifically Mennonites in the Central States region, and the Indigenous nations who inhabit the land we now call the United States of America. The exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of what is now known as the United States, and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. Following the exercise all who attend are welcome to stay for lunch with MCC Central States board and staff to learn more about MCC's current work. Shalom Mennonite Church is located at 800 E. 1st St, Newton, KS 67114. Please RSVP for this event to Tina Schrag at tinaschrag@mcc.org or 316-283-2720.

* **Oct 25 – "Engaging our Sexual Culture"** Bethel College, Krehbiel Auditorium, North Newton, KS

* **Oct 26—WDC Reference Council - The Church and Homosexuality: A Conversation That Can Hold Us Together** Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS

This letter is published by for members and friends of the community of Joy Mennonite Church. Please send short news items for this newsletter to joymennonite@gmail.com with "NEWS" in the subject line by the last Sunday of a given month (our press date is the first Sunday of the month). Longer length essays, op-eds, recipes, art, stories, photos, etc. are published in the occasional *Mennonite Worker of OKC* newspaper which is also published by Joy Mennonite Church. Unless otherwise stated, opinions expressed in our publications reflect the views of the author alone, and not the official position of Joy Mennonite Church or this newspaper.

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All past issues are archived at
JoyMennonite.org
and at **Mennoniteworker.org**.



Oklahoma MCC Relief Sale

November 1-2—Enid, Oklahoma
More information can be found at
okreliefsale.com & at <http://reliefsales.mcc.org/sales/oklahoma-mennonite-relief->

