



I. Information

**A. BASIC INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

1. Name of church: First Mennonite Church  
Address: 381 W Washington Ave, Aberdeen, ID 83210  
Church telephone: (208) 397-4239  
Email: [firstmennoaberdeen@gmail.com](mailto:firstmennoaberdeen@gmail.com) Website: [www.aberdeenmennonites.org](http://www.aberdeenmennonites.org)
2. Chairperson of search committee: Tim Satterfield  
Address: 1996 S 2800 W Aberdeen, ID 83210  
Telephone: (208) 220-0001 Email: [sattert@aberdeen58.org](mailto:sattert@aberdeen58.org)
3. Area church conference: Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Name of area church conference minister: Eric M. Massanari  
Address: PO Box 301036 Portland, OR 97294  
Telephone: (316) 212-6514  
Email: [eric@pnmc.org](mailto:eric@pnmc.org)
4. Year in which the congregation first began meeting or was organized: 1907

**B. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Average Sunday worship attendance during the last 12 months: 40  
Highest attendance during that time: 70                      Lowest attendance: 34
2. Total current members: Around 190                      Non-resident members: 140-145  
Resident members: Around 45-50                      Children (not members): 5

**C. LEADERSHIP**

1. Staff position for which we are seeking a candidate: Pastor
2. Two previous persons in the above position:  
Name: Kevin Chupp                      Dates of service: 2016 – 2022  
Name: Jerry Kaiser                      Dates of service: 2009 – 2015

Jerry Kaiser retired due to health issues. The congregation called Lyn and Jeanie Hershey as interim pastor for one year prior to Kevin and Jessica Chupp accepting the full-time position. The Chupps decided to resign in 2022 and move closer to family. The transitions were positive. Lyn and Jeanie Hershey served again as interim pastor for six months until June of 2023.

Brian and Myriah Leisher began as interim pastor in September of 2023 and our currently serving as of May 2024. The Leishers are both teachers in the nearby American Falls School District. They moved to American Falls from Henderson, Nebraska in the summer of 2022. They have two elementary age children, Eli and Emy.

3. Did your congregation follow the Pastor Salary Guidelines recommended by the denomination for the previous pastor? Yes
4. Other staff: Secretary: Jennifer Krehbiel Custodian: Shannon Cornforth
5. Describe housing options for the above position:

There is a parsonage located on the same block as the church sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The budget includes the utilities at no cost and the trustees have made many improvements and updates to the parsonage over the years to make it a comfortable and modern house. The first floor has a living room and dining area, kitchen, bathroom, master bedroom, and office space. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a laundry room with a back porch entrance. There also is a basement that has storage area. There is a one car garage that is separate from the house.

## II. Interpretation

1. The church in Aberdeen is committed to be followers of Jesus Christ. He is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to go and make disciples of all people whether this is done individually or together. We support the work of missions and missionaries on a regular basis financially and through prayer.
2. The pastor's role in the church is to shepherd the congregation and promote the biblical foundations upon which the body of believers need to be reminded of through preaching and teaching the Word of God. We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ so that God's healing and hope can flow through us to a broken world.
3. We have an aging congregation with some members in assisted living. Visitation plays a big role in this ministry. We regularly go to minister to the people in assisted living and in the nursing home. Other outreach activities in the community are important also. The pastor can be the face of the church simply by being a presence in the broader community.
4. We are a more traditional, conservative church but the majority remain open and accepting to new ideas and ways of doing things. We converse and work together in a caring and loving nature with prayer at the heart of it all to discern God's will in our lives.

### III. Organization/Ministry

#### A. CHURCH STRUCTURE

The primary governing body is the Church Council comprised of a chairman, vice-chairman (who is the chairman of the Deacon Board), secretary, and treasurer. There are three trustees, and two other deacons along with some representatives of the committees that attend the monthly Church Council meetings. The Council meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, and the Deacon Board meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. The committees meet when needed. There is an Education Committee, Music Committee, United Womens Group, Campgrounds Committee, and Camp Program Planning Committee.

#### B. WORSHIP AND MUSIC

##### 1. Describe your worship service:

The worship service begins at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. The deacons take turns at leading the worship service. There is prelude music played by the organist and pianist or other songs are played through the sound system if the musicians do not play. This is typically done 10 to 15 minutes before the service begins as people are coming into the sanctuary and the Sunday School classes are over from their 9:45 a.m. starting time.

When the service begins the deacon welcomes the congregation and then does the announcements. There is a bulletin that the ushers hand out or these can be picked up by the doors. After the announcements the Call to Worship is done with the reading of a Psalm and an opening prayer. Two congregational hymns follow. The hymns are either from the Mennonite Hymnal or from The Hymns for the Family of God.

Music plays an important part of the worship service. The organ and piano accompany these hymns. Most Sundays a worship team of 3 to 4 people are on stage to lead the singing.

The offering plate, that is in the back, is brought up by one of the ushers during the first hymn and is placed by the pulpit. After the opening hymns the deacon prays for the offering and then reads the scripture that goes with the message.

The pastor gives a prayer and then the sermon. Sometimes special music by the musicians is played and/or sung by the worship team after the scripture reading and before the pastoral prayer. Recently a Children's Story time has been included during the message portion of the service.

After the sermon the pastor gives the benediction and announces the closing hymn. The pastor greets the people in the east room and there is a time of fellowship.

### **C. Christian Formation**

1. There is Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall prior to the worship service. One adult class and one children's class are offered. The adult class typically takes a book of the Bible and goes through a study of the book over several weeks. The Education Committee provides materials for both the adult and children's classes if needed.
2. The Pastor has taught a Wednesday night Bible study class, and these usually involve a book study. Books are made available for the participants of the class. The church also sponsors Vacation Bible School in the summer for one week. Many people in the community get involved in helping with the Bible school for kids ages preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children also help the adults with the Bible school.
3. Each summer the church organizes our church camp located in the Palisades region in the Targhee Forest. Palisades Church Camp was built in the 1950's by Mennonites and has been a big part of our ministry ever since. At present there are two camps for ages 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Junior Camp, and for high school age, Senior Camp. The camps are for five days in July for the Junior Camp and for four days for the Senior Camp. There is a large lodge with a kitchen and cabins for the boys on one side of the camp and for the girls on the other side of the camp. There are cabins for the staff as well. There are also bathrooms with showers for both boys and girls. Within the camp are a volleyball and basketball court. The church uses a bus to transport the campers to Palisades and back from Aberdeen. The Campgrounds Committee along with other volunteers ready the camp for use each year. The Camp Program Planning Committee arranges for the staff and cooks. The Pastor teaches at the campfire each day. The campers go on hikes, swim at one of the nearby lakes, do crafts, play games, play ping pong, and other activities. The Senior Campers go white water rafting on the Snake River with one of the local rafting companies. The campers are assigned duties each day taking their turn doing the dishes after the very delicious meals the cooks prepare. The campers help with work projects and other camp cleanup chores. Many of these campers and some staff come from nearby Star Valley, WY and are associated with one of the Christian churches there. Camp Palisades is available for members to reserve for use throughout the summer months. On Labor Day Weekend in September the First Mennonite Church holds a Sunday Service there with a potluck meal following.
4. One of the group functions in the church that takes place on a weekly basis are the quilters that meet in the Fellowship Hall. The quilts that are made are donated to the MCC Relief Sale each spring. The quilters are mostly ladies from the church along with other ladies from the community who want to come and share their talents to make these beautiful quilts.
5. There is a Fit and Fall group that meet in the Fellowship Hall to exercise on a weekly basis.

#### **D. OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM**

1. The First Mennonite Church is located across the street from the schools in our School District and for many years there has been a preschool classroom in one of the classrooms in the Fellowship Hall. The building has also been used for school music clinics and other school presentations.
2. The church owns a house next to the property which we call The Friendship House. This house has been used to house a refugee family from Cambodia. At the present time it is being rented to a family.
3. The Christmas Eve Service is attended by many community people and families home for the holidays. On Easter Sunday one of our members host a Sunrise Service by the nearby reservoir.
4. There are people from the congregation that are involved with the local Food Bank and The Humanitarian Club who work with people of other churches and the community to help people in need.

#### **E. TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP, IN TEACHING, AND IN OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY**

1. During the worship service we have someone run a Power Point to put the scriptures and the words to the hymns on the screen. The previous worship services can be heard on the church website.

#### **F. CHURCH BUILDING AND PROPERTY**

1. The Church Sanctuary can hold approximately 225 people. The original part was moved in 1907 from out in the country where it was initially a German speaking congregation. It was added onto in the 1930's. In the early 1970's the Fellowship Hall was built which has a very large room for gatherings with a highly efficient kitchen adjacent to it. Many meals have been prepared for events and the Hall can easily seat over 100 people in the facility. The rest of the Fellowship Hall has a small library and office, a quilt room, and five classrooms with another room for committee meetings and the Church Council meeting. An indoor ramp was constructed in the 1980's to connect the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall.
2. There is a need to renovate the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall.
3. The buildings and property, including the church camp, are insured by Farm Bureau.
4. The Chamber of Commerce of Aberdeen has their yearly dinner and awards ceremony in the Fellowship Hall. There are businesses, groups, and families that rent the facility for gatherings and meals. The Red Cross does a blood drive two or three times a year in the Hall. When any nonmember group uses the facility, we have people from the church present to help and monitor.

## **G. CHURCH STEWARDSHIP/FINANCES**

Each year the Trustees along with the Treasurer set a proposed budget for the upcoming year. The budget is presented first to the Church Council and the Council then discusses the budget and recommends this budget to the Congregation at the annual Congregational Meeting in January for final approval. There are many line items in the budget that include the Pastor's salary and benefits, staff salaries, expenses anticipated for the facilities and programs, Conference contributions, and unanticipated expenses. A copy of the current budget can be made available along with the accounts available. Before a major repair or purchase is made the Church Council will discuss and decide whether to approve spending the money for the item.

### **IV. Relationships**

#### **A. COMMUNITY**

1. The Aberdeen Community is a rural town with a population of under 2500 people. It has a stable economy and is an agricultural community. The majority of people are Hispanic that work primarily in agriculture. The potato industry along with small grains, cattle, alfalfa, and sugar beets are the main sources of business. There are research facilities located in Aberdeen to support new advances and new cultivars with the crops that the farmers grow. Both the U.S.D.A. and the University of Idaho have researchers and staff they employ in the area.
2. The other churches in the area are the Roman Catholics, L.D.S, Calvary Chapel, Plymouth Brethren, and Templo Emanuel.
3. The nearest university is Idaho State University located approximately 45 mi. away in Pocatello, ID. I.S.U. has a strong Health Science, Pharmacy, Engineering, and Technical College along with many other programs to offer for higher learning. Students commute back and forth from Aberdeen to take classes. Members of our church support the symphony at I.S.U. with some people in the community involved in performing in the symphony and choir. The Aberdeen school has one of the best performing arts facilities in the country.
4. The Aberdeen community works together to help those in need and are respectful of each other no matter what faith or ethnic background they are. It is a safe place to live and to raise children. The schools and the teachers are some of the best in the state.

#### **B. AREA CONFERENCE**

1. The church supports the PNMC. Financially it is a line item in the budget. We generally have representatives that serve as delegates to the conference.

#### **C. WIDER CHURCH**

1. We support church wide committees, such as MDS, MCC, MEA, MMN, and MWUSA. We have members who have served on these committees and continue to do so on some of these committees.

