

My Rule of Life

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

In these past couple of months, I have been slowly reading through *The Spacious Path: Practicing the Restful Way of Jesus in a Fragmented World* by Tamara Hill Murphy. Tamara is a spiritual director and spouse of a pastor in the Anglican or Episcopal tradition, but she does a wonderful job of inviting her readers into thinking about, analyzing, and evaluating the Rule of Life that shapes and guides their daily experience. While I tend to think that any mention of the word “rule” means some set of laws that govern how we are to live, Tamara immediately in her book takes us back to the first “Rule” created by Saint Benedict in the 4th century CE. When he began his ministry, it was a simple collection of spacious guidelines that each member committed to as part of the community and has since grown into a global Catholic order of members that still follow those simple rules.

As I was reading more of the book, I began to think about the “rule of life” that governs, shapes, influences, guides, and holds my life currently, again not in the sense of earning my salvation but in the sense of discerning what God is calling me to focus on intentionally. Now that I’m nearing the end of her book, I have identified some of those important “rules” that help me live my daily life. While not an exhaustive list, these are a few that I came up with:

- Keeping my current responsibilities to only church, family, and seminary.
- Raising my children in faithfulness, patience, and nonviolence.
- Eating fresh fruits and vegetables as a part of every meal and snack
- Being present in every moment; listening well and managing anxiety and worry to focus
- Using free time throughout my week to do physical labor/exercise inside or outside.

If you were to think about your life today, what short list of simple rules give shape, purpose, and routine to your daily experience. How do they intersect with your faith journey and your desire to follow Jesus with your whole life?

Upcoming Events at HMC

- September 10: Sunday School Kick-off
- September 17: Bridal Shower/”Get to Know You” for Jen Johnson & Ben Friesen
- September 21: HMC serves at The Banquet
- September 24: Peace Sunday—Shalom Readers Celebration
- October 1: World Communion Sunday
- October 22: 70th Annual Harvest Mission Festival



Birthdays

- 1) Ben Friesen
- 8) Rylea Timmerman
- 8) Guss Timmerman
- 15) Suzanne Koerner

Date	Attendance	Income
July 30	64	\$853.00
Aug. 6	55	\$3,093.00
Aug. 13	48	\$2,470.00
Aug. 20	71	\$1,953.00
Online Giving		\$600.00

Gospel Gold, along with Turkey Ridge and Valley Band will be performing at A Gospel Music Celebration on September 10 at 2:00 P.M at 46951 Mindy St, Tea SD. Popcorn and lemonade will be served. Please bring a lawn chair.

October Connection submissions due by September 27!

September Congregational Ministries Project:

Cash for Mennonite Women and Mennonite Men, Mennonite Church USA
Please give all donations to Joyce Hofer, Treasurer or place in the C.M. mailbox

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION

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Thank you to Sylvia Hofer for keeping the plants at church so healthy and beautiful! It is always such a blessing to see God's creation every Sunday morning.

Even the cow appreciates the beautiful flowers!

A hummingbird moth enjoys the sweet nectar.

HMC Links

- Website - www.hmcfreeman.org
- "Like" Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

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