

Advent 1: Let it be

Sunday, December 3, 2017

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Gathering

Prelude Nora Miller, pianist

Song of gathering: *O come, O come, Immanuel*

The work of the people (announcements)
(Please pass the welcome pads)

Call to worship Ken Regier, worship leader

Leader: Awake!

The invitation to carry light comes from the God
of trembling mountains and of shaking foundations.

All: O God, your expectations terrify us.

How can our small selves hold your blazing presence?

Lighting the Advent candle Andrew Simmons

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

All: Lead us beyond our resistance.

Let it be.

Opening prayer

Praising

Songs of faith: *Wait alone in stillness*
We come

Greeting one another; children come forward

Children's focus Clint Litsey

Greetings from Western District Conference
Heidi Regier Kreider, conference minister

Song of faith: *Ready my heart*

Offering: Western District Conference
Offertory

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sermon: *Between Times* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Confession

(pause for silence)

Words of assurance

Song of faith: *O Savior, rend the heavens* *H 175

Pastoral prayer Pastor Joel Schroeder

Sending

Song of benediction: *Oh, how shall I receive thee* H 182

Sending blessing

Postlude

*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book **CS denotes Companion Songbook

Chorister: Daryl Unruh; Worship Band: Ben Regier's Band

Childcare: Amanda Menninga, Camryn Entz

Ushers: Rick Ortman, Rod Schmidt, John Good, Janice Good

Audio Tech: Larry Becker

Video/Lighting Tech: Tyler Shelly

Visuals: Carol Hiebert

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 3—Advent 1—*Let it be*

- 7:45 AM Outreach, Missions and Peace Commission
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Youth Group S.A.L.T

Wednesday, December 6

- 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Practice (K-5 grade)
- 7:00 PM Choir
- 7:00 PM Youth Group

Thursday, December 7

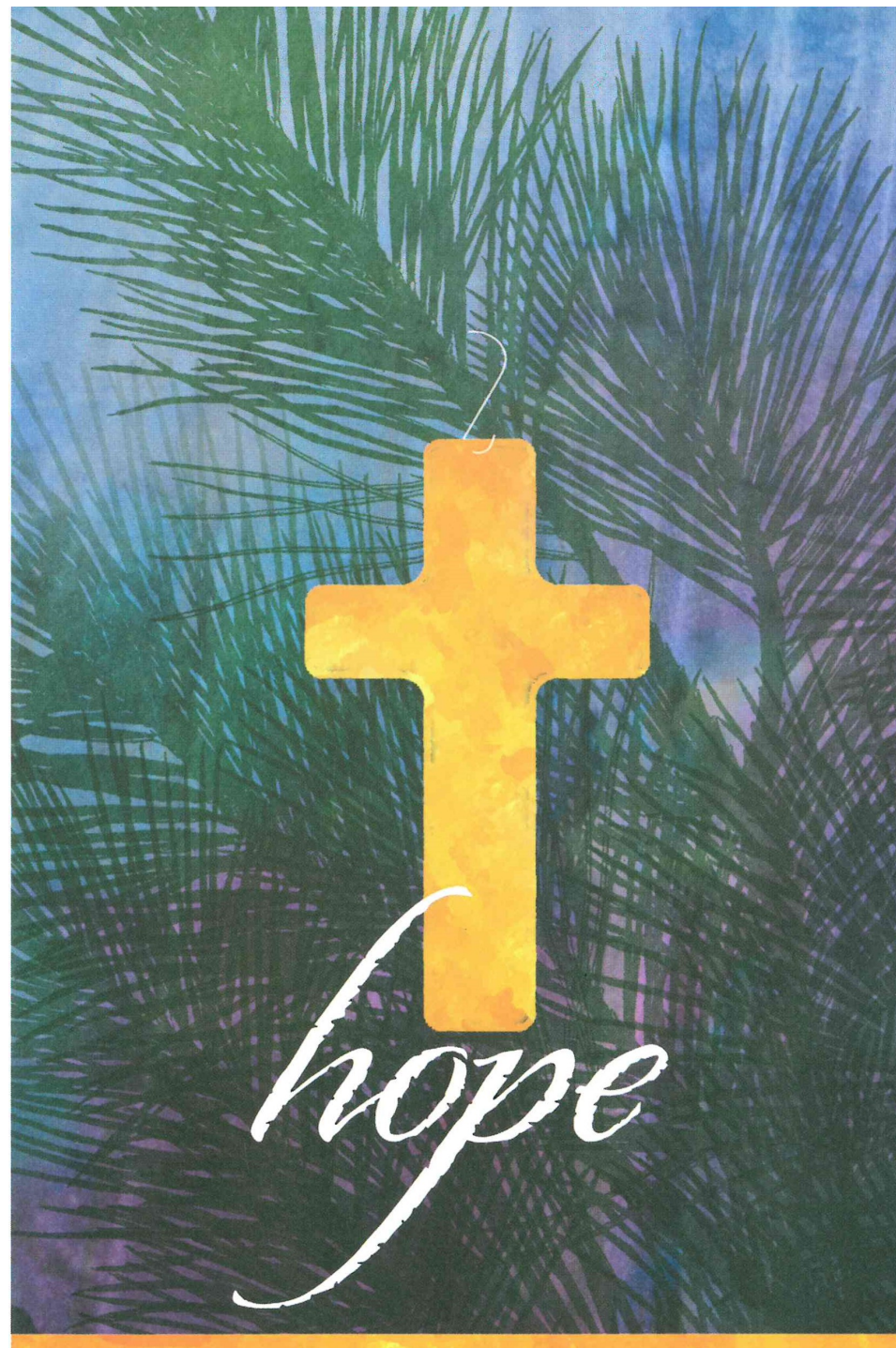
- 7:00 PM Nurture Commission

Sunday, December 10—Advent 2—*Let it be so*

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Seconds @First Potluck—FH
- 4:04 PM Youth Group Bible Study
- 5:30 PM Jr. High Christmas party—FH

Upcoming Worship Services

- December 17—Advent 3—*Let it be whole*—Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- December 24—Advent 4—*Yes! Let it be now*—2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
- 9:30 AM—Christmas Eve Breakfast Potluck—No Sunday School
- December 31—*Yes! Let it be new*—Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



SR. HIGH YOUTH

With Jesus as the center, we are called to be:
Faith-Focused, Mission-Minded, Community-Connected



S.A.L.T. - TODAY (Sunday, 12/3) @ 12 noon

YOUTH GROUP - Wednesday, 12/6 @ 7:02 PM

BIBLE STUDY - Sunday, 12/10 @ 4:04 PM

CATECHISM - Sunday, 12/17 @ 4:04 PM

LUMINIARIES - Sunday, 12/24 @ 6:16 PM



Register now for the Year of Evangelism Kick Off: Anabaptist Witness, January 19-20, 2018. Reconnect ancient spiritual practices, social justice, and authentic Anabaptist evangelism for today. See the poster on the bulletin boards. Find a schedule and more information about this exciting workshop for church groups and individuals at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>. Registration is \$30/person or \$25/person if four or more people from the same congregation attend. Contact Joel Schroeder if you're interested.

Volunteers are needed to ring the Salvation Army bell at South Dillons, Thursday and Friday, December 15 and 16, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. If you have an hour or two free, please consider helping. The schedule is posted in the Court Area on the bulletin board. Contact Bob Schmidt at 316-283-3916 for more information.

Harvest of Love—Throughout November and December, the Salvation Army invites you to join in our annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our county. Items always needed are canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal (of any kind), peanut butter, canned vegetables, and soups. A box is available in the Court Area to collect nonperishable items. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may write a check to "Harvest of Love" and place it in the offering. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

Children's Christmas Eve practice will be December 6, 13, and 20, 6:30-8:00 PM. Children in grades K-5 will meet in the sanctuary. Please enter through the East or South doors of the church only. The others will remain locked. We hope to see all the children in Sunday School also! We will be singing our Christmas Eve songs during class time from 10:05 to 10:15 AM. If you have any questions, call Cora Voran.

December Seconds @ FIRST Potluck—Sunday, December 10. Everyone is encouraged to gather around the tables following the worship service for conversation. A special invitation is extended to YOUNG ADULTS and COLLEGE STUDENTS to join the conversation and eat some great food!

The Jr. High Christmas white elephant party will be on December 10, 5:30-7:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Supper will be provided. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift to share.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 31, 2017 so that music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact Don Kingsley at 316-773-8044.

Community Announcements

The fourth concert of the 2017-18 Prairie Window Concert Series, featuring The Honey Dewdrops, will be today, 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and good food in a prairie garden setting. Tickets: \$20 adults/\$10 kids, plus tax. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount. Purchase tickets online or call 620-327-8127 to reserve your seats.

The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers concert is today, 3:00 PM at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue in Newton. The program will include Treble Clef Chorus, the Hearts 4 Him Men's Ensemble, Newton Community Children's Choir, and Sue Swender playing bells together with Joan Wulf on piano/organ. A freewill offering will be taken for the Treble Clef Scholarship Fund. All are invited.

Bethel College Steel Drum Band and Steel Paradise Christmas concert is today, 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall.

Getting ready to retire? Everence® Financial will present an informational seminar to help you make informed decisions. *Retirement income strategy* will help you think through your retirement income and expenses, discuss risks that can impact your savings, and strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. It is offered on December 4, at Everence Financial Advisors, 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. To reserve your spot, contact Michelle Ramer at michelle.ramer@everence.com, (316) 283-3800, or 877-467-7294.

Are you looking to do "something different" this holiday season? Consider opening your heart and home to an International Student! Hesston College has several students from other countries who need someplace to stay when the dorms are closed for Christmas break. This is a fun way to get to know international student(s) who are part of the Hesston College family...and to share your holiday traditions with them. Host families are needed from December 15 to January 9. Even if your family is only available part of the time, you may still be able to help. If you have any questions or are interested in being a host family please contact Carlota Ponds, Director of International Student Support, at 620-327-8210 or carlota.ponds@hesston.edu.

The Salvation Army is needing help with packing toys for children and their families for distribution on December 15. They are meeting on the second floor of the old Axtell Hospital. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Kryz Hiebert at 804-0532.

The Regier Art Gallery at Bethel College features the recent major project: “7 x 7: Laments for an Age of Sexualized Power” by Jerry Holsopple. The art gallery is located in the Luyken Fine Arts Center, and his work will be on display until December 7.

Spread cozy, colorful warmth around the world! All you have to do is tie knots! Mennonite Central Committee has a generous number of comforter tops, and now **we need your help tying them!** MCC has paired tops and backs that are ready to be tied, and we are inviting you or your church group to pick some up. If you are interested, please either stop by the MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton, or contact Kate Mast at katemast@mcc.org, or 316-283-2720. We ask that you provide the batting and the crochet tying thread if possible. Thank you in advance for helping to spread warmth and love to our brothers and sisters around the world! (Life Sharing class knotted four this last week!)

The Parkinson’s Disease Support Group will meet at Kidron Bethel Tuesday, December 5, 2:00 PM, in Menno Hall. Michelle Hilger, M.A. CCC-SLP, will give a presentation, “LSVT LOUD” (Lee Silverman Voice Treatment), which is an effective speech/voice treatment for individuals with Parkinson’s Disease and other neurological conditions. She will review Parkinson’s Disease and how the speech/voice is affected, including some symptoms and available treatment options.

Hesston College Music and Theater will present its annual masterworks performance at 7:00 PM, Saturday, December 9, at Hesston Mennonite Church on the Hesston College campus. The program, Morten Lauridsen’s *Lux Aeterna* (Light Eternal), acknowledges the light that Christ brings to our world. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and can be purchased at the door, in advance at the Hesston College Bookstore in person or by calling 620-327-8104.

You’re invited to the annual MCC Christmas Soiree on Thursday, December 14, 5:00-7:00 PM, at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th St.). Join us for this annual come-and-go event to enjoy food, drinks and great conversation. At 6:00 PM, we’ll have a short program to hear about MCC’s work with refugees in Jordan. Bring your family and friends; we look forward to seeing you! Contact patsydirksen@mcc.org with questions.

Nurture children's faith at home this Advent and Christmas through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at anabaptistfaithformation.org/faith-at-home, and click on the link under Advent Family Worship. For use between December 3 and January 6, it includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association is selling recipe books with 23 favorite recipes. The books are \$20. If you are interested in one of the recipe books, there is more information on the shelf outside of the Church Office.

WELCOME TO EVERYONE who has come to worship and especially to those who are here for the first time. May you experience the loving embrace of God today. Nursery Care, infants to age 2, is provided during the worship service in the nursery located at the back of the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children ages 2-4 during the second half of the worship service in Room 223. If you need help finding your way, ask an usher at the door. We would be glad to help you!

“Meet the Congregation” displays now feature Dennis and Diane Flickner (Court Area display case); Larry, Carol, Isaac and Amanda Entz (Library display case); and Karen Regier, George and Crystal Ray and family (Court Area display case). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

- Worship—225 Visitors—6
- Sunday School—172

Offering: Last week’s offering for Local Missions Fund was \$7,823. The offering for December 10 is for Local Mission.

THANK YOU to the FIRST Sunday School class, Janet Franz and Cindy Unruh for sharing your creativity and passion of visual art through giving leadership to decorating the church for the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season!

First Mennonite Church has received a generous financial gift from Marvin and Alma Ewert's estate. Marvin had been a member since the mid-1950s, serving the congregation in numerous ways for over 50 years. Alma joined shortly after she and Marvin were married in 1984, and also served the church faithfully since that time. The Financial Stewardship Committee is discussing various options with the family regarding how to best make use of the gift.

Donations for the Salvation Army—Again this year, we are taking donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarfs for the Salvation Army. There will be boxes under the Nativity Set in the Court Area for the month of December. Thank you for your donations.

Yearbook update forms have been put in your mailbox. Please fill out the form if there are any changes and return the form to the box in the Court Area by Sunday, December 24. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form. Extra forms are also available in the Court Area.