

Yes! Let it be new Sunday after Christmas December 31, 2017

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Gathering

PreludeJyl Ewy, pianist

Song of gathering: *O come, all ye faithful**H 212

The work of the people (announcements)

(Please pass the welcome pads)

Call to worship: Psalm 148 Judy Murphy, worship leader

Lighting the Christmas candles Dalton Blackburn

Opening prayer

Praising

Songs of faith: *The first Noel, the angel did say*
Angels we have heard on high

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Clint Litsey

Song of faith: *The virgin Mary had a baby boy* H 202

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory

Hearing God's Word

Sermon: *Beyond Good News* Pastor Joel Schroeder

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

Responding to God's Word

Song of faith: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Confession

(pause for silence)

Words of assurance

Song of faith: *Love came down at Christmas* H 208

Congregational prayer

Woody Miller, Caregiving and Membership Commission

Sending

Song of benediction: *Infant holy, Infant lowly* H 206

Sending blessing

Postlude

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

Chorister: Daryl Unruh; Worship music: Joey Menninga

Childcare: Melody Enns

Ushers: Loren Entz, Ivan Goering, Clint Litsey, Carol Gerbrandt

Audio Tech: Ryan Koehn

Video/Lighting Tech: Tyler Shelly

Visuals: Carol Hiebert

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve the Harvey County Homeless Shelter is January 10-16. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner at 316-284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

Our congregation responded so graciously to the Harvest of Love project. We collected 709.3 lbs of food. Special thanks to the youth group and sponsors who worked hard to bring in a large amount of food. Thank you, congregation, for helping those in need through this project.

Community Announcements

Centering Prayer will not meet Monday, January 1, but resumes January 8.

Centering Prayer meets most Mondays from noon-1:00 PM, in Agape Center in Richert House on the Bethel College campus. Try it once, come occasionally or join us regularly – all are welcome, with no previous experience with Centering Prayer required.

The Parkinson's Support Group at Kidron Bethel will meet January 2, 2:00 PM, in Menno Hall. Haylie Berning will present the program on Rhythm Connections for PD, a program which involves movement exercises to music to strengthen balance and coordination.

Looking for a unique gift idea? Give a book to the WDC Resource Library in honor of your loved one this Christmas! A book given in their name can enrich the faith of individuals all over the conference. The library's wish list can be found at Faith & Life Bookstore in Newton or on their website at www.faithandlifebookstore.net (when ordering online, use "store pick up" to avoid paying shipping).

Save the Date—Sunday, January 14, for a special screening of the film *Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock* at 3:00 PM, in the Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College in North Newton. The film captures the story of Native-led defiance that forever changed the fight for clean water, our environment and the future of our planet. A talk-back session will follow the film featuring film Co-Director Myron Dewey. MCC is teaming up with Kansas Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) for this free event. Please join us!

Looking for someone to haul a small John Deere Tractor from Bakersfield, CA to Goessel, KS for the KS MCC Sale. Contact Jerry Toews, 620-367-8257 or jtoews62@gmail.com.

WANTED: Good cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, farm machinery, etc. to donate to the KS MCC Sale—new to antique. If you are thinking of getting a new car, consider donating your trade-in to the MCC Sale as a tax deductible donation. Contact Jerry Toews for more info at 620-367-8257 or jtoews62@gmail.com.

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 Melvin and Nancy Pauls (Court Area display case); Doug and Joanie Pauls and family (Library display case); Rod and Andrea Pauls and family (Court Area display case); and Stan and Kim Pauls (Court Area display case). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

- Worship—261 Visitors—40
- Christmas Eve—300

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Missions Fund was \$10,685. The offering for January 7 is for Mennonite Mission Network.

We are down to the final Sunday of 2017. You as a congregation have responded very well for which we are very grateful. We have received approximately \$50,000 thus far for Local Missions. This left \$20,000 according to our earlier prediction. However we have incurred an additional \$9,000 in unexpected but necessary expenses. Therefore, the amount we now need to meet expenses would be approximately \$30,000. Once again God has been extremely good to us as a church.
~Financial Stewardship Committee.

In Sympathy—Joann Epp (85) passed away on December 19. Her funeral was Thursday, December 28 in Bakersfield, CA. Joann was married to Albert Epp who pastored FMC in the 1970's.

For your awareness—Pastor Anita will be on vacation December 30-January 5.

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.

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