

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 16—Advent 3: *The Witness of Creation*—Luke 2:1-4;
John 1:1-4

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
5:30 PM Jr. High Christmas Party—FH

Monday, December 17

11:30 AM Worship Commission

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 PM Christmas Eve rehearsal
7:02 PM Youth Group
7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 23—Advent 4: *Witness the Birth*—Luke 2:4-7

9:30 AM Brunch—No Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service

Upcoming Worship Services

December 24—Christmas Eve Service—7:00 PM
December 30—First Sunday after Christmas: *Witnesses from Heaven and Earth*—Luke 2:8-18, 20

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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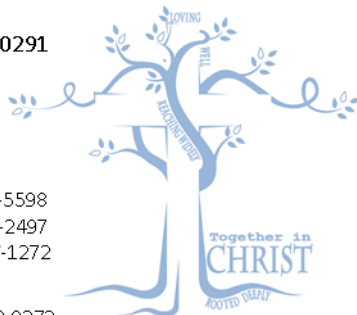
Website: www.firstmennonitenewton.org

Pastoral Team

Anita Kehr, Pastor.....316-283-5598
Joel Schroeder, Pastor of Missional Ministries.....316-215-2497
Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation.....316-217-1272

Administrative Assistant

Tracy Kerr.....316-283-0273



YOU'RE INVITED (or more accurately **CHALLENGED**) to participate in the **NT CRISPR Challenge 44.4** along with the FMC senior high youth. "NT" is the New Testament. "CRISPR" is a technique that alters DNA. "44.4" is how many verses you will average each day when you read the entire New Testament in six months (December '18-May '19). Weekly scriptures will be provided on Facebook and in the bulletin. Monthly outlines are available in the office. Let the challenge begin! **December 13**-Matt. 12:9-12:50; **December 14**-Matt. 13:1-13:52; **December 15**-Matt. 13:53-14:36; **December 16**-Matt. 15:1-16:4; **December 17**-Matt. 16:5-17:23; **December 18**-Matt. 17:24-18:35; **December 19**-Matt. 19:1-20:16; **December 20**-Matt. 20:17-21:27; **December 21**-Matt. 21:28-22:33; **December 22**-Matt. 22:34-23:36.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve the Harvey County Homeless Shelter is December 26-January 1. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner at 316-284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

Nurture Commission is looking for a few more people to come play with our youngest children! We are looking for an additional 1-2 people to help with childcare during the church service for our kiddos ages 2-5. You would be one of 2 adults with a junior high helper. We also need people to help care for our babies in the nursery, preferably during Sunday School and church, once a month. You must be Safe Sanctuary certified and love to play with young children! Please contact Stephanie Weaver if you are willing to help or have more questions!

Sunday School opportunity! Starting January 6, the Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission will lead a 6-week Sunday school class on Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, a curriculum from MCC. More details to come soon!

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, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal (of any kind), peanut butter, jelly, 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. So far, we've donated 224 pounds. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

SR. HIGH YOUTH

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



Hi-C focus 4 December = "CHRIST

Wednesday, December 19 @ 7:02 pm—Youth Group Christmas PARTY! Dress festively! Bring a white-elephant gift (just something from home), Christmas goodies and a FRIEND or two! Come ready for an AWESOME evening!



Wednesday, December 26 — NO Youth Group

Community Announcements

Volunteers are needed from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Eureka, Kansas. We will be roofing and completing exterior repairs. Tools and lunch will be provided. Work days are scheduled for: December 21 and 22, December 28 and 29 and January 4 and 5. **Please contact Jordan Miller** for more details and to arrange transportation from the Newton area. Call, text or email jordanmiller795@gmail.com or 316-217-4570.

Come support Offender/Victim Ministries (OVM) at Mojo's December Community Soup Night! Bring your bowl to Mojo's Coffee Bar on Thursday, December 20, 5:00-6:30 PM for homemade soup and live music by Ellie Bradley and Kate Szambecki. All proceeds will go towards OVM. For more information about the work OVM does in this community, visit offendervictimministries.org.

Come celebrate Christmas! The WDC Resource Library is decked out in its Christmas finery. Come take a look and go home with a good book (or DVD)! There are stories for all ages, pictures to color, giant Advent posters, and scratch off ornaments to make. We will mail books and other Christmas fun to you! Just let us know at criib@mennowdc.org. We're open 8:00 AM-5:00 PM all week! (Closed December 24-January 1.) 2517 N. Main in North Newton, KS.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway for its 51st year. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 17, but it's not a deadline. It's an early record date so music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact **Donnie Kingsley** at 316-773-8044 or email at dl_jr@cox.net. The 2019 concert schedule is: April 7—Tabor College Richert Auditorium in Hillsboro, KS at 7:00 PM; April 14—Bethel College Memorial Hall in North Newton, KS at 7:00 PM.

MC USA wants to hear from you! Visit mennoniteusa.org/jf to find the Pathways Study Guide and complete the Journey Forward Feedback Survey **by December 31**. Available in English and Spanish.

The Neuf Memorial Run—The Neuf 9K and 2-mile run returns to the campus of Bethel College on January 12, 2019 to honor the memory of Russ Neufeld, a former MC USA and Hesston College employee. The race will start at 10:00 AM, outside of Mojo's Coffee Shop on the campus of Bethel College, North Newton. The Neuf will raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Russ Neufeld memorial scholarship at Hesston College. Register and read other details about the race at runtheneuf.neuf.ca. We would love to have you join us for this fun community event!

Be part of Hesston College's Missional Leadership class during the Spring 2019 semester to explore the theology and leadership strategies of missional Christian congregations, and empower yourself, your congregations, and those with whom you worship in evangelism and "disciple-making." Led by Bible and Ministry Professor

Michele Hershberger, the class will meet from 6:00 to 7:40 PM on Monday nights, January 21-May 6, on the Hesston College campus. Both audit and credit options are available. Contact Michele at Michele.hershberger@hesston.edu with questions, or register for the class by contacting the Registrar's Office at 620-327-8231.

Volunteer with SWAP: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also find the latest newsletter at mcc.org/media/resources/8302.

Looking for that next great adventure? MCC SALT positions now available! Take chances. Make mistakes. Get messy. Be challenged. Learn some things. Teach some things. Spend a year living somewhere that you never dreamed you'd go....Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a wide variety of positions in fields like education, agriculture, health care, information technology, peace and more! Start now at salt.mcc.org, to find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options and to apply, don't delay the deadline to sign up is February 15!

Dementia Caregivers Support Group at Kidron Bethel Village: On the last Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM, in Menno Hall Chapel, Kidron Bethel holds a support group meeting for persons who are caring for loved ones living with dementia. This is an ongoing group that meets on the last Thursday of every month. The group is open to participants from the wider Newton community and has affiliation with the Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Kansas. Eric Massanari, KBV Chaplain, and Beth Penner, Associate Director of Independent Living, serve as group facilitators. Please contact Eric Massanari with any questions: 316-836-4829.

Camp Menno'scah is now accepting applicants for a quarter-time (10 hours/week) custodial position. The position starts January 2, 2019, and will remain open until filled. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for further information.

Kauffman Museum is open through the holidays—(closed Mondays, plus Tuesday, Christmas Day, and Tuesday, New Year's Day): hours 9:30 AM-4:30 PM weekdays, Saturday-Sunday 1:30-4:30 PM. Visit the current special exhibit "Better Choose Me: Collecting and Creating with Tobacco Fabric Novelties, 1880-1920," featuring the collection of the late Ethel Ewert Abrahams. See www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/ or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page for more information.

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!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

•Worship—221 Visitors—5 Sunday School—168

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$8,409. The offering for December 23 is for Local Mission.

Will we make it? Will we cover all of the 2018 expenses? Only you know. Please do not wait until the last minute to contribute to Local Missions. As of the end of November we are short \$58,322.15 and we know we have expenses in December. There are only **three** Sundays left. I know we can do this, but we need everyone pitching in where they can. ~ Financial Stewardship Committee

Receiving or has received care—Pat Litsey, Wesley Woodlawn Hospital.

The Jr. High Christmas pizza party will be today, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, contact Bryan Kehr.

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 30. 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.

Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal for the children's Christmas Eve program will be December 19, 6:30-7:30 PM with the choir joining us at 7:00 PM! This is for children in grades K-6. Only the east door of the church will be open. Please bring your coats, stocking hats, scarves and mittens or gloves. These will be your costume for a small portion of the program. If you have been assigned a speaking part, remember to practice your lines!

Breakfast brunch—Next Sunday, December 23, 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and juice will be provided by the Nurture Commission. Please bring a breakfast item to share with others and join us for fellowship and good food. There will be **no Sunday School** on this day.