

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 2—Advent 1: *Called as Witnesses*—Luke 1:26-38, 46-55
and Matthew 1:18-25

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, December 5

6:30 PM Christmas Eve rehearsal
7:02 PM Youth Group
7:15 PM Choir

Thursday, December 6

7:00 PM Nurture Commission

Sunday, December 9—Advent 2: *The Witness of the Prophets*—
Micah 5:2-5a

7:45 AM Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
4:04 PM Youth Group Bible Study

Upcoming Worship Services

December 16—Advent 3: *The Witness of Creation*—Luke 2:1-4
December 23—Advent 4: *Witness the Birth*—Luke 2:4-7
9:30 AM Brunch—FH—No Sunday School

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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Phone: 316-283-0273

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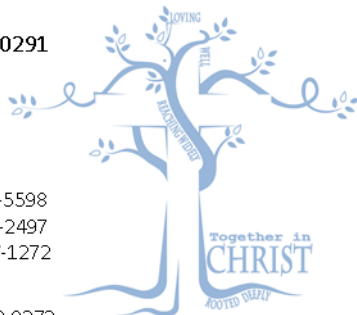
Website: www.firstmennonitenewton.org

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



ADVENT 1

Called as Witnesses



First Mennonite Church — December 2, 2018

SR. HIGH YOUTH

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



Celebrate
the
Season

Hi-C focus 4 December = "CHRIST

Sunday, December 2 @ noon—Youth Council/
SALT/Sponsors planning Pow-WOW!

Wednesday, December 5 @ 7:02 pm—Youth Group

Sunday, December 9 @ 4:04 pm—Bible Study



Christmas Eve rehearsals for the children's Christmas Eve program will be December 5 and 12, 6:30-7:15 PM, with the dress rehearsal on December 19, 6:30-7:30 PM. This is for children who are in grades K-6. Please meet in the sanctuary. We will also be practicing our songs at the end of the Sunday School hour in December so please come! The theme for this year's program is *Silent Night, Holy Night*. Please call or email Cora Voran with questions.

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!

Community Announcements

NEWTON TREBLE CLEF ANNUAL VESPERS—Today, 3:00 PM, at Faith Mennonite Church (2100 N Anderson Ave, Newton). The program will include: Treble Clef Chorus; Open Road Men's Ensemble from Bethel College; The Book of Jebb, bluegrass and folk band; and Connie Rickard, playing saxophone together with Joan Wulf on piano/organ.

The third concert of the 2018-19 Prairie Window Concert Series, featuring Lindsay Lou, will be **today** December 2, 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: \$25 adults/\$15 kids, plus tax. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount. Purchase tickets online or call 620-327-8127 to reserve your seats.

Night in the Barn—presented by Tabor Mennonite Church from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, will be **today, and** December 8 and 9. Please note the new location at Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 E 70th, Newton—just off of K-15 between Newton and Goessel). Come and interact with the characters, animals, sights and sounds of this timeless tale. Enjoy this walking tour of the Nativity with family and friends. The suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and snack. Come and share in the wonder of the Christmas Story!

Join the community in a prayer vigil and informational meeting about the Central American Caravan—**today, 8:00-9:00 PM** at Hesston College, Bontrager Worship Center in the basement of Keim Center.

Nurture children's faith at home this Advent and Christmas through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at AnabaptistFaithFormation.org with daily scriptures, songs, activities and questions to ponder together.

Domestic Violence Education Opportunity—Fr. Charles Dahm, O.P., Director of the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach program, will be in Newton to speak about what we can do as community organizations and individuals to respond to those in abusive situations. Join us at The Gathering on Monday, December 3, 12:00-1:00 PM. This is open to anyone interested. Questions? Contact Anna Rusche at 284-3628 or arusche@newtonkansas.com.

Kidron Bethel Parkinson's Support Group will meet Tuesday, December 4, 2:00 PM. A short inspirational video, "Tips for Living Well With Parkinson's Disease," will be shown, followed by small groups sharing on a number of topics. All are welcome.

Virtual author "visit" at the Conference Resource Library on December 4. Hear from author Jacqueline Woodson as she shares her about new picture book, *The Day You Begin*, at 10:00 AM and her novel, *Harbor Me*, at 12:00 PM. These presentations are geared for children and youth, but everyone is welcome! 2517 N. Main in North Newton.

Hesston College Performing Arts will celebrate the Christmas season with "Peace on Earth," a music and theatre performance at 7 PM, Saturday, December 8, at Hesston Mennonite Church on the Hesston College campus. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected for Mennonite Central Committee hygiene kits. Monetary donations or donations of hygiene kit items are welcome. Hygiene kit items should be new and in original packaging: adult-sized toothbrush, bar of bath soap, nail clipper, hand towel (approx. 16" x 26", medium-weight in dark or bright colors), wide-toothed comb (6" to 8").

The Olson Instrumental Music Scholarship Holiday Home Tour will be on Sunday, December 9. Four homes will be decorated for the season, and local musicians will be playing. Proceeds from donation sales are used to help high school students with the cost of private instrumental music lessons. Reservations for the home tour are on sale at Prairie Harvest. Dr. Bonnie Tandoc, Brad and Becky Hay Cooper, Daryl and Inga Belnap, and the Lincoln Park Apartments are places on the tour. Our congratulations to **Jakob Graber, Josh Kennell and Eli Regier** who are the recipients of this year's 2018-2019 music scholarship.

Christmas Gathering for all Camp Mennoscah volunteers! Put it on your calendar, wonderful counselors and program directors and cooks and nurses and staffers! We're gathering on December 15, 2:30 PM for conversation, cookies, games and great fun. Families invited to join.

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.

Bethel College's peacebuilding institute, KIPCOR, has seen a recent uptick in churches requesting help in resolving various conflicts. Because our own resources are limited, we're offering an opportunity for congregations to help address this need themselves—KIPCOR's semi-regular training course "Managing Differences within Faith Communities." The two-day course runs January 3-4, 2019, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM, at KIPCOR's North Newton office. Lead instructor is Sharon Kniss, KIPCOR director of education and training. Cost is \$300 per person, or \$250 with a non-refundable deposit of \$75 made by December 12. For congregations who send three or more people, the cost is \$200 per person with a \$225 deposit made by December 12. **Please register soon so we'll know if we have the numbers to run the course.** Online registration is at kipcor.org (Managing Differences within Faith Communities link), or call KIPCOR at 316-284-5217.

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!

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.

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—141 Visitors—5 Sunday School—118

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$4,762. The offering for December 9 is for Local Mission.

We want to thank all of you who shared your life story with the congregation through the church showcases. We have now completed that project. At this time of year we think of the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherds and angels. With this in mind, we have asked you to help us with putting nativity sets in the showcases. For the month of December you will be able to view the nativity sets which a number of you have contributed. In January, Ruth Abrahams has agreed to help us portray the activities of the younger Sunday school classes. In February, Ron Dietzel will present something of our church history. If any of you have ideas for the showcases, please contact Jerry and Delora Decker, John and Janice Good, or Dewayne and Betty Pauls.

Thank you for the availability of the Fellowship Hall for the memorial service for Erma Raber. A special thank you to the ladies for the pies. Thank you, both men and women, for serving. God bless you as you fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. ~D.A. Raber

Thank you for your kind words of encouragement and prayers as we planned for Dad's funeral and laid him to rest. Your love and support could be felt. Blessing to all of you. ~Kevin and Carolyn Miller

From the "Conversations along the Way": Notes from the conversation that took place on Wednesday evening, November 28, are posted on the east side of the fellowship hall and will remain there for several weeks. You are invited to review them, especially if you were not able to attend that gathering.

Calling all singers! Come join the choir for the Christmas season! Attend three rehearsals on Wednesday nights 7:15-8:15 pm in the choir loft and you are qualified to sing! Questions? Contact Pastor Kay (kays@firstmennonitewton.org.)