



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

9:30 AM Brunch in Fellowship Hall—**No Sunday School**  
10:30 AM Worship Service

**Monday, December 24**

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

**Tuesday, December 25**—**Merry Christmas!**

Church Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 26**

Homeless Shelter Week begins

**Sunday, December 30**—First Sunday after Christmas: *Witnesses from Heaven  
and Earth*—Luke 2:8-18, 20

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
4:04 PM Youth Group Bible Study

### Upcoming Worship Services

January 6—Epiphany—*Witnesses from the East*—Matthew 2:1-12,  
Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 2:1-12

January 13—*Going Home*

January 20—World Fellowship Sunday/Mennonite World Conference

### FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

429 E. First Street PO Box 291 Newton, KS 67114-0291

Phone: 316-283-0273

E-mail: [office@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)

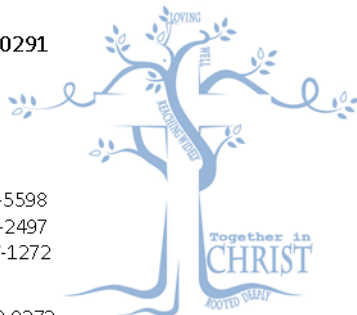
Website: [www.firstmennonitenewton.org](http://www.firstmennonitenewton.org)

#### 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



First Mennonite Church

**Attention children and parents!!** For the Christmas Eve program—please arrive by 6:30 PM, place your costume (coats, stocking hats, scarves and mittens or gloves) in the sanctuary, and go to the Fellowship Hall. If you have been assigned a speaking part, remember to practice your lines! Questions? Contact Cora Voran, Marsha Schmidt, or Pastor Kay.

**Safety Monitors needed** - We continue to strive to make FMC a safe place during all activities. Therefore, we are looking for one or two persons to serve as Safety Monitors during the Christmas Eve program on Monday. Please contact Jordan Miller.

**Pastor Anita will be** out of the office December 26-January 4.

**Transformative Moments**—Pastor Joel is searching for two persons to share during the worship service on December 30 about a personal life-altering or -changing moment or event. If you are interested in sharing, please contact Pastor Joel **by Friday of this week.**

**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.

**GREETINGS COLLEGE-AGE (+) YOUNG ADULTS!!** This is a SPECIAL INVITATION to gather NEXT SUNDAY, December 30, 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall at FMC for food, fellowship, and more! This is just an informal chance to reconnect with others and to eat some GREAT FOOD! Please invite others!! See you next Sunday!

**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 Church Office.**

**NT CRISPER Challenge 44.4** (Reading through the New Testament, December-May) **December 23** (Matt. 23:37–24:35); **December 24** (Matt 24:36–25:30); **December 25** (Matt. 25:31–26:35); **December 26** (Matt. 26:36–27:14); **December 27** (Matt. 27:15–27:66); **December 28** (Mark 1:1-28); **December 29** (Mark 1:29 – 2:12). December daily reading calendar is available in the office.

**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

Monday, December 24 @ 5:50 pm—luminary assembly/placement prior to Christmas Eve program.

Wednesday, December 26—NO Youth Group! Sunday, December 30—Bible Study at 4:04 pm.

**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!

**The Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery** Sunday School class begins January 6! This 6-week series sponsored by Outreach, Mission, and Peace Commission will use curriculum from MCC that studies how the Church has been complicit in oppressing Indigenous Peoples for five centuries, what the Bible says about it, and how we can respond. Please contact Miriam Goertzen-Regier if you plan to attend. We hope you'll join us!

**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 327.5 pounds. **Sunday, December 30, is the last Sunday we will collect food.** Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

### Community Announcements

**MDS 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 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.

**Winter Wonderland Worship** on December 28, 3:00-6:00 PM! Join us for songs from evening worship at summer youth camps (praise and worship songs) at Camp Mennoscah in the Dining Hall. Enjoy classic "Sunday" camp sandwiches, hot chocolate, time by the campfire/fireplace, and the warmth that comes from being surrounded by friends at camp! Also, TP the Christmas tree! We'll metaphorically TP our Christmas tree with your donations of toilet paper or paper towels. Cash or checks for 4-square/gaga balls are welcome, too. RSVP by December 26 to 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org so we know how many sandwiches to fix--and tell us about any food allergies!

**Hello, future summer staffers!** You can apply for a summer staff position at Camp Menno'scah at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) under Summer Youth Camps. Do it now! Positions are music, crafts, nature, lifeguard, office, and grounds/maintenance. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled; we'll start interviewing in January! Contact us at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) with questions. We can't wait to talk to you about being on summer staff!

**The Bethel College advancement/development office** invites you to a holiday open house, Monday, December 31, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Come by to visit with staff, enjoy holiday treats and a warm beverage – and make your year-end donation. The office is on the main floor of the Administration Building on campus.

**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](http://runtheneuf.neuf.ca).

**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](mailto:Michele.hershberger@hesston.edu) with questions, or register for the class by contacting the Registrar's Office at 620-327-8231.

**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](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) for further 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—229 Visitors—8 Sunday School—172

**Offering:** Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$16,702. The offering for December 30 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 plus the December expenses. There are only **two** Sundays left. I know we can do this, but we need everyone pitching in where they can. All donations for 2018 must be in the Church Office by Monday, December 31, 8:00 AM.

~Financial Stewardship Committee

**Receiving or has received care**—Richard Harder, NMC; Janice Good, Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center.

**In Sympathy**—Valeda Krehbiel (81), Ted Krehbiel's mother, passed away on December 13. We extend our condolences to Ted, Alisa, and the family.

**Our heartfelt thanks** for the many and unique ways people have continued to support us as we've faced ongoing challenges. Thank you for your prayers that have continued to sustain us both in physical healing and life's difficulties. We pray for God's blessings to each of you this Christmas and in the coming year.

~Kathleen and Dana Neff

**I want to thank** the pastors for their encouraging visits and everyone for the cards, texts, phone calls and visits. Clint and I appreciate our church family so very much!

~Pat Litsey

**All are invited to the Christmas Eve service**, "Silent Night, Holy Night," on Monday at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. "Silent Night, Holy Night" will be our theme as we experience how the beloved hymn might have been written 200 years ago and how it reflects the birth of Jesus as recorded in Luke 2. We will remember and celebrate the Prince of Peace coming into our world. Come to the celebration!