

First Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018

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Gathering

Gathering song: *Let all together praise our God* *H 213

Welcome and the work of the people (announcements)

Call to worship Pastor Kay Schroeder

Prelude Amanda Entz, organist/pianist
Do You Hear What I Hear by Regney and Shayne

Lighting the Advent candles Hannah Gaertner

Prayer

Praising

Songs of faith: *Love came down at Christmas* H 208
Angels we have heard on high H 197

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Jenna Ratzlaff

Recognition and gratitude: Larry Becker

Special music: Brie Claassen, Jill Claassen, Beth Claassen Thrush,
Nadia Thrush, Barb Claassen; Alan Claassen Thrush, piano.

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory: *Gesu Bambino* by Pietro A. Yon; Carol Entz, piano;
Amanda Entz, oboe
(Please pass the welcome pads)

Song of faith: *Helpless and Hungry with What child is this* H 215

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Luke 2:8-18, 20

Sermon: *Transformative Moments* Pastor Joel Schroeder

Responding to God's Word

Song of faith: *Good Christian friends, rejoice* H 210

Pastoral prayer

Sending

Sending song: *Hark! The herald angels sing* H 201

Blessing

Postlude

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

Chorister: Paul Schrag

Hymn Accompaniment Team: Ken and Amy Regier; Nora and Forrest Miller

Childcare: Stephanie Weaver

Ushers: Loren Entz, Ivan Goering, Clint Litsey

Audio Tech: Ryan Goertzen-Regier

Visuals: Carol Hiebert

Video/Lighting Tech: Eugene Waltner

Property Committee: Kevin Hamm

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Tuesday, January 1—Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

7:07 PM Youth Group

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

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
12:00 PM Youth Council
2:30 PM Catechism—Warkentin Room

Upcoming Worship Services

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

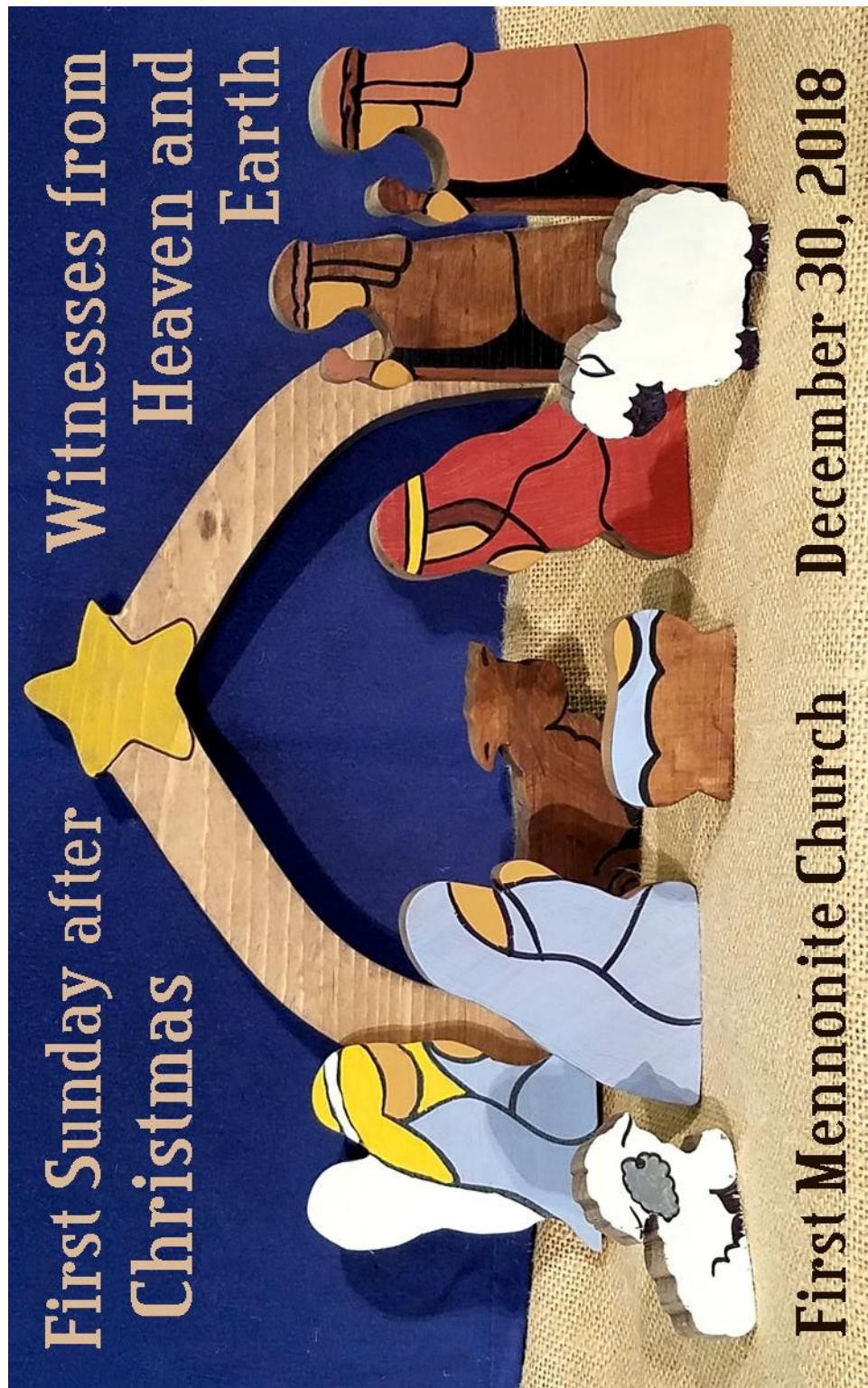
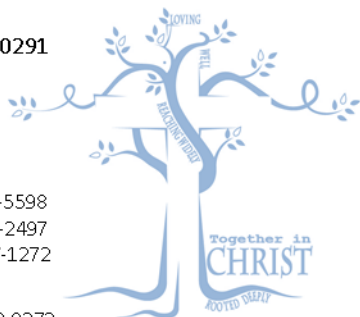
Website: www.firstmennonitenewton.org

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



SR. HIGH YOUTH

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



Hi-C focus 4 December = *C*HRIST

Sunday, December 30—NO Bible Study this afternoon!
Wednesday, January 2 @ 7:07 pm — YOUTH GROUP!
Sunday, Jan. 6 @ noon—Youth Council (planning)
Sunday, Jan. 6 @ 2:30 pm—Catechism



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!

For your planning—Christmas decorations put away: You are invited to stay a few minutes after the worship service next Sunday, January 6 to help take down and put away the Christmas decorations in the church. Thank you in advance!
~Worship Commission

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. **Today** is the last Sunday we will collect food. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

Community Announcements

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.

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: 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.

Hello, future summer staffers! You can apply for a summer staff position at Camp Mennoscah at 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 with questions. We can't wait to talk to you about being on summer staff!

Saturday, January 5—Kauffman Museum first-Saturday bird walk. Meet in the museum parking lot at **8:30 AM**. Experienced birders will lead a walk of 1 to 1.5 miles in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail in North Newton. Please be aware the trail is mostly unpaved/wood-chip with some hilly/steep spots.

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.

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!

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—252 Visitors—21 Christmas Eve Service—340

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$18,594. The offering for January 6 is for Mennonite Mission Network.

Thank you for your very generous financial support to date. We have one more Sunday left and we will need approximately \$52,000 to meet our expenses for this year. ~Financial Stewardship Committee

Receiving or has received care—Richard Harder, NMC

In Sympathy—Verna Goering (89), Connie Claassen's mother, passed away on December 21. We extend our condolences to Connie, Dwight and the family.

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

Yearbook update forms are due today. 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 CRISPR Challenge 44.4—Six month New Testament reading plan (December '18-May '19) [NOTE: Due to some omissions on the initial document, some passages for this week have been changed.] **December 30:** Mark 2:13–3:19; **December 31:** Mark 3:20–4:34; **January 1:** Mark 4:35–5:43; **January 2:** Mark 6:1–6:44; **January 3:** Mark 6:45–7:37; **January 4:** Mark 8:1-9:13; **January 5:** Mark 9:14-50. JANUARY scripture reading calendars are available in the office.