

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 24—Celebration and Farewell for Joel Schroeder and Kay Schroeder. Potluck to follow.

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
12:00 PM Potluck—FH
1:30 PM Messiah Practice—Sanctuary

Thursday, November 28

Happy Thanksgiving—Church Office Closed

Friday, November 29

Church Office Closed
2:00 PM Pictorial Directory Pictures

Saturday, November 30

8:30 AM Breakfast and Church Christmas Decorating
10:00 AM Pictorial Directory Pictures

Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent—*Our wait begins*

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
1:30 PM Messiah Practice—Sanctuary

Upcoming Worship Services

December 8—Second Sunday of Advent—*Getting ready while we wait*
December 15—Third Sunday of Advent—*Kept waiting by fear*
December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent—*Worth the wait*

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



Celebration and Farewell for Joel & Kay

"For I know the plans
I have for you,"
declares the Lord,

"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
hope and a future."

Jer. 29:11

First Mennonite Church
November 24, 2019

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- **Youth Group Farewell for Joel** - Tuesday (11/26) at 6:02 PM. Youth Room. Let's have a big party for our fearless leader! Supper (including chai) provided.
- **Decorate the church for Christmas**- Saturday, November 30, 8:30 AM, with FMC church family—Quiche and cinnamon rolls provided by Paige/Taylor's Grandparents.
- **Youth Council** - Wednesday, December 4, Youth room with supper at 6:33 PM. Defining our purpose and planning for youth group in December and beyond!
- **Bible Study** - December 8 at 4:04 PM. (Host?) Worship - Bible Study - Faspas - Fellowship.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is December 11-17. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner at 316-284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

With the holidays quickly approaching, plans are being made for our Christmas Eve service at First Mennonite Church. Our church children from Kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to practice on **Wednesday evenings (December 4, 11, 18), at 6:30-7:15 PM**. During the first three Sundays in December, the children will also be learning the songs during the last 10-15 minutes of the Sunday School hour. We would love to have as many children as possible at practice to prepare to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on Christmas Eve.

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. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

Items needed for MCC kits! Central States still needs items to complete immigration detainee care kits, which provide clothing and hygiene products to people released from immigration detention centers. Items needed: New sweatpants and sweatshirts in S, M, L (men's and women's), adult-sized backpacks or small duffle bags, toothpaste—2.7-3.5 oz, and pre-moistened bath wipes. Look for the box for the items in the Gathering Place through December 1. Questions? Ask Miriam Goertzen-Regier, another member of the Outreach Commission, or learn more at mcc.org/stories/caring-strangers-through-new-kits-partnerships.

Come to the worshipful presentation of parts of Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM, in our own FMC sanctuary. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you in celebrating Jesus Christ through scripture and song. An offering will be taken to cover expenses and support New Hope Homeless Shelter. Come and worship!

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING will commence this **Saturday, November 30!** Come for breakfast at 8:30 AM and stay to decorate our building for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. Everyone is invited!

Community Announcements

The next concert of the Prairie Window Concert Series, with Kyshona, will be today, 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and delicious food from Crust & Crumb in a prairie garden setting. Tickets: \$20 adults/\$10 kids, plus tax. Purchase tickets online at dyckarboretum.org or call 620-327-8127 to reserve your seats.

All area churches are invited to attend this year's Winter Luminary Walk at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The Luminary Walk will be 5:30-8:00 PM, on November 29 and 30, and on December 6 and 7. Admission to the event is \$6 for Adults and \$3 for children ages 3 to 12, or advanced tickets can be requested by emailing arboretum@hesston.edu or purchased at the Arboretum office for \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12

Treble Clef Christmas Vespers program—Sunday, December 1, 2:45 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus Avenue in Newton. The Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble will perform on Friday, December 6, 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM at Dyck Arboretum, 177 W. Hickory, Hesston. Everyone is invited to come!

All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas December 7, at Bethel College Fine Arts Center. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, crafts and poinsettias. Christmas candy, zwieback, peppernuts, poppy seed roll and cinnamon rolls are always great sellers. Please bring your items on Friday, December 6, 1:30-4:30 PM, or on Saturday, 7:00-8:00 AM, in the Fine Arts Center Room 140 which is behind the Box Office. Thank you for your support of Bethel College!

Hesston College Music and Theatre will present a Christmas performance, "Still, Small Voice," on Saturday, December 7, 7:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

Everence will hold an all-inclusive retirement planning workshop on Saturday, December 7, 9:00 -11:30 AM. Topics will include Medicare, Social Security and retirement income planning. The workshop will be presented by Everence staff and

will take place at Everence Financial, 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. Reserve your spot soon by contacting Michelle Ramer at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

Christmas for Volunteers! Camp Mennoscah is hosting a gathering for all who have volunteered this year, last year, or many years ago on December 14 at 2:30 PM. We'll have cookies and snacky items, hot drinks, games, and whatever reasonable activity you can think of—it's a time to enjoy camp and other camp folks.

You are invited to join MC USA staff for "Coffee and Conversation" in the Newton offices (718 N Main St, Newton KS) to hear from Mennonite Mission Network International Service Worker, Deb Byler, on Monday, December 16, 11:00 AM. She will share about the ministries in which she is involved with Kekchi Mennonite women in Guatemala.

The Mennonite Mission Network Board is seeking an Executive Director to lead Mission Network's ministry into the next chapter of growth. Mission Network, an agency of Mennonite Church USA, is commissioned to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. The agency envisions all parts of the church being fully engaged in mission—across the street, all through the marketplaces and around the world. Find the complete position description at MennoniteMission.net/about/employment. To apply send resume and position application to EDSearch4MMN@gmail.com with "Executive Director Inquiry" in the subject line. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

Looking for a way to connect with people and engage with Mennonite Central Committee's supporters? We're hiring an Alumni Engagement Coordinator! The person in this salaried position will coordinate the alumni experience and support colleagues in strategic engagement of alumni. Application close date is November 18. For more information and to apply, please visit: serve.mcc.org.

We need your help! Please consider adopting a child or family this holiday season. Sponsors are needed for the Safehope Angel Tree Project. For more information, call 283-0350. The Safehope Angel Tree Project helps families with gifts, clothing, food and personal need items.

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. Application close date 02/15/20.

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 in Room 225. 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—219; Visitors—7; Sunday School—151

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$5,714. The offering for December 1 is for Western District Conference.

Thank you for supporting FMC Youth Ministries! Three hundred forty-four people had a jazzy-good time and enjoyed amazing food at the Annual Turkey Dinner on November 24. Donations (before expenses) totaled \$5,612! THANK YOU!

MESSIAH CHOIR REHEARSAL TODAY at 1:30 PM, in the sanctuary. Everyone ages 14 and older are invited and encouraged to participate! Books may be checked for free or purchased for \$15. **Your voice is needed!** Questions? Contact Matthew Graber at 605-310-1656 or mgrabert2013@gmail.com.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, all bulletin announcements for the December 1 bulletin need to be turned into the Church Office **by this Tuesday, November 26**, at noon.

For the next few weeks in the Office Showcase, we will be featuring the Pictorial Directories from 1970 to 2013 that we have had at FMC. The Library Showcase will feature the 125th Anniversary Celebration held in September 2003. Please stop by and take a look.

Picture-taking for the new Pictorial Directory will start this Friday, November 29. Please double check your appointment time and remember that **you need to show up ten minutes early**. We are running a tight schedule and have very little wiggle room, so please make sure you are on time and don't miss your appointment. Please use the south door and head to the basement.

The Mennonite—It is time for us to renew our subscriptions for *The Mennonite*. If you would like to renew your subscription the group rate is \$37. **Subscriptions are due today.** Please return the form that was in your church mailbox to the office and make checks payable to First Mennonite Church with *The Mennonite* on the memo line.