

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent—*Getting ready while we wait*

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

1:30 PM Messiah Practice—Sanctuary

5:30 PM Jr. High Christmas Party—FH

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 PM Nurture Commission

Wednesday, December 11

Homeless Shelter Week begins

6:30 PM Children's Christmas Eve practice

7:00 PM Choir

Thursday, December 12

7:00 PM Church Board

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent—*Kept waiting by fear*

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

7:00 PM Handel's Messiah

Upcoming Worship Services

December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent—*Worth the wait*

Christmas Potluck Brunch during the Sunday School hour—9:15 AM

December 29—First Sunday after Christmas—*Time to get a move on*



SR. HIGH YOUTH



- **No Bible Study this Sunday, December 8**
- **MCC Pizza Party** - Wednesday, December 11, 6:30-8:30 PM. Meet at the MCC Center in North Newton- Pizza, Immigration Kit packing, Learn about SALT.
- **Handel's Messiah** - Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM.
- **Christmas Party** - Thursday, December 19, 7:00 PM. Bring a white elephant gift and a snack to share. Wear Christmas colors just for fun.
- **Luminaries**- Tuesday, December 24, 5:45 PM—prepare Luminaries for Christmas Eve program.

Wednesday, December 11 (after the Christmas Eve service practice). Contact Jyl Ewy or Greg Bontrager with questions.

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.

Handel's Messiah will be presented here at FMC on Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM, with a community chorus, orchestra and soloists as follows: Holly Swartzendruber, Monica Schmidt Spicer, Matthew Schloneger, and Christopher Kliewer. The director is Matthew Graber. Come for a blessed time of music as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah!

The holiday season can be especially difficult for survivors of sexual abuse. A support group under the guidance of a professional therapist will be available for survivors on December 17. If you are a sexual abuse survivor and would like more information, please call June Thomsen (316-239-8747) for details

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 have collected 177 pounds of food and \$250 in donations. Way to go!

Transition information: Learn more about Susan Jantzen, interim pastor.

Susan Jantzen has served in the work and life of the church since graduating from Bethel College in the '70s. This has included Faith and Life Bookstore, M.C.C work in Chad, Africa, Women in Mission/Mennonite Women leadership at conference headquarters, and congregational work. Completing seminary training in 2008 at what was then Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Susan has served at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, Newton, at the associate pastor level, First Mennonite Church in Hillsboro as lead pastor, and at Bethel College Mennonite Church for one year as an interim associate pastor. Susan is married to Jim Jantzen and they have two adult sons, Peter (Newton) and Robert (Washington state). Susan looks forward to being among the First Mennonite Newton community in worship and service **beginning this Wednesday, December 11.**

Community Announcements

Bethel College 34th annual Lighting of the Green—today, 8:00 PM.

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.

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.

All MCC volunteers and alumni are invited to our annual come-and-go MCC Christmas Soiree on Thursday, December 12, 5:00-7:00 PM, at MCC in North Newton. We will have food, Christmas cheer and plenty of time for fellowship. At 6:00 PM, we'll pause for a short program about Christmas around the world from our International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants.

Night in the Barn: Everyone is invited to come to Night in the Barn at Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 70th, Newton) on **December 21 and 22, 5:00-7:00 PM** (come/go). Interact with the characters, sounds, lights, and animals of this timeless tale and enjoy this walking tour with family and friends. A suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and a snack. Presented by Tabor Mennonite Church Youth, with part of the proceeds going to the Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship. Call 620-367-2721 with questions.

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full-time finance assistant and a half-time recruiter. You can see the positions descriptions at mennonitemission.net under "employment opportunities." To begin the application process for either of these positions, send your resumé to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net or call Linda Krueger, HR Coordinator (574-523-3009) for more information.

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.

Western District Women in Mission in cooperation with Everence Financial will host a two-day conference "Let's Talk...Women, Money & Faith" on January 24 and 25 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton. Featured speakers, Teresa Boshart Yoder and Rhoda Blough, from Everence Financial will address money and faith topics for women of all ages and stages of life. More information and registration coming soon on Facebook at facebook.com/WesternDistrictWomen/?modal=admin_todo_tour or at our web page communicationswdwm.wixsite.com/wdwm.

Thinking of pastoral ministry? Be a Service Adventure leader! Live in a unit house with a small group of youth and offer support as they serve and live in Christian community. Age: 24+; term: 2 years. For more info, contact LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net.

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—183 Visitors—13; Sunday School—145

Offering: Last week's offering for Western District was \$1,916 and Local Mission was \$9,572. The offering for December 15 is for Local Mission.

Receiving or has received care—John Schmidt, NMC.

Don and Kathryn Penner were married at FMC on December 9, 1949! Their family would like to honor them and thank them for the wonderful example they have shown us over the 70 years of their marriage.

Thank you, everyone, for the well wishes, cards, love gifts, and kind words on our Farewell Celebration Sunday. We are unendingly grateful for the last 15 years of partnership with you in spreading the gospel of Christ. Love and prayers.
~Joel and Kay Schroeder

The Jr. High Group is invited to a Christmas party with pizza, games, and a white elephant gift exchange **tonight**, December 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

For the next few weeks the Office and Library Showcases will feature nativity sets from various countries. Stop by and take a look.

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 11, 18), at 6:30-7:15 PM**. 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.

Men's Advent Chorus—Men, if you enjoy singing, here is your invitation to join us for special music during the service on December 15. Greg Bontrager will lead us in what's bound to be a joy once again! Practice will be at **8:00 PM on**