

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

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

10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, December 23

6:30 PM Christmas Eve Practice

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

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

9:15 AM Sunday School

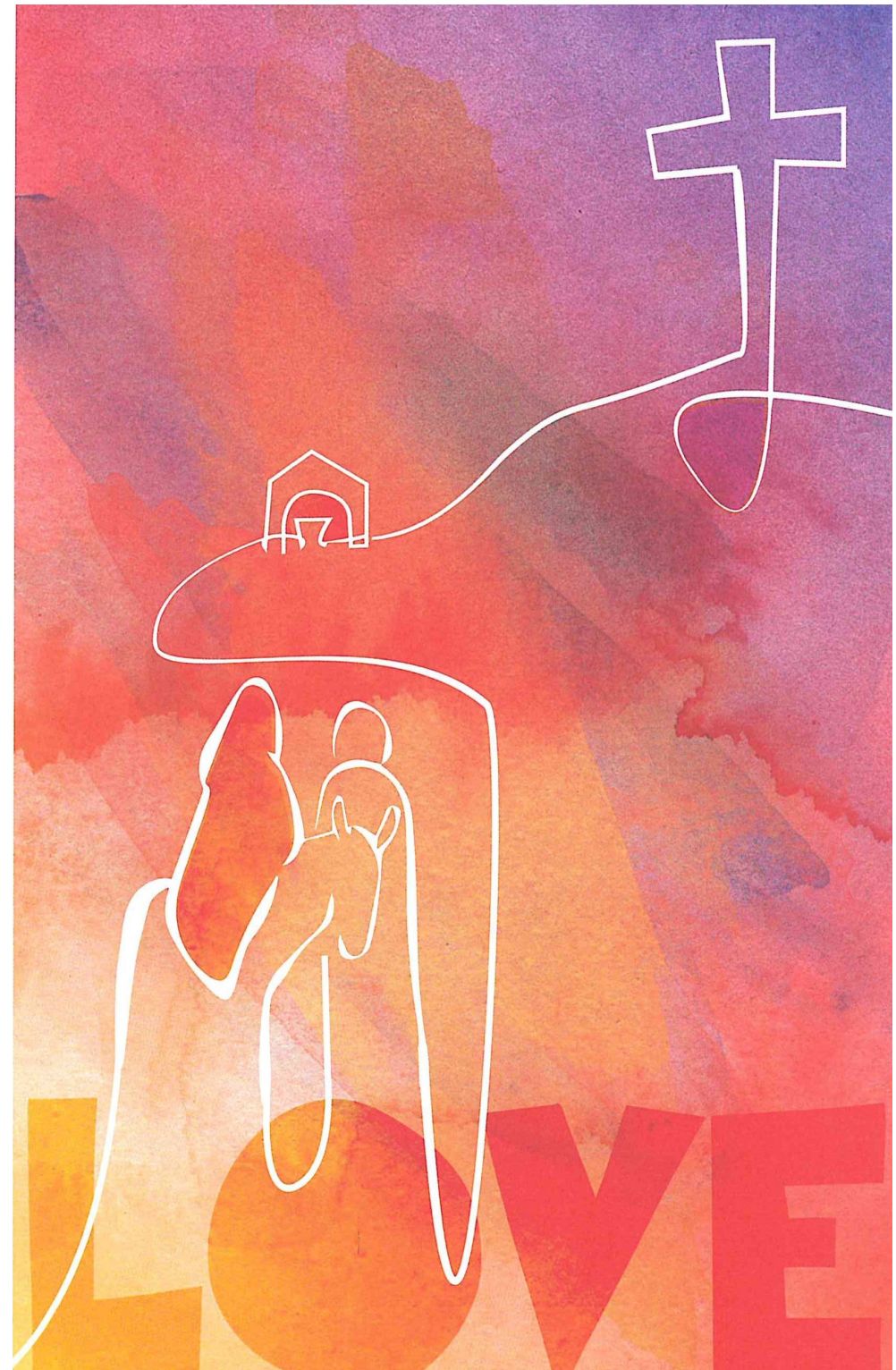
10:30 AM Worship Service

Upcoming Worship Services

January 5—Epiphany Sunday—Unable to go back the way we came!

January 12—Isaiah 12:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 19—Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42



Community Announcements

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, canned vegetables, and soups. A box is available in the Court Area to collect nonperishable items. So far, we have collected 177 pounds of food and \$250 in donations. Way to go!

Yearbook update forms have been put in your mailbox. Please fill out the form and return the form to the Church Office by Sunday, January 5. 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.**

Get involved with something BIG—record-breaking BIG! The First Thursday Quilters are taking part in the Great Winter Warm-Up, MCC's effort to collect 6500 comforters in honor of MCC's 100th anniversary. On January 18, 2020, we will tie comforters 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, or until done in FMC's Fellowship Hall. Come for an hour, or all day. Lunch will be provided; bring a snack if you want. **For more information contact Elena Entz Wiebe or Cindy Unruh.**

Transition information: When a pastor leaves the congregation, both the pastor and the congregation ask questions about what the future relationship will be. Exit agreements give a clear understanding of the relationship of the departing pastor to the congregation, and build a good foundation for new pastoral leadership. An overview of the exit agreement between Pastor Joel and First Mennonite Church and between Pastor Kay and First Mennonite Church will be distributed via email very soon. Please take time to read the agreement so you have a clear understanding about these future relationships. Should you have questions after reviewing the agreement, feel free to contact a member of the Church and Staff Relations Committee.

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- **Christmas Brunch**—Sunday, December 22, 9:15 AM, in Fellowship Hall- No Sunday School
- **Christmas Eve program**—Tuesday, December 24—Prepare luminaries for church sidewalks. Meet in the Youth room at 5:45 PM.
- **Christmas Day—No YG**, spend Christmas with your family!
- **Girls Night**—Food/Fun/Movie/Chill—December 30, 5:30 PM, at Carol's.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway for its 52nd year. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 20, 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: dl_jr@cox.net. The 2020 concert schedule is April 19, 7:00 PM—Tabor College Richert Auditorium in Hillsboro and April 26, 7:00 PM—Bethel College Memorial Hall in North Newton.

Night in the Barn: Everyone is invited to come to Night in the Barn at Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 70th, Newton) **today, 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.

Join an intentional community with peers, serve with a local nonprofit, and plug into your neighborhood and local congregation in places like Chicago; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; and Alamosa. Learn more at MennoniteMission.net/Serve. Age: 20+; term: 1–2 years.

Need a change of scenery? Join SOOP and use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. Flexibility designed for retirees, families, and adults over 25. Explore opportunities at MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

Boots, Buckets and Barrows: In partnership with Mennonite Disaster Service, Ted & Co. presents the original play, *The Jesus Stories: Faith, Forks & Fettuccine*, in conjunction with a unique auction of buckets filled with baked goods and home items, along with “flash auctions” to fund the tools and volunteers MDS needs to help restore communities and rebuild homes ravaged by natural disaster. All proceeds benefit the continued work of MDS. Admission is free! Please come prepared to bid on Friday, January 31, 7:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church and Saturday, February 1, 7:00 PM, at Journey Mennonite Church, South Hutchinson. Sponsored by Kansas MDS Unit, Hesston College Disaster Management Program, and Journey Mennonite South Hutchinson.

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.

Summer is only 6 months away! Camp Mennoscah is looking for amazing people to be our summer staff for 2020. We need lifeguards, office assistants, music and crafts leaders, a naturalist and grounds/maintenance. Further information is available online or contact us at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290. Apply for a position online at campmennoscah.org under Summer Youth Camps!

Thank you for your generous giving to Mennonite Central Committee in 2019. Your gifts help MCC continue work in 53 countries working on 648 projects and impacting countless people. If you're looking for a last minute Christmas gift keep MCC Christmas giving projects in mind or collect school kit supplies with your family (mcc.org/kits)! Check out mcc.org/christmas for online giving options. Contact our office in North Newton, KS for giving in-person, 283-2720.



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—194 Visitors—3; Sunday School—149

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$9,241. The offering for December 29 is for Local Mission.

Receiving or has received care—Marjorie Janzen, Wesley Hospital.

The Caregiving and Membership Commission has approved Kay Schroeder's request for a transfer of her membership to Hesston Mennonite Church. Please pray for her as she begins her ministry there.

Notice: Following the Messiah presentation last Sunday, we were informed that one of the community choir members, Ellsworth Kauffman, has been credibly accused of inappropriate sexual behavior at his church where he is no longer allowed on the grounds or at any events. If you have anything to report or have any questions, please talk to a member of the Caregiving Commission; Church Board Chair Janice Good; or pastors Anita Kehr or Susan Jantzen.

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

For your information—Susan Jantzen's email, now in operation is susanj@firstmennonitewton.org.

KIPCOR is asking for our evaluation. A link to a survey was sent out by email this week, and paper copies are available in the office. Please return yours by December 31!

Our Christmas Eve service this year will be at 7:00 PM with the prelude beginning at 6:45 PM. Bring your family and friends to "Discover the Light of Christmas " as we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world.