

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 20—Gratitude

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 2:00 PM Messiah practice
- 6:06 PM Bible Study—Joel's house

Monday, November 21

- Jail Ministry: Jerry Regier
- 6:00 AM All Church Christmas Decorating
- 7:00 PM Worship Commission
- 7:00 PM Property Committee

Thursday, November 24

Happy Thanksgiving—Church Office closed

Friday, November 25

Church Office closed

Sunday, November 27—First Sunday of Advent—God's Peace

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 2:00 PM Messiah Practice

Upcoming Worship Services

- December 4—Second Sunday of Advent—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's heart—God's Harmony
- December 11—Third Sunday of Advent—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's heart—God's Healing



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
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Pastoral Team

- Anita Kehr, Pastor 316-283-5598
- Joel Schroeder, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults 316-215-2497
- Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation 316-217-1272

Administrative Assistant

Tracy Kerr 316-283-0273

Custodian

Gordon Flickner 316-217-1346

Gratitude

Sunday, November 20, 2016

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Gathering

Prelude Amanada Entz, organist/pianist

Variations on "Picardy" arr. Good

Lonesome Valley arr. Good

Gather us in by Behnke

The work of the people (announcements)

Call to worship..... Pastor Joel Schroeder

Opening prayer

Songs of faith: *Beautiful things*

This is amazing grace

Greet one another; children come forward

Hearing God's Word

Children's focus Keith Knopp

Song of faith: *Now thank we all our God*..... *H 86

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory: *Madre de la Tierra* by Lantz

(Please pass the welcome pads)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7-19

Meditation on God's Faithfulness Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Acts of response (see insert)

Special music: *The Mission/How Great Thou Art* arr. The Piano Guys

Joey Menninga, viola; Amanda Entz, piano

Song of faith: *Come as you are*

Pastoral prayer Pastor Joel Schroeder

Sending

Sending song: *Today is the day*

Blessing

Postlude

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

Chorister: Paul Schrag; HAT: Janet Franz, Nora & Forrest Miller, Rannie Goering

Worship band: Kay Schroeder, Michelle Regier, Joey Menninga, vocals; Joey Menninga,

guitar; Seth Bontrager, guitar; Tim Regier, bass.

Ushers: Gus Dorado, Ray Franz, Mike Garcia, Allen Schmidt

Childcare: Greg or Laura Myers, Justen Schroeder

Audio Tech: Ryan Koehn

Video/Lighting Tech: Eugene Waltner

Visuals: Cindy Unruh

Our Mission is to glorify God:

- Through expressing our love to God in worship.
- Through experiencing Christian love in community.
 - Through extending God's love to the world.

A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, December 4. The meeting will be held immediately following the worship service. A vote will be taken on adopting a new vision statement and a constitutional amendment to change our mission statement. Please check your church mailboxes for more information on the constitutional amendment.

There will be a six-week Sunday School class open to all called *Radical Hospitality: Responding to the Issue of Immigration* on December 4, 11, 18 and January 8, 15, and 22. For more information on the curriculum see: mennoniteusa.org/resource/radical-hospitality-core-curriculum/. This multimedia class will be held in Fellowship Hall, is open to all, and will have conversation facilitated by members of the FMC Refugee group.

Family Life Ministry's Mission is "to create a healthy environment where families and individuals can be nurtured and draw closer to God." We are looking for a group of people who are passionate about showing God's love to families, people who can give a little or a lot of their time supporting families within and outside of the walls of this church. We need families willing to serve families, grandmas and grandpas with their wisdom, and those with youth and energy. This ministry is for everyone. If God is calling you to serve or you would like more information, please contact Family Life Ministry at fmcfamilylifeministry@gmail.com or Christa Hiebert. Strong Families make a Strong Church.

The Church Library Committee has set out a cart with Christmas books on it. Stop by and take a look to see if there is one you would like to read this holiday season.

Prayer is one of God's gifts to us. If you would like to pray in a set-aside room for that purpose, the prayer room is available whenever the church is open in Room #113. The weekly prayer and praise notes can remind you of some of the situations needing intercession.

SR. HIGH YOUTH

Expressing love of God in worship
Experiencing love in community
Extending God's love to the world

THIS WEEK!

Sunday, November 20

- » 9:15 am—Sunday School
- » 10:30 am—Worship
- » 6:06 pm—Supper, worship, Bible study @ Joel's

Wednesday, November 23—NO YOUTH GROUP



Community Announcements

Hesston College will host its annual Thanksgiving weekend November 24-26. Join in on events and activities for the whole family including a Thanksgiving evening Masterworks concert, A Downton Abbey Christmas, followed by the annual talent show. Friday will be the two-mile run/walk, The Benjamin Bolt, as well as a concert featuring the college's music ensembles. Men's and women's basketball teams play on both November 25 and 26. Go to hesston.edu/thanksgiving for more information and a full weekend schedule.

The annual Hesston College Thanksgiving Masterworks concert will be Thursday, November 24, 7:30 PM, in the Hesston Mennonite Church sanctuary on the Hesston College campus. The program, A Downton Abbey Christmas, will consist of holiday music by English composers themed around the popular British television show, along with full orchestra accompaniment. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Hesston College Bookstore, 620-327-8104. Prior to the concert at 6:40 PM, watch part of a Christmas episode of Downton Abbey. Go to hesston.edu/thanksgiving for more information and a full weekend schedule.

Erica Stoltzfus and James Goerzen of Tabor Mennonite Church, invite people to join them on their trip to North Dakota to participate in the ongoing protests led by the people from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the building of Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). They will leave the Newton area and drive to North Dakota on Thursday, November 24, spend Friday and Saturday participating in the protests, and then return to the Newton area on Sunday, November 27. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Erica at stoltzfus1359@gmail.com and/or James at jamesdgoerzen@gmail.com.

Third annual Ten Thousand Village Fair Trade International Gift Festival—Mark your calendars! Invite a friend! Prepare your Fair Trade Holiday Gift List! The event takes place Friday and Saturday, November 25-26; Friday and Saturday, December 2-3; and Friday and Saturday, December 9-10; 10:00 AM-6:00 PM at the Western District Conference office, 2500 North Main, North Newton.

The annual sing-along to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists and student conductors, will be on Wednesday, November 30, 11:00 AM, at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores will be provided.

Everyone is invited to attend this year's Winter Luminary Walk, focusing on the theme, "The Prairie Sleeps," at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The Luminary Walk will be from 5:30 to 8:00 PM on November 25 and 26, and December 2 and 3. Admission to the event is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages

3 to 15, or advanced tickets can be purchased at dyckarboretum.org or at the Arboretum office for \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 15. Traditional outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by hundreds of luminaries, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. Performances by local groups will include the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts Dance Troupe on Friday, November 25, Dave Anderson on hammered dulcimer on Saturday, November 26, Sound of the Heartland Women's Ensemble at 7:00 PM, Friday, December 2, and the Book of JEBB at 7:00 PM, Saturday, December 3. Volunteers are also still needed! Call 620-327-8127 or visit www.dyckarboretum.org for more information.

The Bethel College Women's Association Council needs your help in providing Christmas cookies, peppernuts, cinnamon rolls, candy, and other Christmas baked goods to sell at the 5 Places of Christmas, December 3. This year, we will be joining with the Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts. Please bring your goodies to the Kauffman Museum on Friday, December 2, during museum hours or Saturday morning 8:00-10:00 AM.

Everence Financial will present an informational seminar, *Creating your retirement income strategy*, at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 12. Everence Financial Advisor Robert Wall will speak about having enough for retirement, making your savings last and coping with the financial markets. There will also be time for your questions. The seminars will take place at Everence Financial, 371 N. Old Highway 81, Hesston. To reserve your spot, contact Darlene Buller at (620) 327-4043, (877) 467-7294 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

Are you looking to do "something different" this holiday season? Consider being a Holiday Host Family for an International Student! Hesston College has several students from other countries who need a place to stay when the dorms are closed for Christmas break. This is a fun way to get to know international student(s) who are part of the Hesston College family...and to share your holiday traditions with them. Host families are needed from December 16 through January 10. Even if your family is only available part of the time, you may still be able to help. If you have any questions or are interested in being a host family please contact Carlota Ponds, Director of International Student Services, at 620-327-8210 or carlota.ponds@hesston.edu.



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 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!

"Meet the Congregation" displays now feature Sammie, Robin, Savannah, Tjaden, and Andrew Simmons; Irene Schmidt; and Harland and Oneta Unruh. Take a look at the display cases by the Library and Court Area and learn more about each family.

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

- Worship—260; Visitors—17
- Sunday School—214

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Missions was \$13,206. The offering for November 27 is for Local Missions.

Recently the organ fund was a recipient of a memorial gift. Stanley and Dwight Claassen gave \$20,000 in honor of their father, Rudolph Claassen. Rudolph, known to many of you as Rudy, was a long-time member of the church. This was a much appreciated gift to help rebuild the organ.

A big thank you to everyone who donated to the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes. We packed 71 shoeboxes on Wednesday evening during Church Family Night. We appreciate your donations of gifts and money.

MESSIAH CHOIR REHEARSAL TODAY: This afternoon at 2:00 PM is the first choir rehearsal for singing Handel's *Messiah*. Everyone ages 14 and older are invited and encouraged to participate! Books may be checked out or purchased for \$10. Questions? Contact Pastor Kay.

1st Annual All-Church Christmas decorating event: You are invited to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season! Please come on Monday, November 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for a joyful time of adorning the inside of our building.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, all bulletin announcements for the November 27 bulletin need to be turned into the Church Office by this Tuesday, November 22, at noon.