

Song of faith: *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* (verses 1 and 2)..... H 463

New Testament reading: James 5:7-10

Sermon: *ACTIVE Perseverance*..... Pastor Joel Schroeder

Responding to God's Word

Song of faith: *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* (verses 3 and 4)..... H 463

Pastoral prayer

Sending

Sending song: *Angels we have heard on high*

Benediction: Come! Walk in the ways of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ is coming to free us from despair.
He will show us the way.

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

Chorister: Pastor Kay Schroeder; HAT: Choir

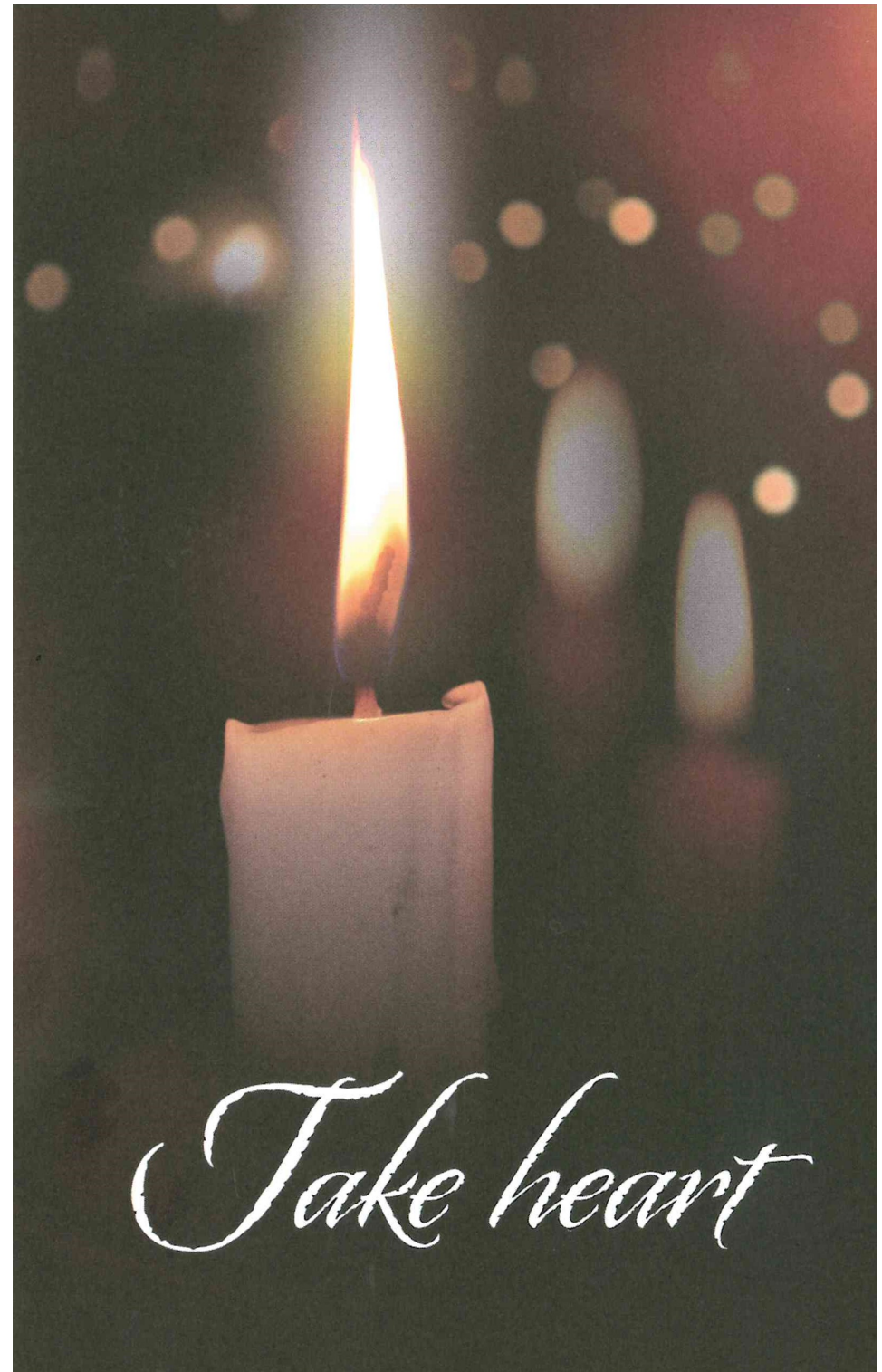
Worship band: Joan Entz, Kay Schroeder, vocals; Jyl Ewy, vocals and piano; Joey Menninga, guitar; Tim Regier, bass; Ted Krehbiel, drums

Ushers: Bob Schmidt, Brian Walker, Heath Kerr, Allen Schmidt

Childcare: Chris or Stephanie Weaver, Addie Regier

Audio Tech: Larry Becker Video/Lighting Tech: Alex Goering

Visuals: Carol Hiebert, Janet Franz, Cindy Unruh



God's healing is at hand. Come, walk in the way of God's heart

.....
3rd Sunday of Advent: December 11, 2016

Gathering

Prelude Amanda Rempel, organist/pianist

Savior of the nations, come Bach
O come, O come, Emmanuel Peeters
Lo, how a rose Brahms
Of the Father's love begotten Peeters, Leavitt

The work of the people (announcements)

Choral introit: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Liebergen

Call to worship..... Pastor Anita Kehr

Leader: In the nighttime of sorrow,
we become impatient and lose hope.

People: **Our joy disappears;
our songs become silent.
We forget the truth:
God will restore all of creation.**

All: **Come! Walk in the way of God's heart!**

Opening prayer

Lighting the Advent candle Reese McCord

Songs of faith: *Come, Light of the world*
Hark! the glad sound *H 184

Greet one another; children come forward

Praising

Children's focus Ken Frey

Kingdom happening: Presenting Bibles to sixth and seventh grade students
6th graders: Taylor Anne Frye, Neva Dorado, Elizabeth Bachman, Camryn Entz
7th graders: Madelynn Hamm and Lauryn Sommerfeld
Teachers: Bryan Kehr, Amanda Entz, Chris Weaver

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 Bryan Kehr, reader

Choral anthem: *I Hear the Prophet Callin'* by Pepper Choplin

Advent 3 reading: Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:47-55 Mary: Stephanie Brown

Song of faith: *My soul is filled with joy*

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory: *Comfort, comfort, O my people* Burkhardt
(Please pass the welcome pads)

Confessing/Reconciling

Prayer of confession

Leader: God of healing,

People: **we yearn to walk in your way
but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain.
Save us, Lord,
from the pride and foolishness
of choosing our own course,
that we may humbly and confidently
follow your lead,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Words of assurance

Leader: Throughout the tumult of life,
God holds you close in love.
Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide,
God's compassion is your strength.
God's love is your redemption.

All: **Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!**

Volunteers are needed to ring the Salvation Army bell at South Dillons, Wednesday through Friday, December 14-16, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. If you have an hour or two free, please consider helping. The schedule is posted in the Court Area on the bulletin board. Contact Bob Schmidt at 316-283-3916 for more information.



Handel's Messiah—The First Mennonite Church Choir and Newton area community members will present selections from Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 PM. Soloists are Soyoun Lim Chun, Bethany Amstutz Schrag, Matthew Schloneger, Chris Kliewer. Karen Schlabaugh is harpsichordist; Amanda Rempel, organist; Nancy Johnson, concertmaster; Kay Schroeder, conductor. An offering will be taken for the Harvey County Homeless Shelter and to cover expenses. **All are invited** to come celebrate the Christ Child, the Savior of the world and the Redeemer through this worshipful presentation!



Winter clothing items needed: The children's Christmas tree in the court area is the place to leave hats, scarves, mittens, gloves or socks to donate to the Salvation Army. Let's cover the tree!

Harvest of Love—The Salvation Army invites you to join in their annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our county. 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. The last day we will be collecting items will be next Sunday, December 18.

Yearbook update forms have been put in your mailbox. Please fill out the form if there are any changes and return the form to the box in the Court Area by Sunday, December 25. 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 Court Area.

The Property Committee needs your help to maintain our facility! There are several projects that need completing, and we want you to have the opportunity to help. We need help with raking leaves around the church building and in the flower beds, painting the

SR. HIGH YOUTH

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



TODAY—Sunday, Dec. 11
» 9:15 am—Sunday School
» 10:30 am—Worship



Wednesday, Dec. 14

» **7:00 pm— YOUTH GROUP** Crazy wacky Christmas fun! BRING a white elephant gift and FRIENDS. Wear your most outrageously festive Christmas outfit for the Christmas relays! See you Wednesday!

Wed., December 21—NO YOUTH GROUP!

walls and ceiling in the balcony classroom, and installing pipe insulation and replacing a few ceiling tiles in the Jr. High room. Contact Jordan Miller, Alan Entz, Clint Litsey, Ryan Nye, or Rod Schmidt for more information.

Offering envelopes for 2017 have been placed in your mailbox. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them or have any questions, contact the Church Office.

If you have pictures from church events during 2016 and would like to share them, please send them to the Church Office at office@firstmennonitenewton.org by **Wednesday, December 21.**

Community Announcements

The McPherson Community Brass Choir, under the direction of Jerry Toews, will be giving a Christmas Brass concert in the historic Alexanderwohl Church today, 7:00 PM. Alexanderwohl Church is located one mile north of Goessel on K-15 highway.

You're invited to the MCC Christmas Soiree! Please join MCC for a delicious and fun holiday celebration on Thursday, December 15, 5:00-7:00 PM at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th). At 6:00 PM we will hear from MCC International Volunteer Exchange Participants about the work they are doing in Kansas and to hear about Christmas traditions from their home countries of Laos and Egypt. Good food, live music and great fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship, will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 17 and 18, 6:00-8:00 PM. The friendly goat, the large cow with her little calf, the peaceful sheep, and the baby and big donkeys that share their love of people—these are a few of the critters who will assemble in the barn of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. The story this year will be from the perspective of a sheep that witnessed the first Christmas and is from a new book by Kim Funk called *Christmas at the Stable*. The come-and-go event includes Christmas carols around a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. Admission is free and donations to the youth group will be accepted. Directions to Night in the Barn: From Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. From Hillsboro: 4 miles south on Indigo, 3 west on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

Camp Mennoscah is seeking volunteers to come to camp for the day on Tuesday, December 20, to assist with a number of projects, including the salvage and demolition of "The Whale" playground and the old boys' bathhouse. We will also be working on a few other projects we wish to complete by the end of the year. Please contact camp at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org by Wednesday, December 14, if you are interested in helping with these projects!

Bethel College is offering many of its classes for community audit. You pay \$50 per credit hour (compared to the normal audit rate of \$85 per hour) OR, if you're age 62 and older, a flat rate of \$30. For more information, go to bethelks.edu/audit, where there are links for **interterm 2017 course schedule** (enrollment deadline is **January 4**) and **spring 2017 course schedule** (enrollment deadline **February 13**).

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 11—Third Sunday of Advent—God’s Healing

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service
 12:00 PM Potluck—FH
 2:00 PM Messiah practice

Monday, December 12

Jail Ministry: Gary Moore

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 PM Christmas Eve practice
 7:00 PM Youth Group
 7:15 PM Messiah practice
 8:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent—God’s Restoration

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service
 7:00 PM Messiah

Upcoming Worship Services

December 25—Christmas Day—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—Jesus is Born
 January 1—New Year’s —The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—God’s Hope
 January 8—Epiphany—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—God’s Radiance

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 Chris and Stephanie Weaver and family, Tim and Anne Wiens and family, and Arlen and Carol Wiens. 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—233; Visitors—1
- Sunday School—207

Offering: Last week’s offering for Western District Conference was \$2,176 and Local Missions was \$6,200. The offering for December 18 is for Local Mission.

November financials are in and we had a good month; we brought in \$6,752.70 more than we spent. However, we are still behind for the year by \$18,630.10. We anticipate December expenses to be about \$37,400. We can do it, but everyone needs to do their part. No offering is too great or too small. Please prayerfully consider First Mennonite in your holiday giving. ~ Financial Stewardship Committee

The flower arrangement on the organ is in honor of Eva Mae Andres' 85th birthday which will be on December 13.

A REMINDER: There will be a brief congregational meeting today immediately following the worship service. A vote will be taken on a proposed constitutional amendment to adopt a new vision and mission statement.

December Seconds @ First Potluck today—Everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service today for great food and great fellowship!

Please join us for an open house today in the Main Street area at Schowalter Villa from 2:00 to 4:00 PM to help celebrate Eva Mae Andres' and Mary Janzen's 85th birthdays. No gifts please.

The Junior High group’s Christmas party is this evening, December 11, 5:30-7:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a white elephant gift to exchange. Questions? Check in with Bryan Kehr.

Christmas Eve rehearsal: Children (Kindergarten through 5th grade), adults, Sunday School teachers, please come to practice for the Christmas Eve program on Wednesday, December 14, 6:30-7:15 PM in the sanctuary. Thank you!



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
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Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation	316-217-1272
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Tracy Kerr.....	316-283-0273
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