

# WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, March 12**—Lent 2: Restore us, O God! We wonder.  
*Daylight Savings Time begins*

9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Worship Service  
 12:00 Noon Potluck—Fellowship Hall

**Monday, March 13**  
 Jail Ministry: Gary Moore

**Wednesday, March 15**  
 5:30 PM Meal served by Living Stones Sunday School class  
 Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Sheet Cake  
 6:45 PM Children-ages 2 years to 6th grade—Gather in Room 123  
 6:45 PM Choir (Sanctuary)  
 6:45 PM Jr. High (Room 126)  
 6:45 PM Youth Group (Youth Rooms)

**Saturday, March 18**  
 8:30 AM Men’s Grubfast—Arlen Wiens’ house

**Sunday, March 19**—Lent 3: Restore us, O God! We thirst.  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Worship Service  
 6:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study

**Upcoming Worship Services**  
 March 26—Lent 4: Restore us, O God! We see. 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
 Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

\*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book \*\*CS denotes Companion Songbook  
 Chorister: Daryl Unruh; Readers: Brent Voran, Cora Voran, Dave Wiebe  
 Ushers: Bob Schmidt, Brian Walker, Heath Kerr, Donnie Kingsley  
 Childcare: Chris or Stephanie Weaver, Schyler Entz  
 Audio Tech: Ron Bachman Video/Lighting Tech: Eugene Waltner  
 Visuals: Cindy Unruh



*Restore us,  
 O God!*

**Focus statement: Lent 2, March 12, 2017**

In our humanness, we want to know, to define, and to have concrete answers for everything. However, life is filled with uncertainty. We trust that God, the great Mystery, is always present with us in our wondering.

**First Mennonite Church  
 Newton, KS**



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Gordon Flickner.....	
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# Restore us, O God! We wonder. Sunday, March 12, 2017

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## Gathering

**Prelude**.....Amanda Entz, organist/ pianist  
*The Skyline Firedance Suite* by David Lanz

**Gathering song:** *God of wonders*

**The work of the people (announcements)**

**Call to worship and opening prayer** ..... Pastor Kay Schroeder

Leader: Mindful that God, the great Mystery, has called us,

**All: we gather to worship.**

Leader: Curious about God's ways in the world.

**All: we gather to worship.**

Leader: Wondering in the face of uncertainty,

**All: we gather to worship.**

Leader: Receive our worship and our wonderings, O God, as we seek after you.

## Praising

**Songs of faith:** *Who is so great a God* ..... \*H 62  
*Immortal, invisible, God only wise* ..... H 70

**Greet one another; children come forward**

**Children's focus** ..... Marissa Murphy

**Offering:** Local Mission

**Offertory:** Prelude on *Crusader's Hymn* arr. Good  
(Please pass the welcome pads)

**Song for offering ourselves:** *You are all we have*

## Confession and Words of Assurance

Leader: God of mystery, you call us into the unknown.  
But we do not always follow willingly.

Reader 1: We confess that we do not want to leave behind what is familiar.  
We prefer looking like those around us.

Reader 2: We do not want to change our well-refined beliefs.  
We prefer to think and believe in the same ways we always have.

Reader 3: We do not want to give up the comfort of our own self-sufficiency.  
We prefer to stay in control.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, when in our best effort to work *for* you,  
we fail to move *with* your Spirit.

**All: *Stir us deep within. Help us recover a sense of your holy wonder, and make room within us for the mystery of your Spirit.***  
*(Pause for silent confession)*

Leader: God of mystery,

**All: *restore us.***

Leader: Our help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth. The Lord will keep you from all harm. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.

## Hearing God's Word

**Scripture:** John 3:1-17

**Sermon:** *Certain Faith in Uncertain Times* ..... Pastor Joel Schroeder

## Responding to God's Word

**Song of faith:** *I know not why God's wondrous* ..... H 338

**Pastoral prayer** ..... Pastor Anita Kehr

## Sending

**Sending song:** *You shall go out with joy* ..... H 427

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

# SR. HIGH YOUTH

With Jesus as the center, we are called to be:  
Faith-focused, Mission-minded, Community-Centered

## What's Happin'?

**(TODAY) Sunday (March 12)**

» 9:15 AM—Sunday School

» 10:30 AM—Worship Service



**Wednesday, March 15**

» 6:46 PM—Mug Decorating Night (if you have not already decorated a mug) - Bring your design for your mug and prepare for a fun night!

**April 26—Bi-annual Youth Group Auction**

**July 16-21—D.O.O.R. Summer Mission Trip (Chicago, IL)**



**The Christian Co-Workers Sunday School** class will meet at the Breadbasket on Tuesday, March 14, 9:00 AM for a social. Please plan to attend.

**Guy's Grubfest, Saturday, March 18, 8:30 AM**—at the home of Arlen Weins, 2610 NW 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Newton. Men of all ages are welcome to come for a time of eats, conversation, and scripture. Bring your favorite breakfast food to share.

**Mennonite Men sponsors retreats and promotes** study materials for men's groups. Find out more by viewing the electronic display in our foyer. This is the last week to see the display! More information about retreat locations and times can be viewed at our website [MennoniteMen.org](http://MennoniteMen.org). Do you want to be involved with Mennonite Men? If you are a Mennonite man, you are already a "member." Contact us to find out how you or your group can become involved.

**There are many current issues and events** which challenge our belief system and are a part of our faith discernment. Beginning this week, a cart in the church library will be designated for books which present a variety of perspectives on one of these issues. Through March and April, the books on the cart will be devoted to questions surrounding faith and our relationship to people of various sexual identities. This collection of books demonstrates that a variety of perspectives do in fact exist in the church. You are encouraged to take advantage of these resources and read, pray, discuss, and discern.

**The new Mennonite Mission Network** prayer directory *Mission Mosaic* is now available. This is a great resource for prayer and provides an opportunity to get to know mission workers and international partners, as well as the short-term workers and service programs. Anyone who would like to take one for use at home is welcome to pick up a copy by the church office.

**Frederic and Aurore Ducroquet's new address in Italy—**

Aurore & Frederic Ducroquet; Via Santa Lucia, 6; 36016 Thiene, VI; Italy

**The new updated Yearbooks are in your church mailbox.** If you no longer need the old one, please consider recycling it to the Church Office so that we may reuse the binding off the old books. Thanks so much!

**Camp MennoScah time is approaching!** Over the last few years, First Mennonite has offered scholarships of \$100 per student for children in both our congregation and in Casa Betania. This experience has been a vital part of the faith formation of those who attend. The current camp scholarship fund has \$18 in it; last year, we distributed \$4,300. The Nurture Commission would be grateful for any help you can give toward supporting our children in this way. Please talk to any member of the commission for more information. Thank you!

**Mark your calendars** for the next Stewardship Celebration, *Don't Be Fooled! FMC has Talent*, on Saturday, April 1. The church-wide celebration will host an array of talents: music, drama, painting, wood working, photography and hobby collections. Come hungry and enjoy the food court. Plan to spend the evening celebrating and or sharing your God-given talents. If you are interested in sharing your talent, contact Judy Murphy by email or phone. 316-288-7060 [juju7960@cox.net](mailto:juju7960@cox.net)

**Youth Group Auction**—Did you mark your calendars—Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 PM, for the youth auction? We will be offering a meal prior to the auction. At the auction, there will be many items donated by the youth and our church family. Maybe you are thinking of what you might like to auction—last time we had everything from manual labor to a cabin getaway. "The sky is the limit." For questions, call Carol Entz, 283-0525.

### Community Announcements

**Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association** will hold its annual meeting, today, 2:30 PM, here at First Mennonite in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker for the program will be Mr. Curt Goering. The public is invited to attend.

**MEDA Chapter Kansas**—chapter dinner and program on Monday, March 13, 6:00 PM, Bethel College Library. Supper followed by a program. Special guest Helen Loftin will share information and stories about MEDA's exciting project in Myanmar. Please call or email Carla Wedman to register your attendance so they have a count for the meal: [cwedman@harperindustries.com](mailto:cwedman@harperindustries.com); 620-896-7381.

**On Saturday, March 18**, the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston will host its annual spring educational symposium on the theme of *Living the Land Ethic in Kansas*. The goals of the symposium are to introduce the concept of 20th century conservationist Aldo Leopold's *Land Ethic*, to learn more about the elemental prairie resources that shape our Kansas economy and identity, to find inspiration from the practitioners who steward our Kansas natural and human resources, and to hear a message of hope for how to be better stewards in the future. The cost of registration is \$40 for Dyck Arboretum members and \$50 for non-members for those who register by March 10 and includes a full day of presentations, breakfast, and lunch.

After March 10, registration will increase to \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. RSVP by March 15 to be included in the meal count.

**Early registration for the Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017 has been extended to March 23!** Early Registration includes a T-shirt, I-Ride trolley pass, servant project and a meal card. Come to Orlando July 4-8 to celebrate “Love is a Verb” with fellowship, worship and activities with Mennonites from around the country. Learn more at [convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/](http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/).

**Former members Angela and Erwin Rempel** have recently published a book about their experiences in following God’s call: *Unexpected Invitations—Surprises, adventures, and opportunities in Mennonite ministry*. Faith and Life Bookstore will host Angela for a book signing 1:00-3:00 PM, Saturday, March 25. Angela will be with us and have the books at a table in the Court Area on March 26.

**The MCC Sale is fast approaching.** Bohne berrogie bake day will be on April 1, at the Moundridge High School cafeteria. There are two shifts, starting at 7:00 AM and at 10:00 AM. If you would like to volunteer, please call Marla Gillmore at 620-921-0428 or email at [bm@lrmutual.com](mailto:bm@lrmutual.com). Please wear a head covering.

**The Retirees Relaxation Retreat** at Camp Mennoscah is April 24-26! You are invited to join us to hear stories of courage, faith, and enrichment. Amanda Rempel will lead us in music and Stan and Marlene Smucker will lead us in Bible Study. Coffee breaks and as much nature as you want is included! Contact us at 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) for a brochure. You can also register online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org). We'll see you in April!

**Spring cleaning?** Please bring your clean, gently-used clothing to the Newton Et Cetera Shop! We welcome all styles and sizes of clothing, but could especially use children's clothing. Your donated clothing (and other goods) get a second life in a new home, stay out of the landfill, and help us support those in need—nearby through our Local Giving grants, and around the world through Mennonite Central Committee. Every donation helps us keep the store fresh and fun! Thank you for your support!

**MCC Material Resource needs:** The Workroom at the MCC Material Resource Center in North Newton is a busy place! It’s so busy that we are running very low on the following items: men's deodorant (minimum size 2.25 oz); men's briefs (white), size L or XL only; men's crew neck undershirts (white), size L or XL only; lotion (max. size 2 oz), bath towels (medium weight, dark colors), fingernail clippers, shampoo (13-24 oz). You are welcome to shop Amazon Smile for easy shopping and the ability to ship it directly to MCC in North Newton, plus a small portion of your purchase is donated back to MCC by Amazon. Items can be brought to MCC at 121 E. 30th in North Newton and left in the After Hours Donation Drop Off at anytime. Thank you for your continued generous support!

**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 Dwight and Connie Claassen (Library display case), Rick and Helen Ortman (Court Area display case), Ron and Shirley Dietzel (Court Area display case). The display case next to the office has information about the MCC Relief Sale. Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

#### **First Mennonite Church by the numbers**

##### **Attendance:**

- Worship—223; Visitors—7
- Sunday School—193

**Offering:** Last week’s offering for Mennonite Mission Network was \$2,881 and \$4,275 for Local Mission. The offering for March 19 is for Local Mission.

**We need your help!** In February we were short by \$3,678.49, which means we are behind for the year by \$7,164.03. There is still a lot of the year to go. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help lower this shortfall.

~ Financial Stewardship Committee

**Today the buckets will be passed during the offering time** to collect loose change for the relief work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The buckets will be passed each week until the MCC Sale on April 7 and 8.

**Special thanks for all the thoughts,** prayers, and cards during my hip replacement. Even though all did not go as planned, I always felt the love and strength of God through you. Thank you Kay and Anita for doing double duty for me! ~Carol Hiebert

**Pastor Anita will be in Indiana** (and traveling there and back again) for Constituency Leaders Council meetings this week, Wednesday-Sunday.

**The elephant in the room . . .** is back in the Beginner’s Sunday School classroom as good as new! THANK YOU to Harland Unruh for sharing his woodworking skills for the elephant’s facelift and to Kaci McGee for sharing her artistic gifts in re-painting the elephant.

**Seconds @ FIRST Potluck today!** Everyone (college students, guests, regular attenders...everyone) is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service today for great food and great fellowship.