

# WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, March 26**—Lent 4: Restore us, O God! We see.

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

**Monday, March 27**

Jail Ministry: Gary Moore

**Tuesday, March 28**

11:30 AM Worship Commission—Cora Voran's house

**Wednesday, March 29**

7:00 PM Youth Group

7:00 PM Choir

**Sunday, April 2**—Lent 5: Restore us, O God! We breathe.

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study

## Upcoming Worship Services

April 9—Lent 6 (Palm Sunday): Restore us, O God! We hope. Isaiah 50:4-9a;

Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27, 66

April 16—Easter: Restore us, O God! We live! Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;

Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

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

Chorister: Paul Schrag; Worship band: Joey Menninga, Tim Regier, Ted Krehbiel,

Rachel Bachman, Pastor Kay Schroeder

Ushers: Alan Entz, Ryan Nye, Jan Groves, Wenda Black

Childcare: Michael or Pamela Garcia, Justen Schroeder

Audio Tech: Ron Bachman

Video/Lighting Tech: Tyler Shelly

Visuals: Cindy Unruh



*Restore us,  
O God!*

HOPE

## Focus statement: Lent 4, March 26, 2017

We are bombarded by visual images, and can mistake what is seen for what is true. God reveals hidden truths, surprising us and challenging our assumptions. Once our eyes and hearts are opened, we can see with greater clarity.

**First Mennonite Church  
Newton, KS**



### 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

# Restore us, O God! We see.

## Sunday, March 26, 2017

### Gathering

Gathering music ..... Nora Miller, pianist

Gathering song: *Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*

The work of the people (announcements)

Call to worship and opening prayer ..... Kevin Miller, worship leader

Leader: Here in this place we gather to worship.

**All: *Open our eyes and our hearts.***

Leader: Here in this place we gather to see you.

**All: *Open our eyes and our hearts.***

Leader: Here in this place we gather to perceive you in all your glory and beauty.

**All: *Open our eyes and our hearts.***

Leader: Remove our blindness so that we might see ourselves honestly, and humbly worship you.

### Praising

Songs of faith: *Our God*  
*This is Amazing Grace*

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus ..... Ken Frey

Kingdom sharing: *Mission-Minded* ..... Property Committee

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory

(Please pass the welcome pads)

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

## Confession and Words of Assurance

Leader: O God, you open our eyes to see what is true. We confess that sometimes it is easier for us to stay blind than to embrace the fullness of your truth.

**People: We admit that it is scary and unsettling to fully accept what you want us to see.**

Leader: Your truth exposes our hidden secrets, upsets our expectations, and establishes a new order where we are no longer leading the way. Forgive us, O Lord, when we would rather stay in the darkness of our current reality instead of receiving your miracle of light and new life.

**People: Remove the cataracts from our eyes, that we may see and celebrate your goodness around us. Quicken our minds, and soften our hearts, that we may recognize that you are at work.**

*(Pause for silent confession)*

Leader: God who brings all things into the light,

**All: *restore us.***

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. Though we cannot see through the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us. We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen

## Hearing God's Word

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Sermon: *Knowing What We See* ..... Pastor Anita Kehr

## Responding to God's Word

Song of faith: *Open my eyes, that I may see* ..... \*H 517

Pastoral prayer ..... Pastor Joel Schroeder

## Sending

Sending song: *Be thou my vision* ..... H 545  
(stanzas 1, 2, 5)

Benediction

Postlude

**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*. Angela is with us today and has the books at a table in the Court Area if you would like to purchase one.

**Housecleaning helper opportunity**—an older member of our congregation needs some help with some extra cleaning in her home (payment provided). Please contact Pastor Kay if you are interested.



**School kits for MCC is the** Children's Sunday School offering project until August. We invite interested persons to sew school kits for the project. If you have any questions, contact Pat Denno or Judy Schrag.

**Stewardship Celebration**—FMC Talent and Hobby Celebration on Saturday, April 1, 3:00-6:00 PM. There will be entertainment, hobby displays, and a food court. Everyone is welcome to come!

**MCC Sale**—Our church has been assigned to bake 5 loaves of rye bread and 60 pies for the sale on April 7-8. Please check the bulletin board in the Court Area on how you can help with the needs of the MCC Sale. Thanks!

**Anyone who has made quilts or smaller craft items** for the MCC Sale is welcome to bring those items to the church office so that they may be displayed here at the church in the Court Area. Thank you!

**College scholarship money is available**—If you will be attending (or are considering) a Mennonite college, university or seminary in 2017-2018, you are invited to apply for scholarship funds from FMC. **By no later than Sunday, April 16**, submit the completed application to either Jyl Ewy or Ron Dietzel. For each school year, an FMC application must be completed. Some Mennonite colleges provide matching funds so your monies would be doubled when enrolled in one of those schools. Eligibility criteria for the FMC funds are provided on the application. The form is available in the Court Area at FMC.

**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!

**Homeless Shelter**—Our next week to serve the Harvey County Homeless Shelter is April 5-11. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner at 316-284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

## SR. HIGH YOUTH

*With Jesus as the center, we are called to be:  
Faith-Focused, Mission-Minded, Community-Centered*

**TODAY! Sunday (March 26)**

» 9:15 AM—Sunday School

» 10:30 AM—Worship Service

**Wednesday, March 29**

» 7:07 PM—Youth Group



**COMING  
EVENTS**

**April 1**—Serve brownies and ice cream at FMC Talent event

**April 8**—Serve at MCC Sale “Serving of the Multitude”

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

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

**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 painting the new shed, painting the 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.

**Congregational Ministry in the Face of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence** - On April 29, Western District Conference is sponsoring a workshop on how congregational leaders can respond when abuse takes place that affects the broader congregation. Kathryn Goering Reid, a credentialed minister and Executive Director of Family Abuse Center, Waco, TX, will be our seminar leader. The workshop takes place at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS, 8:00 am-3:30 pm. Together we will look at models that have worked in some congregations and suggest actions that will help a congregation work through these complex situations. For more information, see [mennowdc.org/congregational-ministry-in-the-face-of-sexual-abuse-and-domestic-violence/](http://mennowdc.org/congregational-ministry-in-the-face-of-sexual-abuse-and-domestic-violence/). **Our congregation will pay the registration fee that covers attendance for anyone from the congregation.** Please consider participating, and then let Anita Kehr know **by April 16** if you plan to attend.

### Community Announcements

**Bethel College Concert Choir home concert**—today, 7:00 PM, in Memorial Hall. The choir has toured in Minnesota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri this week, raising money for MCC with its offerings. The home concert offering will go to defray tour expenses.

**Help needed to detail** the donated vehicles for the MCC sale. Help clean windows, vacuum, and wax vehicles. Volunteer days will be the week of March 26. Call Jerry Toews at 620-367-8257 for details.

**Circle of Hope is recruiting** for the next Getting Ahead class for individuals or families who are "sick and tired of being sick and tired" and ready to make a change in their lives in order to move out of poverty. Information night is Tuesday, March 28, with supper beginning at 5:30 PM. Call Peace Connections at 283-0000 if you will be bringing children who require child care.

**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. To volunteer, call Marla Gillmore at 620-921-0428 or bmg@lrmutual.com.

**Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication:** April 12-May 23. Explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging in differences within congregational life in this online, six-week short course offered by the Church Leadership Center of AMBS. The instructor will be Betty Pries, CMed, MTS, Ph.D. candidate. Cost is \$250.00. Scholarship help may be available by contacting June Thomsen, Chair of the Caregiving and Membership Commission.

**Do you enjoy mentoring young adults** and living in community? Service Adventure is looking for unit leaders for our Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Jackson, Mississippi, units. The two-year term begins late July. If you are interested, please contact Susan Nisly at SusanN@MennoniteMission.net or visit MennoniteMission.net.

**Rooted and Grounded: A conference on land and Christian discipleship**—April 20–22 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. Imagine and embody alternative ways of relating to the land that cultivate shalom between human beings, the rest of creation and God. This three-day event will weave together worship, theology, biblical study and praxis. Keynote speakers are Sarah Augustine, Dr. Stanley Saunders and Todd Wynward. Cost: \$100/standard, \$25/students. For more information: ambs.edu/rootedandgrounded.

**Western District Women in Mission** is accepting registrations for Sister Care: Level 2 "Going Deeper" weekend retreat led by Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener. The event is May 5-7, at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. Contact Darlene Powers at dpowers11@cox.net for a registration form and any questions.

**Have you registered for Camp Mennoscah?** Summer youth camps are right around the corner and we want to see you! Bring a friend with you who has never been to camp before, and you will both receive a free t-shirt. Go online to register at campmennoscah.org.

**Name the new cabin!** Camp Mennoscah is now taking suggestions for the name of the new boys' cabin. We would like to have names that connect with our other boys' cabins, which are Horseshoe, Waspnest, Sunrise, and Waldorf. Send your suggestions to office@campmennoscah.org or share them with us in person or at 620-297-3290!

**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). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

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

##### **Attendance:**

- Worship—179; Visitors—8
- Sunday School—166

**Offering:** Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$11,007. The offering for April 2 is for Mennonite Mission Network.

**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.

**Thank you to Hope Ewy** for drawing the front cover of the bulletin this week.

**We appreciate our FMC congregation** who supported us in many ways with prayers, meals, thoughts, and cards during Jerry's hospital stay and recovery. Thank you very much.  
~ Jerry and Delora Decker

#### **How can you help support the GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) Assessment?**

- **Prayer Support:** Pray that our church will learn new ways to support victims and survivors of abuse.
- **Feedback:** Participate in the survey that will come out soon to provide your perspective.
- **Financial Support:** There is a cost for the GRACE assessment, you can designate offerings to the "GRACE Assessment."

**Kingdom sharing:** The Kingdom Sharing today comes from a request by the Church Board to each commission and committee to offer a report once a month on one part of our Mission statement (Faith-Focused, Mission-Minded, Community-Connected). This month's sharing comes from the Property Committee who is reflecting on "Mission-Minded."

# YOUTH GROUP AUCTION

**Youth Group Auction:** Wednesday, April 26,

Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM free meal, followed by auction at 6:45 PM

Proceeds will be used for our mission trip to the DOOR inner city program in Chicago.

Babysitting will be provided.

Free ice cream bars for all!

Harland Unruh, auctioneer

For the auction, we are looking for creative things which people would like to donate. Items of particular interest are the catered meals for groups of 2-10. If you have anything you would like to donate to this auction, please contact Carol Entz. The auction is open to anyone you want to invite. **For those who have already donated items for the auction by way of the earlier flyer, be watching your mailbox for further details.**

**Come and enjoy the fellowship and support the youth!**

**Everyone is welcome!**

