

# Thanksgiving

## Sunday, November 26, 2017

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### Gathering

**Prelude**..... Melody Bontrager, pianist

**Song of gathering:** *Come, ye thankful people*..... \*H 94

**The work of the people (announcements)**  
(Please pass the welcome pads)

**Call to worship** ..... John Good, worship leader

**Opening prayer**

### Praising

**Songs of faith:** *Blessed be the Name*  
*Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*

**Greeting one another; children come forward**

**Children's focus**..... Andrea Regier

**Song of faith:** *We plow the fields and scatter* .....H 96

**Offering:** Local Mission  
**Offertory**

## Hearing God's Word

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-10, 1 John 3:16-18..... Brent Voran, reader

**Sermon:** *ThanksLIVING* .....Pastor Joel Schroeder

### Responding to God's Word

**Song of faith:** *Sing to the Lord of harvest* ..... H 98

**Pastoral prayer**.....Chris Weaver, Caregiving Commission

### Sending

**Song of benediction:** *Praise God from whom* ..... H 119 (A)

**Sending blessing**

**Postlude**

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\*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book \*\*CS denotes Companion Songbook  
Chorister: Paul Schrag; Worship Music: Joey Menninga  
Childcare: Stephanie Weaver, Sarah Koehn  
Ushers: Alan Entz, Ryan Nye, Jan Groves, Wenda Black  
Audio Tech: Ryan Koehn Video/Lighting Tech: Eric Murphy  
Visuals: Cindy Unruh

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**OUR VISION**—Together in Christ: rooted deeply, reaching widely, loving well  
**OUR MISSION**—With Jesus as our center, we are called to be:

- **Faith-Focused**
- **Mission-Minded**
- **Community-Connected**



# SR. HIGH YOUTH

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

**NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY - Sunday, Nov. 26**

**YOUTH GROUP - Wednesday, Nov. 29 @ 7:07 PM**

**S.A.L.T. - Sunday, Dec. 3 @ 12 noon**



**Looking for a Messiah?** Children's Christmas Eve practices will be on Wednesdays, December 6, 13 and 20, 6:30-8:00 PM. This is for ages K-5 only. Please meet in the sanctuary. Each Sunday morning during class time (10:05-10:15 AM) beginning December 3 and going through December 17, the children will meet in room 316 to learn songs as well. They will be escorted back to their regular classroom for pick up by parents. Dress rehearsal with the choir will be December 20, 6:30 PM. The program is December 24, 7:00 PM, with children meeting in the basement at 6:30 PM. If you have any questions, please call or email Cora Voran.

## Community Announcements

**Are you looking to do** "something different" this holiday season? Consider opening your heart and home to an International Student! Hesston College has several students from other countries who need someplace 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 15 to January 9. 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 Support, at 620-327-8210 or carlota.ponds@hesston.edu.

**The Regier Art Gallery at Bethel College** features the recent major project: "7 x 7: Laments for an Age of Sexualized Power" by Jerry Holsopple. The art gallery is located in the Luyken Fine Arts Center, and his work will be on display until December 7.

**All area churches are 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 December 1 and 2. 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](http://dyckarboretum.org) or at the Arboretum office for \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12.

**The fourth concert** of the 2017-18 Prairie Window Concert Series, featuring The Honey Dewdrops, will be on Sunday, December 3, 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and good food in a prairie garden setting. Tickets: \$20 adults/\$10 kids, plus tax. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount. Purchase tickets online or call 620-327-8127 to reserve your seats.

**Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers**—Sunday, December 3, 3:00 PM at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue in Newton. The program will include Treble Clef Chorus, the Hearts 4 Him Men's Ensemble, Newton Community Children's Choir, and Sue Swender playing bells together with Joan Wulf on piano/organ. A freewill offering will be taken for the Treble Clef Scholarship Fund. All are invited.

**Spread cozy, colorful warmth around** the world! All you have to do is tie knots! Mennonite Central Committee has a generous number of comforter tops, and now **we need your help tying them!** MCC has paired tops and backs that are ready to be tied, and we are inviting you or your church group to pick some up (or we can ship them to you)! If you are interested, please either stop by the MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton, or contact Kate Mast at [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org), or 316-283-2720. We ask that you provide the batting and the crochet tying thread if possible. Thank you in advance for helping to spread warmth and love to our brothers and sisters around the world!

**Many people do their Christmas shopping** at the Newton Et Cetera Shop! Please bring us your clean, gently-used toys, shoes, jewelry and children's coats. Your donated items might end up as cherished gifts under someone's Christmas tree! Support MCC Thrift Shops because you care . . . about your family, your community, and beyond. Thank you!

**We need your help!** Camp Mennoscah is seeking volunteers to help prepare the kitchen for renovations beginning Saturday, December 2, and continuing Monday-Saturday, **December 4-9**, until the kitchen is completely gutted. Both women and men are welcome to come out and help, and we will have a variety of tasks to complete. All work will be inside, so don't worry about cold temperatures! If you wish to volunteer multiple days, that's great! We can arrange lodging and meals for you. Carpooling to camp may be available on

some or all of the days. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Yoder at 316-284-3890 (call or text), [jdyoder@cox.net](mailto:jdyoder@cox.net), or Camp Mennoscah at [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org), 620-297-3290. Bring a friend, or bring multiple friends! Thank you for considering this opportunity!

**Five Places of Christmas—Saturday, December 2, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM.** Bethel College Women's Association offers the rare chance to see the decorated main floor of Goerz House, traditionally the president's residence, with baked goods, home-made candy (by the pound) and Bethel gift items for sale. Kauffman Museum offers free admission (including the special exhibit "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War"), refreshments, sale items in the museum store, and Karen Bauman Schlabaugh playing Christmas music at 3:00 PM on the historic Teschemacher-Deknatel-van der Smissen parlor organ.

**Getting ready to retire?** Everence® Financial will present an informational seminar to help you make informed decisions. *Retirement income strategy* will help you think through your retirement income and expenses, discuss risks that can impact your savings, and strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. It is offered on December 4, at Everence Financial Advisors, 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. To reserve your spot, contact Michelle Ramer at [michelle.ramer@everence.com](mailto:michelle.ramer@everence.com), (316) 283-3800, or (877) 467-7294.

**Nurture children's faith at home** this Advent and Christmas through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at [anabaptistfaithformation.org/faitH-at-home](http://anabaptistfaithformation.org/faitH-at-home), and click on the link under Advent Family Worship. For use between December 3 and January 6, it includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together.

**Register now for the Year of Evangelism Kick Off:** Anabaptist Witness, January 19-20, 2018. Reconnect ancient spiritual practices, social justice, and authentic Anabaptist evangelism for today. See the poster on the bulletin boards. Find a schedule and more information about this exciting workshop for church groups and individuals at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>. Registration is \$30/person or \$25/person if four or more people from the same congregation attend. Contact Anita Kehr if you're interested.

**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 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!

**"Meet the Congregation"** displays now feature Dennis and Diane Flickner (Court Area display case); Larry, Carol, Isaac and Amanda Entz (Library display case); and Karen Regier, George and Crystal Ray and family (Court Area display case). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

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

##### **Attendance:**

- Worship—199 Visitors—13
- Sunday School—150

**Offering:** Last week's offering for Local Missions Fund was \$5,306. The offering for December 3 is for Western District Conference.

**Special thanks to our** church family for all the cards and attendance at our 70th anniversary celebration. God bless you all! ~Paul and Fern Koehn

**In an effort to continue to** make FMC a safe and secure place for everyone and as we are attentive to our culture, we are asking all groups and persons using the FMC building to keep the doors locked at all times. If you unlock the doors for a meeting, please ask someone to be physically present to monitor who enters the building. Please lock the door once your activity or meeting begins. Thank you!

**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, 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. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may write a check to "Harvest of Love" and place it in the offering. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!