

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

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Gathering

Gathering song: *Comfort, comfort, O my people* *H 176

Welcome and the work of the people (announcements)

Prelude: *Oh, come, Emmanuel* Wilbur Held Amanda Rempel, organist

Lighting the Advent candle..... Andrew Simmons and Wyatt Riley

Call to worship and prayer Carol Entz, worship leader

Praising

Songs of faith: *Hark! the glad sound!*.....H 184

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming.....H 211

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Peter Wintermote

Choral anthem: *Emmanuel soon will appear* by Besig and Price

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory: *Comfort, comfort these my people* Michael Burkhardt

(Please pass the welcome pads)

Choral anthem: *Is there room?* arr. Sterling

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a

Sermon: *Locating Messiah* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Song of response: *O little town of Bethlehem* H 191

Pastoral prayer Pastor Joel Schroeder

Sending

Sending song: *Fling wide the door, unbar the gate* H 186

Blessing

Postlude: *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates* Richard Hudson

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

Chorister: Pastor Kay Schroeder; Musicians: Jyl Ewy, choir accompanist

Childcare: Stephanie Weaver, Lynette Erb, Brooklynn Black

Ushers: Bob Schmidt, Brian Walker, Heath Kerr, Donnie Kingsley

Audio Tech: Joey Menninga

Video/Lighting Tech: Tyler Shelly

Visuals: Carol Hiebert

Property Committee: Alan Entz

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

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 9—Advent 2: *The Witness of the Prophets*—
Micah 5:2-5a

- 7:45 AM Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 4:04 PM Youth Group Bible Study

Tuesday, December 11

- 6:30 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission—Cindy Unruh's home

Wednesday, December 12

- 6:30 PM Christmas Eve rehearsal
- 7:02 PM Youth Group
- 7:15 PM Choir

Thursday, December 13

- 7:00 PM Church Board

Sunday, December 16—Advent 3: *The Witness of Creation*—Luke 2:1-4

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 6:00 PM Jr. High Christmas Party—FH

Upcoming Worship Services

- December 23—Advent 4: *Witness the Birth*—Luke 2:4-7
9:30 AM Brunch—FH—No Sunday School
- December 30—First Sunday after Christmas: *Witnesses from Heaven and Earth*—Luke 2:8-18, 20

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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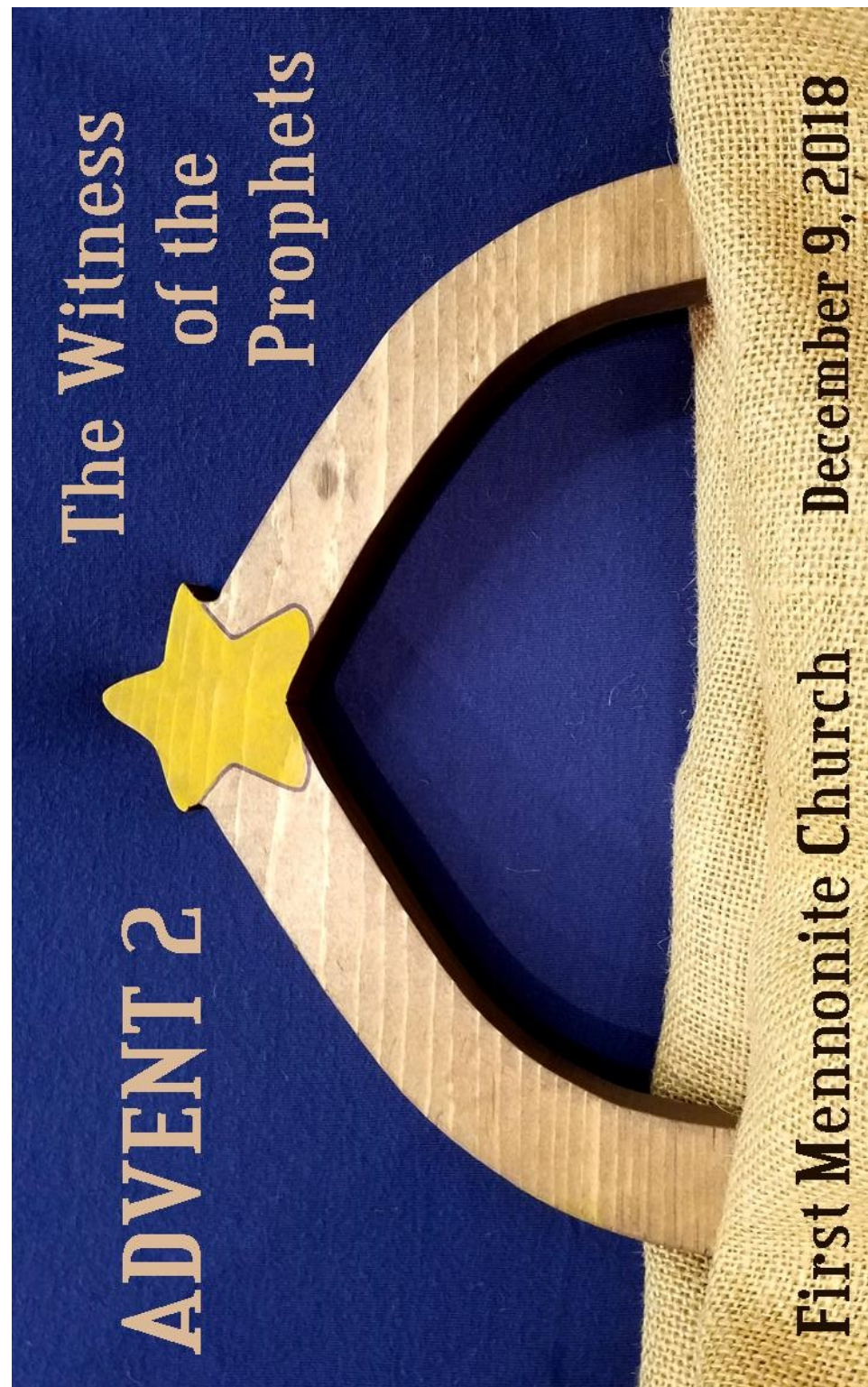
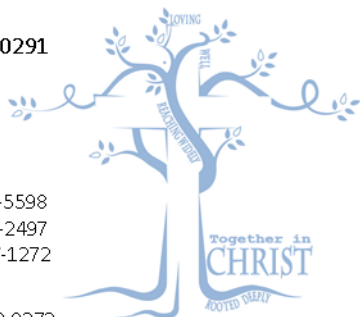
Website: www.firstmennonitenewton.org

Pastoral Team

- Anita Kehr, Pastor.....316-283-5598
- Joel Schroeder, Pastor of Missional Ministries.....316-215-2497
- Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation.....316-217-1272

Administrative Assistant

- Tracy Kerr.....316-283-0273



SR. HIGH YOUTH

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



Hi-C focus 4 December = "CHRIST"

Sunday, December 9 (TODAY) @ 4:04 pm — Bible Study
at the home of Miss Lia Groves (Valley Center—carpooling
from east (gravel) parking lot at 3:33 pm)!

Wednesday, December 12 @ 7:02 pm—Youth Group



Catechism 2019 has begun! Please pray for Emily Brandt, Derek Entz, Madelynn Hamm, Anna Harder, Payton Hiebert, along with Pastors Anita and Joel during this time of faith exploration.

YOU'RE INVITED (or more accurately CHALLENGED) to participate in the **NT CRISPR Challenge 44.4** along with the FMC senior high youth. "NT" is the New Testament. "CRISPR" is a technique that alters DNA. "44.4" is how many verses you will average when you read the entire New Testament in six months (December '18-May '19). Weekly scriptures will be provided on Facebook and in the bulletin. Monthly outlines are available in the office. Let the challenge begin! December 5-Matt. 1:1-2:18; December 6-Matt. 2:19-4:25; December 7-Matt. 5:1-42; December 8-Matt. 5:43-7:6; December 9-Matt. 7:7-8:27; December 10-Matt. 8:28-9:38; December 11-Matt. 10:1-10:42; December 12-Matt. 11:1-12:8

Breakfast brunch—Sunday, December 23, 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and juice will be provided by the Nurture Commission. Please bring a breakfast item to share with others and join us for fellowship and good food. There will be **no Sunday School** on this day.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve the Harvey County Homeless Shelter is December 26-January 1. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner at 316-284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

Nurture Commission is looking for a few more people to come play with our youngest children! We are looking for an additional 1-2 people to help with childcare during the church service for our kiddos ages 2-5. You would be one of 2 adults with a junior high helper. We also need people to help care for our babies in the nursery, preferably during Sunday School and church, once a month. You must be Safe Sanctuary certified and love to play with young children! Please contact Stephanie Weaver if you are willing to help or have more questions!

Sunday School opportunity! Starting January 6, the Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission will lead a 6-week Sunday school class on Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, a curriculum from MCC. More details to come soon!

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, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal (of any kind), peanut butter, jelly, 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. So far, we've donated 224 pounds. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

Community Announcements

Night in the Barn—presented by Tabor Mennonite Church from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, **today**. Please note the new location at Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 E 70th, Newton—just off of K-15 between Newton and Goessel). Come and interact with the characters, animals, sights and sounds of this timeless tale. Enjoy this walking tour of the Nativity with family and friends. The suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and snack.

Today at Bethel College—33rd annual Lighting of the Green, 8:00 PM. Children are welcome. Reception to follow in the Cafeteria.

The Olson Instrumental Music Scholarship Holiday Home Tour will be on Sunday, December 9. Four homes will be decorated for the season, and local musicians will be playing. Proceeds from donation sales are used to help high school students with the cost of private instrumental music lessons. Reservations for the home tour are on sale at Prairie Harvest. Dr. Bonnie Tandoc, Brad and Becky Hay Cooper, Daryl and Inga Belnap, and the Lincoln Park Apartments are places on the tour. Our congratulations to **Jakob Graber, Josh Kennell and Eli Regier** who are the recipients of this year's 2018-2019 music scholarship.

Bethel College's peacebuilding institute, KIPCOR, has seen a recent uptick in churches requesting help in resolving various conflicts. Because our own resources are limited, we're offering an opportunity for congregations to help address this need themselves—KIPCOR's semi-regular training course "Managing Differences within Faith Communities." The two-day course runs January 3-4, 2019, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM, at KIPCOR's North Newton office. Lead instructor is Sharon Kniss, KIPCOR director of education and training. Cost is \$300 per person, or \$250 with a non-refundable deposit of \$75 made by December 12. For congregations who send three or more people, the cost is \$200 per person with a \$225 deposit made by December 12. **Please register soon so we'll know if we have the numbers to run the course.** Online registration is at kipcor.org (Managing Differences within Faith Communities link), or call KIPCOR at 316-284-5217.

Nurture children's faith at home this Advent and Christmas through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at AnabaptistFaithFormation.org with daily scriptures, songs, activities and questions to ponder together.

Volunteers are needed from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Eureka, Kansas. We will be roofing and completing exterior repairs. Tools and lunch will be provided. Work days are scheduled for: December 14 and 15, December 21 and 22, December 28 and 29 and January 4 and 5. **Please contact Jordan Miller** for more details and to arrange transportation from the Newton area. Call, text or email jordanmiller795@gmail.com or 316-217-4570.

You're invited to the annual MCC Christmas Soiree at MCC in North Newton on Thursday, December 13, 5:00-7:00 PM. Join us for this holiday party to enjoy festive food and fellowship! We'll pause at 6:00 PM to hear from current and past MCC volunteers about Christmas experiences they've had around the world. Everyone is welcome for this come and go holiday event. MCC is located at 121 E. 30th in North Newton. Call us with questions, 283-2720.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway for its 51st year. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 17, but it's not a deadline. It's an early record date so music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact **Donnie Kingsley** at 316-773-8044 or email at dl_jr@cox.net. The 2019 concert schedule is: April 7—Tabor College Richert Auditorium in Hillsboro, KS at 7:00 PM; April 14—Bethel College Memorial Hall in North Newton, KS at 7:00 PM.

MC USA wants to hear from you! Visit mennoniteusa.org/jf to find the Pathways Study Guide and complete the Journey Forward Feedback Survey **by December 31**. Available in English and Spanish.

The Neuf Memorial Run—The Neuf 9K and 2-mile run returns to the campus of Bethel College on January 12, 2019 to honor the memory of Russ Neufeld, a former MC USA and Hesston College employee. The race will start at 10:00 AM, outside of Mojo's Coffee Shop on the campus of Bethel College, North Newton. The Neuf will raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Russ Neufeld memorial scholarship at Hesston College. Register and read other details about the race at runtheneuf.neuf.ca. We would love to have you join us for this fun community event!

Volunteer with SWAP: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also find the latest newsletter at mcc.org/media/resources/8302.

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!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

•Worship—220 Visitors—10 Sunday School—171

Offering: Last week's offering for Western District was \$1,111 and Local Mission was \$4,840. The offering for December 16 is for Local Mission.

Receiving or has received care—Kathleen Neff, Via Christi St. Francis Hospital; Irene Schmidt, NMC; Anna Marie Harder, NMC (transferred to Diversicare of Sedgwick); Pat Litsey, Wesley Woodlawn Hospital.

We want to thank all of you who shared your life story with the congregation through the church showcases. We have now completed that project. At this time of year we think of the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherds and angels. With this in mind, we have asked you to help us with putting nativity sets in the showcases. For the month of December you will be able to view the nativity sets which a number of you have contributed. In January, Ruth Abrahams has agreed to help us portray the activities of the younger Sunday school classes. In February, Ron Dietzel will present something of our church history. If any of you have ideas for the showcases, please contact Jerry and Delora Decker, John and Janice Good, or Dewayne and Betty Pauls.

From the "Conversations along the Way": Notes from the conversation that took place on Wednesday evening, November 28, are posted on the east side of the fellowship hall and will remain there for several weeks. You are invited to review them, especially if you were not able to attend that gathering.

Calling all singers! Come join the choir for the Christmas season! Attend the next two rehearsals on Wednesday nights 7:15-8:15 pm in the choir loft, and you are qualified to sing! Questions? Contact Pastor Kay (kays@firstmennonitenewton.org.)

Christmas Eve rehearsals for the children's Christmas Eve program will be December 12, 6:30-7:15 PM, with the dress rehearsal on December 19, 6:30-7:30 PM. This is for children who are in grades K-6. Please meet in the sanctuary. We will also be practicing our songs at the end of the Sunday School hour in December so please come! The theme for this year's program is *Silent Night, Holy Night*. Please call or email Cora Voran with questions.