

Blessed Hunger, Holy Feast: God Gathers Us Together in Safe Shelter

Gathering

Gathering song: *Holy, holy, holy*.....*H 120

Welcome and the work of the people (announcements)

Opening words:Casson Schmidt, worship leader

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek you.

People: **Our souls thirst for you
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation—
we shall not be afraid.

People: **We will wait for the Lord, and take courage,
for we will see God's goodness.**

All: **O God, you satisfy our souls as with a rich feast.
In the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy, and you
uphold us.** (based on Psalm 63 and 91)

CenteringDonna Stucky, organist/pianist

Prayer

Praising

Songs of faith: *Immortal, invisible, God only wise*..... H 70
A wonderful Savior Is Jesus..... H 598

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Sheralyn Goering

Song of faith: *In the rifted Rock I'm resting*..... H 526

Sharing faith storiesBarbara Claassen, Sam Claassen, Carol Goering

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory

(Please pass the welcome pads)

Offering response: *Praise God from whom* (stanza A)..... H 119

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: *Holy Mercy* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Confession and reconciliation

Song of faith: *I am weak and I need thy strength* H 553

Pastoral prayer.....June Thomsen, Caregiving Commission

Sending

Sending song: *Lead me, Lord*..... H 538

Sending words

Postlude

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

Chorister: Daryl Unruh

Childcare: Greg or Laura Myers, Amanda Menninga, Evelyn Gaertner

Nurse: Shirley Dietzel, Kathleen Andres, Christa or Monte Hiebert

Ushers: Gus Dorado, Dave Goering, Mike Garcia, Andrea Regier

Audio Tech: Tim Regier

Video/Lighting Tech: Alex Goering

Visuals: Cindy Unruh

Property Committee: Jordan Miller

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 17—2nd Sunday of Lent: God Gathers Us Together in Safe Shelter

Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, March 18

- 7:00 PM Property Committee

Tuesday, March 19

- 7:00 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission

Wednesday, March 20

- 6:00 PM Choir
- 6:32 PM Youth Group
- 7:00 PM Communication Skills for Tense Times—KIPCOR Training—FH

Thursday, March 21

- 7:00 PM Church Board

Sunday, March 24—3rd Sunday of Lent: God pours out life-giving drink

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service

Upcoming Worship Services

March 31—4th Sunday of Lent: Willi Hugo Perez, guest preacher from SEMILLA, Guatemala

April 7—Membership Service Celebration with Woven (Bethel College Women's Acapella Group). Potluck lunch to follow.

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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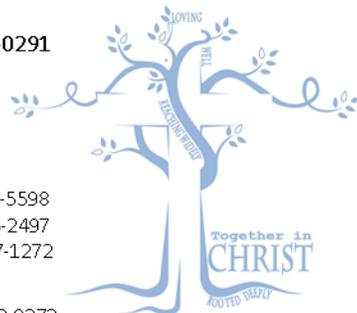
Website: www.firstmennonitenewton.org

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



Ash Wednesday Cross by Jan Richardson

Focus statement: Lent 2, March 17, 2019

When dark fear overwhelms us, God gathers us together in safe shelter.
We seek the light of God's face.

First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS
March 17, 2019

SR. HIGH YOUTH March Focus = GOD'S PEACE



Sunday (3/17) @ 9:15 am—Sunday School

Wednesday (3/20) @ 6:32 pm—PIZZA + MOVIE

Sunday (3/24) @ 4:04 pm—Bible Study

**COMING
EVENTS**

▶▶ May 1—Youth Group Auction Fundraiser

▶▶ July 2-6—MENNONITE YOUTH CONVENTION (Kansas City)



Communication Skills for Tense Times: The Nurture Commission is hosting a training by KIPCOR (Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution) to help us learn how to communicate well with each other, especially when there are hard challenges. The training takes place on **Wednesday, March 20, 7:00-8:30 PM.**

Over the last several 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. Last year, we supported about 40 students. 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!

A support group for survivors of sexual abuse will meet on Tuesday, March 19. The meeting is guided by a professional therapist. If you are a primary survivor of sexual abuse you are welcome. For information about time and location call June Thomsen at 316-239-8747.

College scholarship money is available—If during the 2019-2020 school year you will be attending (or are considering) a Mennonite college or university for undergraduate study or a Mennonite seminary, you are invited to apply for scholarship funds from FMC. **By no later than Sunday, April 14,** 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 Gathering Area.

Youth Group Auction—Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 PM. There is laughter and anticipation for all! If you have an item for the auction, please talk to me or leave it in the church office, labeled "Youth Auction." The proceeds are for our summer youth trip to the Mennonite Convention in Kansas City. Carol Entz, coordinator 283-0525

Camp Mennoscah time is approaching! First Mennonite will again be offering scholarships of \$100 per student for children in both our congregation and in Casa Betania. Sign-up sheets for scholarships are now in the Court Area. Please sign your child up on the correct camp week, along with parent/guardian names. There is a

discount of \$10 if students sign up and pay in full by April 1. Please talk to Stephanie Weaver of the Nurture Commission with any questions.

NT CRISPR Challenge 44.4 (Week 15)—**March 17** Acts 21:1-40; **March 18** Acts 22:1-23:11; **March 19** Acts 23:12-24:27; **March 20** Acts 25:1-26:32; **March 21** Acts 27:1-44; **March 22** Acts 28:1-31; **March 23** Romans 1:1-2:16. March calendars are available in the Church Office.

During the Sunday school hour on March 31 the Life Sharing class will host Willi Hugo Pérez in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us to learn more about the ministry of the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary (SEMILLA), where Willi Hugo serves as director. SEMILLA is a Mennonite Mission Network partner serving 12 different Anabaptist conferences from Mexico to Panama. The presentation will include a SEMILLA video in which Willi Hugo shares life experiences that called him to a ministry of hope, as well as the birth of SEMILLA in Guatemala. Clarence and Amanda Rempel participated in a SEMILLA learning tour last fall.

Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania is inviting sister churches to a special farewell service for Pastor Jaime Cázares, Suhelen and their family at 4:00 PM, Sunday, March 31. A meal will be served following the service. Those who wish to bring something may bring salads, fruit or dessert to share. Pastor Jaime will be focusing his pastoral ministry with the Aposento Alto church in Wichita, while continuing to live in Newton.

DELEGATES NEEDED: There are two opportunities to serve as a delegate for FMC this summer. The Mennonite Church USA Conference will be held in Kansas City on July 2-6, 2019, and the WDC Annual Assembly will be at Bethel College on July 26-27. If you are planning on attending either or both of these meetings and would be willing to serve as a delegate, please contact Janice Good.

Community Announcements

We will be putting in the dam at Camp Mennoscah today at 2:00 PM. Gather at the maintenance shed with appropriate helping or spectating clothing! If we're not there, check by the dam. Whatever the weather, we'll be there (unless deemed unsafe).

Circle of Hope—At Circle of Hope, Habitat for Humanity will be making a presentation on Tuesday, March 19. Meal will be served at 5:30 PM at First United Methodist Church at 801 North Main Street; donations accepted. Presentation begins at 6:30 PM. For more information, please call Peace Connections at 284-0000.

All women are invited to the Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) Spring Supper on Thursday, March 21, at First Mennonite Church in McPherson. The speaker will be Sheryl Wilson, Executive Director of KIPCOR. See flyer on the bulletin boards for more information including how to RSVP.

The Bethel College Concert Choir Home Concert will be on Sunday, March 24, 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall.

Retirees Retreat at Camp Mennoscah, April 22-24! We can't wait to see retirees of all ages for a time of renewal with sessions on everything from trips to Central America and Ukraine to Reader's Theater and a steel drum concert. There is time to take a break or go for a walk or have coffee and conversation. Singing and Bible studies included! Email office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 for a brochure. Register online at campmennoscah.org! Bring friends!

Graduate Students in Healthcare Professions: Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) offers educational grants for Anabaptist students to learn and serve in cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries. Deadline for the 2019-20 academic year is May 15, 2019. For details and application form, see mennohealth.org/student_term/, info@mennohealth.org, or call 1-888-406-3643.

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full time Donor Relations Representative to represent Mission Network, strengthen relationships with Mennonite Church USA constituents, and cultivate and solicit charitable support for Mission Network purposes. Duties may include some responsibilities in communication. Candidates should bring a passion to connect with God's reconciling mission to the world, the ability to relate well to people, listen perceptively, and elicit participation. Ability and willingness to travel is a must. Experience in fundraising is an asset. Position available immediately. Send resume and cover letter to Linda Krueger, Human Resources Coordinator at LindaK@MennoniteMission.net. You can read the position description at MennoniteMission.net.

Nancy Sprowell Geise, author of the biography, *Auschwitz #34207: The Joe Rubinstein Story*, will share about the Holocaust survivor's story and her relationship with him on Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. A reception and chance to meet the author will follow the presentation.

Work and Play Day at Camp Mennoscah coming soon! Our first Work and Play Day of the year is April 27. We'll start work projects at 8:30 AM and end at 2:30 PM, just in time for you to spend the rest of the afternoon playing. A simple lunch will be served. Please register online at campmennoscah.org or call us at 620-297-3290 to let us know you're coming! All ages invited; those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

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

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—177; Sunday School—134; Visitors—12

Offering: The offering for Local Mission on March 10 was \$14,263. The offering for March 24 is for Local Mission.

Receiving or has received care—Chuck Regier, Wesley Hospital/NMC

Irene Schmidt's memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 21, 3:00 PM at Kidron Bethel.

The buckets will be passed today 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 12 and 13.

Today we continue to hear the faith stories of persons who are preparing to become formal members of First Mennonite Church. The membership service will be on April 7. Please give thanks for the gift of these persons' presence here.

FMC's Story in Photos—What are the origins of First Mennonite in Newton? Within the 140-year existence of the congregation, what challenges have occurred? What highlights? Get familiar with FMC's story by viewing the photo exhibit which is now in the display cabinets. Start at the cabinet outside the Church Office, go to the two corner units and then finish at cabinet outside the Library. (Thanks to Ron Dietzel for this display.)

Pastors Kay and Joel are on vacation Wednesday through Sunday (March 13-17).

Thank you for your continuing generosity in support of the Caring Fund, which helps both folks of this congregation and the wider community with unusual expenses. The fund is low at this point, so your support is needed.

~The Caregiving and Membership Commission

The Allies group, which supports people with various sexual identities and their families and friends, will be meeting today, 3:00 PM in Room 224. We will be watching a video called *The Listening Church*.