

Our Wait Begins December 1, 2019

Gathering

Gathering song: *Blessed Jesus, at your word* *H 13

Welcome and the work of the people (announcements)

Opening words

Centering music: *Noel* by Daquin

Prayer Nancy Waltner

One: Oh God, our God, we cry out to you.

**Many: Asking, will your kingdom of peace be established
on this broken earth?**

One: Are you coming to intervene, to make whole your divided
creation?

All: God, what are you waiting for?

Praising

Songs of faith: *Longing for light*
We come

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Peter Wintermote

Advent song: *Hope is a candle*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Reading based on Isaiah 2:1-5

One: The word of the Lord has been established for us.

Many: Come, let us walk in the word of the Lord.

One: The Lord has come to teach us God's ways.

Many: Come, let us walk in the way of the Lord.

One: The Lord has come to bring peace to all nations.

All: Come, let us walk in the peace of the Lord.

Offering: Western District Conference

Offertory: *All who are thirsty*

(Please pass the welcome pads)

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

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44; Romans 13:11-14

Sermon: *Put on Christ* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Song of faith: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* H 178

Prayers of the church Eric Murphy, Caregiving Commission

Sending

Sending song: *O come, O come, Immanuel*

Benediction

Postlude

*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book **CS denotes Companion Songbook
Chorister: Daryl Unruh; Musicians: Amanda Entz—organist/pianist; Ben Regier, Ken Regier,
Austin Regier, Dwayne Abrahams—worship band
Childcare: Pamela Garcia, Chuck Regier, Hope Ewy
Nursery: Shirley Dietzel, Kathleen Andres, Michelle Regier
Ushers: Rick Ortman, Rod Schmidt, John Good, Janice Good
Audio Tech: Ryan Goertzen-Regier Video/Lighting Tech: Eugene Waltner
Visuals: Cindy Unruh Property Committee: Kevin Hamm

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent—*Our wait begins*

- 7:45 AM Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 1:30 PM Messiah Practice—Sanctuary

Monday, December 2

- 2:00 PM Pictorial Directory Pictures

Tuesday, December 3

- 2:00 PM Pictorial Directory Pictures

Wednesday, December 4

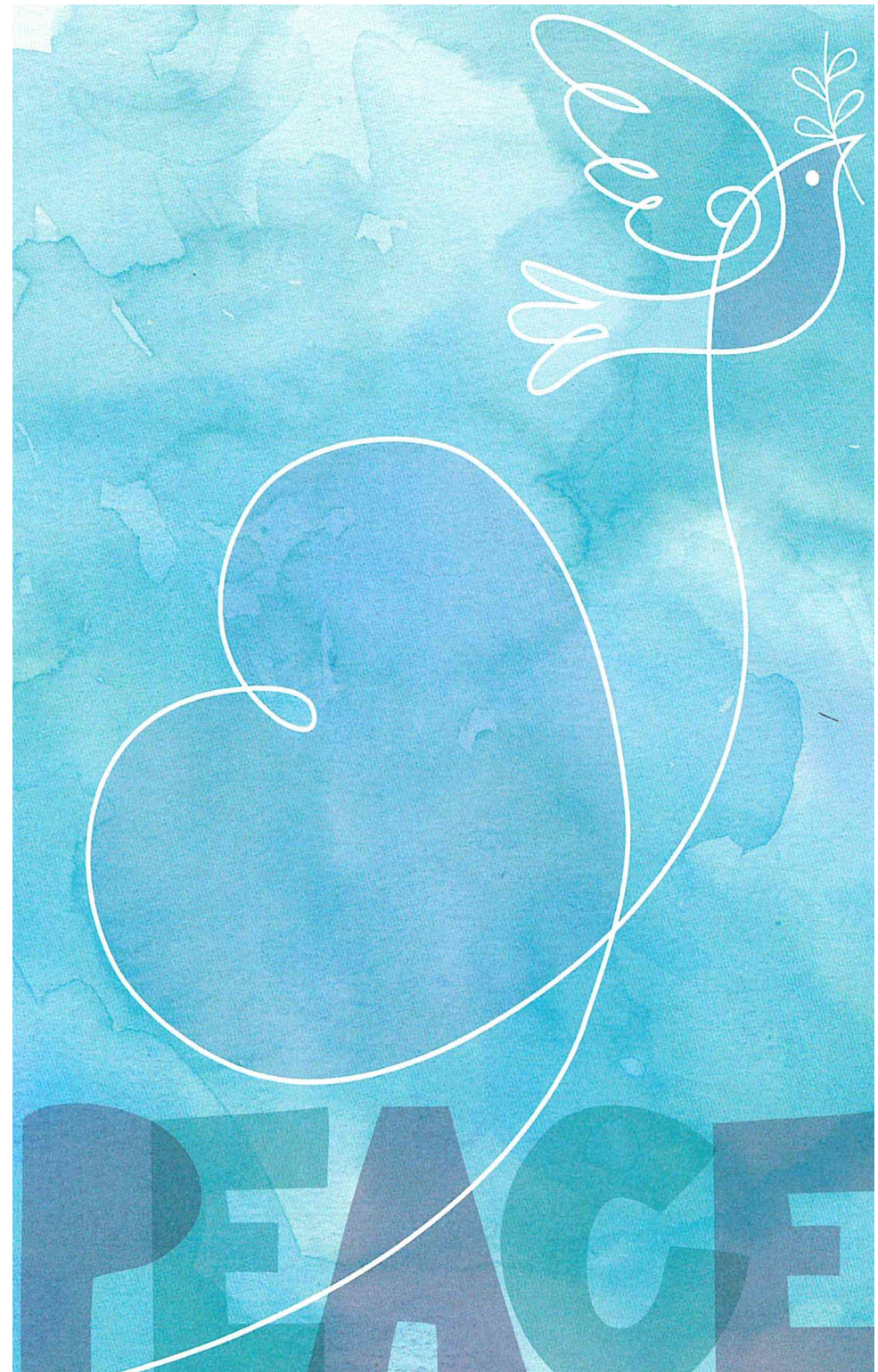
- 2:00 PM Pictorial Directory Pictures
- 6:30 PM Children's Christmas Eve practice
- 6:33 PM Youth Council
- 7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent—*Getting ready while we wait*

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Potluck—FH
- 1:30 PM Messiah Practice—Sanctuary

Upcoming Worship Services

- December 15—Third Sunday of Advent—*Kept waiting by fear*
- December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent—*Worth the wait*
- December 29—First Sunday after Christmas—*Time to get a move on*



SR. HIGH YOUTH



- **Youth Council**—Wednesday, December 4, Youth room with supper at 6:33 PM. Defining our purpose and planning for youth group in December and beyond!
- **Bible Study**—Sunday, December 8, 4:04 PM. (Host?) Worship—Bible Study—Faspa—Fellowship.
- **MCC Pizza Party**—Wednesday, December 11, 6:30-8:30 PM at the MCC Center in North Newton- Pizza, Immigration Kit packing, Learn about SALT.

Items needed for MCC kits! Central States still needs items to complete immigration detainee care kits, which provide clothing and hygiene products to people released from immigration detention centers. Items needed: New sweatpants and sweatshirts in S, M, L (men's and women's), adult-sized backpacks or small duffle bags, toothpaste—2.7-3.5 oz, and pre-moistened bath wipes. **Today is the last day for collecting these items.** Questions? Ask Miriam Goertzen-Regier, another member of the Outreach Commission, or learn more at mcc.org/stories/caring-strangers-through-new-kits-partnerships.

With the holidays quickly approaching, plans are being made for our Christmas Eve service at First Mennonite Church. Our church children from Kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to practice on **Wednesday evenings (December 4, 11, 18), at 6:30-7:15 PM.** During the first three Sundays in December, the children will also be learning the songs during the last 10-15 minutes of the Sunday School hour. We would love to have as many children as possible at practice to prepare to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on Christmas Eve.

Men's Advent Chorus—Men, if you enjoy singing, here is your invitation to join us for special music during the service on December 15. Greg Bontrager will lead us in what's bound to be a joy once again! Practice will be at **8:00 PM on Wednesday, December 11** (after the Christmas Eve service practice). Contact Jyl Ewy or Greg Bontrager with questions.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is December 11-17. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner at 316-284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

Come to the worshipful presentation of parts of Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM, in our own FMC sanctuary. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you in celebrating Jesus Christ through scripture and song. An offering will be taken to cover expenses and support New Hope Homeless Shelter. Come and worship!

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 have collected 177 pounds of food and \$250 in donations. Way to go!

Transition information (from the Church Board and Church/Staff Relations Committee): Susan Jantzen will begin as half-time interim pastor of worship and visitation later this month. Search is continuing for quarter-time youth help.

Community Announcements

Treble Clef Christmas Vespers program—today, 2:45 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus Avenue in Newton. The Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble will perform on Friday, December 6, 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM at Dyck Arboretum, 177 W. Hickory, Hesston. Everyone is invited to come!

Kidron Bethel Parkinson's Support Group will meet December 3, 2:00 PM, in Menno Hall. **Dr. Sam Claassen**, a retired internal medicine physician, and Dennis Schmidt will present "How to Have a Successful Doctor Appointment." All are welcome.

All area churches are invited to attend this year's Winter Luminary Walk at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The Luminary Walk will be 5:30-8:00 PM on December 6 and 7. Admission to the event is \$6 for Adults and \$3 for children ages 3 to 12, or advanced tickets can be requested by emailing arboretum@hesston.edu or purchased at the Arboretum office for \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12,

All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas on December 7 at Bethel College Fine Arts Center. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, crafts and poinsettias. Christmas candy, zwieback, peppernuts, poppy seed roll and cinnamon rolls are always great sellers. Please bring your items on Friday, December 6, 1:30-4:30 PM, or on Saturday, 7:00-8:00 AM, in the Fine Arts Center Room 140 which is behind the Box Office. Thank you for your support of Bethel College!

Hesston College Music and Theatre will present a Christmas performance, "Still, Small Voice," on Saturday, December 7, 7:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

Everence will hold an all-inclusive retirement planning workshop on Saturday, December 7, 9:00 -11:30 AM. Topics will include Medicare, Social Security and retirement income planning. The workshop will be presented by Everence staff and

will take place at Everence Financial, 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. Reserve your spot soon by contacting Michelle Ramer at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

Christmas for Volunteers! Camp Mennoscah is hosting a gathering for all who have volunteered this year, last year, or many years ago on December 14 at 2:30 PM. We'll have cookies and snacky items, hot drinks, games.

You are invited to join MC USA staff for "Coffee and Conversation" in the Newton offices (718 N Main St, Newton KS) to hear from Mennonite Mission Network International Service Worker, Deb Byler, on Monday, December 16, 11:00 AM. She will share about the ministries in which she is involved with Kekchi Mennonite women in Guatemala.

All MCC volunteers and alumni are invited to our annual come-and-go MCC Christmas Soiree on Thursday, December 12, 5:00-7:00 PM, at MCC in North Newton. We will have food, Christmas cheer and plenty of time for fellowship. At 6:00 PM, we'll pause for a short program about Christmas around the world from our International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants.

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full-time finance assistant and a half-time recruiter. You can see the positions descriptions at mennonitemission.net under "employment opportunities." To begin the application process for either of these positions, send your resumé to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net or call Linda Krueger, HR Coordinator (574-523-3009) for more information.

Looking for a way to connect with people and engage with Mennonite Central Committee's supporters? We're hiring an Alumni Engagement Coordinator! The person in this salaried position will coordinate the alumni experience and support colleagues in strategic engagement of alumni. Application close date is November 18. For more information and to apply, please visit: serve.mcc.org.

We need your help! Please consider adopting a child or family this holiday season. Sponsors are needed for the Safehope Angel Tree Project. For more information, call 283-0350. The Safehope Angel Tree Project helps families with gifts, clothing, food and personal need items.

Looking for that next great adventure? MCC SALT positions now available! Take chances. Make mistakes. Get messy. Be challenged. Learn some things. Teach some things. Spend a year living somewhere that you never dreamed you'd go...Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a wide variety of positions in fields like education, agriculture, health care, information technology, peace and more! Start now at salt.mcc.org, to find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options and to apply. Application close date 02/15/20.

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 in Room 225. 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—291 Visitors—31; Sunday School—160

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$7,046. The offering for December 8 is for Local Mission.

THANK YOU to all the talented, willing, hard-working folks who came yesterday to gather for breakfast, fellowship together, and decorate for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. A HUGE THANK YOU to Jo and Cal Frye for providing the delicious breakfast!

In Sympathy—Evelyn Pankratz (85) passed away on Thursday, November 21. Her funeral service was held here at FMC on Tuesday, November 25. We extend our condolences to Harvey and the rest of the family.

In Sympathy—Leroy Funk (91), Wendy Funk Schrag's father, passed away on Sunday, November 24. We extend our condolences to Wendy and the rest of the family.

In Sympathy—Stan Goff, Shirley Dietzel's stepfather, passed away on Saturday, November 23. We extend our condolences to Shirley and Ron.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE to participate in the choir for the Messiah presentation on December 15. Come to rehearsal this afternoon at 1:30-3:00 PM! Other questions? Contact Matthew Graber at 605-310-1656 or mgraber2013@gmail.com.

For the next few weeks in the Office Showcase, we will be featuring the Pictorial Directories from 1970 to 2013 that we have had at FMC. The Library Showcase will feature the 125th Anniversary Celebration held in September 2003. Please stop by and take a look.

Picture-taking for the new Pictorial Directory will continue this Monday-Wednesday, December 2-4. Please double check your appointment time and remember that **you need to show up ten minutes early.** We are running a tight schedule and have very little wiggle room, so please make sure you are on time and don't miss your appointment. Please use the south door and head to the basement.