



FIRST
MENNONITE
CHURCH,
NEWTON

FMC CONNECTIONS

Volume 30, Issue 1

January 2020

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—Growing spiritually, anchored in God’s love and faithfulness
- Mission-Minded—Sharing hope and grace through Spirit-inspired, passion-driven faith in action
- Community-Connected—Worshipping together, welcoming, accepting, encouraging, and inviting all to follow Christ.

Discern [dih-surn]

We are coming to the beginning of a new year—another one that will be consequential in the life of First Mennonite Church. Although it is true that each year has consequential moments in it, some have bigger movements of change and opportunity than do others. 2020 will be one of those big years.

So, in this next year to come, there will be regular opportunities for discernment. To discern, according to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary’s first definition, is: “to detect with the eyes or to detect with senses other than vision.” The focus of our congregation’s discerning—or detecting—will be of what is next for us.

Early in 2020, two reviews will take place. One will be of me as pastor, with a term vote scheduled in April. The other will be of our congregation, looking at the whole of who we are now and also what we hope for in the future. Both of these reviews will inform the pastoral search process—including the first step of figuring out what

kind of staff structure and what kind of people we need for who and what we are called to be and do as a congregation.

These are all discernment processes. We will be seeking clarity as we look, as we listen, as we wait, and as we speak. We will be discerning as individuals, and we will be discerning as a congregation. And, because we are a people of faith, the object of our discernment is the call of God to us and the next steps God has for us as we seek to walk into the future faithfully and together.

The discernment process itself is formative. Our looking, listening, waiting, and speaking will shape us as a people. But then acting on what we have discerned is also formative. We will be entering into another season of change and of making space for that change to happen well.

All of this must happen within the context of prayer: not of *listing to God* what we think needs to happen but of *listening to God* for whatever will send our roots down deeper,



Pastor Anita Kehr

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pand the breadth of our reaching out, and increase our love for God, for each other, and for the world. The act of praying is meant to be, in itself, formative. Being in conversation with God should shape us as we pray; it should help us reflect more clearly the character of Christ.

In this year to come, I have high hopes for your participation in our season of looking, listening, waiting, and speaking. I also have high anticipation for the way that God will move among and through us. May we enter this consequential year in faith, expecting to discern and detect each new step ahead.

With thanks for each of you—

Anita Kehr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If you see these people,
wish them a Happy Birthday!

Lia Jing Groves—1/1

Delores Yoder—1/1

Angela Nye—1/2

Tjaden Simmons—1/2

Alan Entz—1/3

Oneta Unruh—1/7

David Shelly—1/8

Michelle Claassen—1/10

Sam Menninga—1/10

Janelle Sybesma—1/15

Judy Murphy—1/17

Don Penner—1/17

John Schmidt—1/17

Justin Black—1/18

Barbara Claassen—1/18

Jyl Ewy—1/19

Ib Thomsen—1/19

Erin Graber—1/20

Kinnick Frey—1/22

Ryan Nye—1/22

Betty Pauls—1/22

Sean Claassen—1/23

Mary Enz—1/23

Kate Jolliff—1/24

Darnell Neff—1/25

Kaitlyn Black—1/26



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Chad & Mary Frey—1/10

	<p>SAVE THE DATE— All Commissions/Committees Retreat on Saturday, February 1</p>
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Thank you

We appreciate your time and work provided in supporting

New Hope Shelter recently, as we seek to help members of our communities who are in need. It has been nice to meet several of you since starting as a New Hope Shelter employee. Please pray for our residents and staff as we continue to move forward.

The following is New Hope's activity during your team's week: Dec. 12 - 17, 2019

- 4 new residents entered the shelter.
- 1 resident left New Hope Shelter.
- 9 of our residents were already employed and 1 gained employment.
- 2 residents receive funds for Disability/Social Security.
- We served 13 single men and 4 single women and 3 family units consisting of single moms and 6 children.
- We also dispensed 6 food boxes to people from the community in need.
- You supported our mission to provide healing and hope by providing 4 evening meals, evening volunteers for 7 nights, and overnight volunteers for 2 nights, totaling 108 hours of service.

Blessings,

Ashli Teel
Shelter Coordinator at
New Hope

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Casa Betania Worship 4PM	6 Worship Commission 4PM	7	8 Youth Group 7PM	9	10	11 Church Board Retreat 8:30 AM- 12 Noon
12 Grocery Shower— FH 10:00 AM Casa Betania Worship 4PM	13	14	15 Youth Group 7PM	16	17	18
19 Casa Betania Worship 4PM	20 Property Committee 7PM	21 Caregiving/ Membership Commission 7PM	22 CFN Starts! 5:30 PM Supper 6:45 PM YG 6:45 PM Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir	23	24	25
26 Casa Betania Worship 4PM	27	28	29 CFN 5:30 PM Supper 6:45 PM YG 6:45 PM Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir	30	31	

All events must be scheduled in the Church Office and cannot be schedule more than six months in advance.

FMC Connections

First Mennonite Church
PO Box 291
429 East First Street
Newton, KS 67114



January 2020

Church Family Nights start back up on
January 22!

Meals start at 5:30 PM

Activities for all ages start at 6:45 PM

Choir will begin at 6:45 PM

The adult Bible study will meet in Room 224 and will be
led by Pastor Anita Kehr.

Invite your friends!

