

Words for the Road...

December 20, 2020

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Prelude

*The People that Walked in Darkness
For Unto Us a Child is Born*
Handel's Messiah

Welcome

June Thomsen, worship leader

Lighting of the Advent candle

Advent Art—Kacie Schmidt
Still, still, still
Salzburg melody/Arr. by Mark Hayes
Donna Stucky

Words for the children

Ken Frey

Scripture reading

Psalm 126 and Luke 2:1-20
June Thomsen

Words for the Road

On the Road to Revelation: Accomplished and Delivered
Kurt Horst, pastor

Song of response

Together
by Nathan Grieser

Piano music

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
by Michael Burkhardt
Donna Stucky

Song

Angels we have heard on high H 197

Prayers for the offering and prayers of the church

Renee Hamm

Sending song

Joy to the world H 318

Sending

June Thomsen

Postlude

Vom Himmel hoch
arr. Michael Bedford
Donna Stucky, organist

**We will be live-streaming our worship beginning at 10:30 AM. You may view it on our webpage (firstmennonitenewton.org), on our Facebook page, YouTube, or at our Vimeo site. Recordings of the service will be available afterwards as well. Thank you to all those who helped to make the new camera system possible. Today, Sarah Koehn, Ryan Koehn and Alex Goering are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Daryl Unruh, leader; Donna Stucky. Thank you to Carol Hiebert for the visual art.*

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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**

Upcoming Worship Services

December 27—*A Brisk Re-telling of God's Grand Story*

January 3—Epiphany and Communion. Pastor Susan preaching.

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Happy Birthday!

Ava Black—December 20
Levi Ewy—December 21
Daniel Regier—December 21
Gordon Flickner—December 23
Zoe Black—December 23
Janessa Garcia—December 24
Monte Hiebert—December 26
James Murphy—December 26

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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Pastoral Team

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Tammy Duvanel Unruh,
Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator
316-207-3472

Administrative Assistant

Tracy Kerr
316-283-0273



First Mennonite Church Newton, KS December 20, 2020



*And so it was, that, while they were
there, the days were accomplished
that she should be delivered.*

~Luke 2:6



The Sunday school children are planning an online, pre-recorded, Christmas Eve program that you can view from home! Expect to receive a special link via email by which you can view the video, available on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM, through the end of December. Note: for the privacy of our youth, this program will be available exclusively through the email link, rather than posting it on our website or Facebook page.



Office hours—Our church office hours will be different. Staff will mostly be working remotely from home. Pastors Kurt, Susan and Tammy will be available by email or by their cell number. Tracy will be in the Church Office on Monday mornings and on Thursday afternoon, and the other days will be working from home. She is always available by email. Tracy will check phone messages left on the church phone each Monday and Thursday. Please feel free to get in contact with one of us if you need anything. We will practice this way until January and then we will reevaluate again.

Kurt: kurth@firstmennonitenewton.org

Susan: susanj@firstmennonitenewton.org

Tammy: tammyduvanelunruh@gmail.com

Tracy: office@firstmennonitenewton.org

Harvest of Love—Throughout December, the Salvation Army invites you to join in our annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our county. The need for canned items is greater than it has been in the past because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. Boxes are available in the Gathering Area and inside the west door by the elevator to collect nonperishable items. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may **write a check to Salvation Army** and place it in the box on the table in the Gathering Area. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

Remember that the Caring Fund is available: In this time of economic disruption, the Caring Fund is available to help you. Please don't hesitate to talk to any of the Caring Fund Committee members if you could use some financial support during this time. Committee members are: Sam Claassen, Ken Fast, Ken Frey, and Bob Schmidt, chair.

Transitional Information: All of the needed forms are complete and on file at Western District Conference. This includes the Congregation Information Form, Pastoral Priorities information, and job description. In addition, the Search Committee has started placing ads in publications with basic information about our positions. If anyone has any names to suggest for WDC to contact, please share with Ron Ratzlaff, Chair of the Search Committee. Other members of the committee are: Wendy Funk Schrag, Don Schmidt, Ken Regier, Keith Knopp, Miriam Goertzen-Regier, Jennie Wintermote, Payton Hiebert, Sean Claassen, Janice Good. Please continue praying for the Search Committee and Church Board as we journey through this process.

Community Announcements

Free resource from MCC: Learning about generosity! Help children learn about generosity with MCC printable worksheets including activities, a story, a craft to make and Christmas gift ideas that benefit global neighbors with colorable greeting cards, find it all at mcc.org/generosity. Explore the full list of Christmas giving options from MCC at mcc.org/christmas.

MCC Comforter Blitz update: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, and batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact Kate at kate-mast@mcc.org, or 316-804-8432.

Bluestem Communities is pleased to announce the "Double Your Impact, Double Your Gift" initiative. Thanks to several generous donors, gifts given between October 1 and December 31, 2020 will be matched dollar for dollar helping to meet the needs of the annual benevolent funds and Covid-19 expenses. We invite you to make a "Double Impact" donation by giving online at bluestemcommunities.org/giving or by calling 316-836-4879. Please designate your gift to Kidron Bethel Village, Schowalter Villa, Bluestem PACE or where it is most needed.

Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful place for family gatherings of whatever size! A variety of facilities fit any number of family groupings. Or maybe you only need a space during the day for walking the trails or playing disc golf. There is plenty of outdoor space! Contact Camp Mennoscah to reserve a time at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org.

A few extra Camp Mennoscah hoodies are available! (Adult sizes only.) Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org. Grab yours before they're gone!

SOOP (Service Opportunities with our Partners) is accepting applications! Use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. Flexibly designed for retirees, families, and adults over 25. Visit MennoniteMission.net/SOOP to learn more!

Youth Venture is accepting applications for summer 2021! Discover and experience the work that God is doing in the world with a team of other young people as you serve, learn, worship, and build relationships. Visit MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture to learn more!

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is hosting the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" through January 17. Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, "Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads," created from the museum's permanent exhibit "Of Land and People." The museum is open 9:30 AM-4:30 PM, Tuesday-Friday; 1:30-4:30 PM; Saturday and Sunday; and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to the "Crossroads" exhibit is free on Saturdays.

The December edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue, we offer a timely prayer for 2020, A Prayer Amidst Disaster, written by an MDS staff member; read how volunteers are improving the space for homeless in Idaho; and be sure to save the date for our virtual MDS Annual Celebration. You can read the issue at <https://conta.cc/3oSOPL6>.



Announcements

Because of the rising concerns about the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Harvey County, a decision was made to **NOT** have in person worship services for the month of December. This decision will be re-evaluated again before the start of January with the hope that we will see a downward trend in active cases in Harvey County. We will continue to live stream the service on Sunday morning as we were before. You can watch the service via our church Facebook page, YouTube, our webpage (firstmennonitenewton.org), or at our Vimeo site beginning at 10:30 AM Sunday morning. Thank you for your understanding. In person worship opportunities are important to us as a church, but we feel we should err on the side of caution at this time. Our health and safety is a concern for all of us.

Christmas Brunch by Zoom today, 9:00 AM—In the midst of the pandemic, Nurture Commission is trying this recent Christmas tradition in a new way. Since we cannot gather in person, please get your breakfast and join others today through Zoom! We will start at 9:00 AM for conversation and fellowship then divide into smaller groups through breakout rooms for more conversation. A Zoom link was sent by email. We hope you will join us for this new way to fellowship with each other.

Our year to date income as of November 30, is \$301,449 and expenses are \$312,228. This means that we have spent \$10,779 more than we have taken in. Our monthly budget for December is approximately \$35,000. We will need approximately \$45,000 to cover our expenses for the year. This is a report of our Local Mission budget and does not include the money received from the government.

~Dewayne Pauls, Treasurer

Offerings can be sent to the church at P. O. Box 291, 429 E. First Street, Newton, KS 67114. There is also an offering plate in the Gathering Area that will be checked daily if you want to drop your gifts off at church. Please mark the designation of your offering. If left unmarked, it will go to Local Mission. For electronic giving, go to the church website firstmennonitenewton.org or contact the church office.

The offering for today and December 27 will be for Local Mission. **All offering donations for 2020 must be turned into the church office by 8:00 AM, Thursday, December 31.**

SAVE THE DATE! All members of Church Board, Commissions, and Committees are invited to a Zoom meeting on Saturday, January 16, 8:30-11:30 AM, for a **BEGINNING 2021** time. This is an important planning start of our year so your participation is appreciated! 2021 will be an important year in the life of FMC with our focus on our search for new pastoral staff so please join us if possible. More information will be coming!