

# On the Road...

## December 6, 2020

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### **Prelude**

*Come Unto Him*

Handel's Messiah

### **Welcome**

Chris Weaver, worship leader

### **Responsive call to worship**

Chris Weaver and Sean Claassen

Listen! A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

**Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together.

**Prepare the way of the Lord!**

### **Lighting of the Advent candle**

*People, Look East* arr. Dale Wood

Amanda Entz

### **Words for the children**

Erin Graber

### **Scripture reading**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Chris Weaver

### **Words for the Road**

*:Humble Courage on the Road to Repentance*

Kurt Horst, pastor

### **Song of response**

*Together*

by Nathan Grieser/adapted by Kurt Horst

Kurt Horst and Daryl Unruh

### **Song**

*O Come, O Come Immanuel*

Ben's Band

### **Prayers for the offering and prayers of the church**

Sean Claassen

### **Sending song**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* H 178

### **Sending**

Chris Weaver

### **Postlude**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. John Wilson

Amanda Entz, organist

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*\*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, Ryan Goertzen Regier, Ryan Koehn and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Daryl Unruh, Kurt Horst, Ben's Band. Thank you to Carol Hiebert for the visual art.*

**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

Advent Theme: On the Road...

**December 13**—Third Sunday of Advent—Graciela Tijerina , preaching

**December 20**—Fourth Sunday of Advent—Kurt Horst, preaching

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## Happy Birthday!

Cindy Unruh—December 8

Kyle Becker—December 10

Ben Regier—December 10

Amanda Menninga—December 11

Austin Regier—December 11

Greg Myers—December 12

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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### Pastoral Team

Kurt Horst,

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Tammy Duvanel Unruh,

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### Administrative Assistant

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316-283-0273



## First Mennonite Church Newton, KS



# REPENT!

## (MARK 1:4)

### Advent 2: *The Road to Repentance*



**Christmas Brunch by Zoom**—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 on Sunday, December 20, 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 with more details will be sent out closer to the date. We hope you will join us for this new way to fellowship with each other. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Weaver.

**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.



**The next quarter Sunday School materials** are here. You can stop by the church and pick up the books in the Gathering Area.

**Pictorial Directory**—we have contacted Lifetouch again this last week. We are now being told it will be mid December before the books will be shipped. They have been closed again due to the COVID pandemic. As soon as we receive the books we will let the congregation know.

**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:** The Search Committee would like to share some BIG NEWS! Our Congregation Information Form and accompanying documents have been submitted to Western District Conference! This is one milestone in our search for pastoral staff that has been met. The next phase of the journey will be for WDC to begin listing our staff openings for potential pastors to request our CIF, review it, and apply for through their Ministerial Leadership Form. We have begun the actual search process by completing the documentation phase. Good news! Please continue to be in prayer for our journey, asking for God's leading and will for FMC in this. Prayers do make a difference.

## Community Announcements

**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](https://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.

**Tune into Mission Network's Facebook** on Mondays 1:00 PM (EST) for the Hope Series and let us help you dwell in the hope that is the love of Christ. Be sure to tune in on Thursdays at the same time for Hope Around the World, a check-in time with our international partners.

**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](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org).

**If you missed ordering** your Camp Mennoscah hoodie online, contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290. There will be a limited number of extras available.

**Bethel College alumni and friends** are invited to take part in the annual Lighting of the Green on Sunday, December 13, from wherever you are. Lighting of the Green is a long-standing Bethel Advent tradition celebrating the Light that shines in the darkness, the life and light of Christ who came into the world giving light to all humankind – normally held on the Green in the center of campus. This year, the gathering will take place virtually, **live on Zoom and YouTube** (see links below) with some parts pre-recorded. Please join the Bethel community at **8:00 PM, December 13:** YouTube: <https://youtu.be/LZeLxduHoVk> or Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98444357235?pwd=N1MzQlpiQ29HQWZlWUs2NGpNWWtlZz09>

## Announcements

**A memorable, meaningful and unique** MCC gift to give this Christmas! Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern day Mennonite feeding station—your home! Get one for yourself and order more for family and friends. Hang it on the wall in your kitchen or dining room, display it on a shelf or use it as a serving tray! Remember the kitchen at your church, too. Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16” in diameter and 2” deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at [mcc.org/feeding-station-tray](http://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray).

**We're thinking s'mores** and socially distanced activities. The Camp Mennoscah Christmas Gathering is tentatively being planned as an outdoor event on Saturday, December 12, 2:30 PM. **Registration required.** Call 620-297-3290. Plans may change depending on coronavirus case rates and the desire to keep everyone safe. Bring your mask!

**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](http://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](http://MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture) to learn more!

**Everence will host** a *Social Security and retirement income planning* webinar, on Monday, December 14, 6:30 PM. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. This online workshop is free. Register soon by contacting our office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).

**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.

**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 reevaluated 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](http://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.

**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](http://firstmennonitenewton.org) or contact the church office.

**Offering**—the offering for November 22 and 29 for Local Mission was \$8,600 and online giving for the month of November was \$5,308 for Local Mission. The offering today is for Western District Conference. Offering for December 13 will be for Local Mission.

**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](mailto:kurth@firstmennonitenewton.org)

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## SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sr. High Sunday School will meet weekly at 9:15 AM by Zoom. Check your email for more details and the Zoom link.
- Youth Group will meet every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. If the weather allows it, we may be outside or we may be on Zoom. Watch your email for details—and keep your mask and lawn chair at the ready!