

Fill in the Blank
Sunday, May 9, 2021

Gathering

Meditation music

This is My Father's World setting by Robert Hobby
Amanda Rempel, organist

Welcome and call to worship

Kevin Miller, worship leader

Listening

Words for the children

John Good

Worship song

Ain't Gonna Wait
Kilometer 81

Prayer for the offering

Kevin Miller

Scripture reading

Matthew 16:13-17

Sermon

Fill in the Blank
Tammy Duvanel Unruh

Prayers for the church

Laura Sharp

Sending

Sending songs

Someday
Row by Row
Kilometer 81

Announcements and benediction

Kevin Miller, worship leader

Postlude

Toccata on 'Wedlock': God is My Strong Salvation arr. Gordon Young
Amanda Rempel, organist

after the postlude is finished, the ushers will then dismiss the congregation

Upcoming Worship Services

May 16—Pastor Kurt is preaching.

May 23—Pentecost Sunday with communion.

Happy Birthday!

Wenda Black—May 9

Shannon Bartel—May 10

Ilene Hackney—May 10

Jerald Jantz—May 10

Elizabeth Frey—May 11

Chloe Gaeddert—May 12

Jim Huxman—May 13

Vernon Frey—May 14

Anna Marie Harder—May 14

Emma Krehbiel—May 15

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 Koehn, Joey Menninga and Alex Goering are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Ken and Amy Regier and family, Amanda Rempel. Thank you to Connie Claassen for the visual art.



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

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First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS
May 9, 2021

Transitional Information: It is now official! We have a new pastor coming at the end of summer to begin a three year term with us. Laura Goerzen endured a weekend of many meetings and introductions, a children's story, and a sermon and accepted our 95% approval vote for a pastorate with us. The Search Committee and Church Board were very pleased to introduce her to the church and we now have one of our two settled pastor positions chosen. A job description will be finalized with Pastor Laura soon and will be shared with the congregation when it is complete.

Some other transition news we would like to share concerning our interim pastoral staff is Pastor Kurt will complete his service with us on June 6, but will return to share a sermon with us on June 13, July 4, and July 11, but will not be available for other pastoral services. We are planning on a releasing service for him on July 11. We have been blessed to have him serve with us as an interim pastor for the past nine months.

We are pleased to say that Pastor Susan will continue on our interim path with us for a while longer and will be increasing her hours during the summer months.

We still have one more pastoral position to fill so the Search Committee will continue reviewing Ministerial Leadership Forms as they are sent to us and are still open to any names suggested for contact for this position. Please continue to be in prayer for our search, our new journey with Pastor Laura, and give thanks for the interim pastors that have walked with us these past months. FMC has much to be thankful for during our transition times!

Volunteers needed for Summer Enrichment Activities for kids (and families) (SEAK). First Mennonite Church is partnering with Newton Area Peace Center, New Creation Mennonite Church and Shalom Mennonite Church to provide activities and help serve lunch to neighborhood children this summer. The program will be held Monday—Thursday, June 7–July 29. We will be planning and supervising the activities and helping serve on Wednesdays. We will need about three volunteers each Wednesday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In past years, First Mennonite provided water-based activities, so if you don't mind visiting and playing with kids with possibility of getting soaked once in a while please contact Miriam Goertzen-Regier or anyone on Outreach Commission.

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School —Sunday, May 9, 9:00 AM —Zoom—check email .
- Let's play Persecution (the Anabaptist game) Wednesday, May 12, 8:20-9:45 PM meet in the Thresher Field parking lot (to the west of the Bethel tennis courts)
- Wear clothes and shoes to run/sneak around in search of safe houses while avoiding the persecutors and "jail" time!

Camp Mennoscah scholarship fund: We need funds to support our children! If you would like to donate to the camp scholarship fund (which provides \$100 towards the costs for each camper), please make your check payable to FMC, designated to Camp Mennoscah Scholarships.

FMC DELEGATES NEEDED FOR MENNOCON '21: If you would be interested in representing FMC as a delegate for business sessions at the virtual MennoCon'21 conference to be held in July in Cincinnati, Ohio, please contact the church office or Janice Good. Please note the business sessions will be virtual which makes it easier to participate!

Sign up for summer camp at Camp Mennoscah, is here again! Things will be different at camp this year—you can find out more about that and sign up for camp on their web site www.campmennoscah.org. I encourage you to do that ASAP as they are accepting less campers this year due to the pandemic. As we have in the past, the Nurture Commission will provide a \$100 scholarship to each camper from FMC and Casa Betania. To receive a camp scholarship from FMC, email Stephanie Weaver. In your email, please include the camper's name, parents' names, and which week your child is going to camp. The \$100 scholarship will be paid directly to camp.

Invitations to sign up for *Realm*, our new church software, were sent out last week. If you did not get an email invite and would like one, please email or call the Church Office.

Community Announcements

Concert by Bethel College's small a cappella ensembles Open Road (men) and Women (women), **today at 2:00 PM**, on the steps of the Administration Building on campus. Bring your own chairs/blankets. **Face coverings must be worn and physical distancing practiced on the Bethel campus.**

Get your MCC Relief Sale gear online at: wearatomic.com/product-category/mcc/. The proceeds from the sale of these products go to support MCC.

It's time to finish the Campfire Amphitheater at Camp Mennoscah! A work day is scheduled for May 15. Bring a lunch and water bottle with you when you come, and plan to arrive at the North cabin area to check in around 9:00 AM. Email office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to volunteer for this project. **Let us know by the Tuesday before!**

Camp Mennoscah is seeking to fill a part-time custodian/housekeeper position. Hours average 10 per week and are flexible, dependent upon the camp schedule. For more information, contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org.

Smorgasborg of volunteer opportunities for you! Camp Mennoscah has multiple opportunities to support the maintenance and upkeep of the campgrounds. Get involved and be part of the fun. Email office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to volunteer.

Help set up camp! Volunteers are needed to help set up the HUGE tents used for this summer's youth camps at Camp Mennoscah. Setup will happen May 28 and 29. Sign up by May 15, by calling 620-297-3290 or send an email to olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org.

Everence will host the following free, online webinars during the month of May, all webinars will start at 6:30 PM. ***Making your wishes known***-Tuesday, May 11; ***Navigating education savings: 529 plans***-Tuesday, May 18; ***Social Security and retirement income planning***-Tuesday, May 25. To register, or learn more about each webinar event, please visit our webpage at everence.com/kansas.

There are openings for youth at Camp Mennoscah's summer youth camps! Several of the camp weeks still have space for more campers. Register at: campmennoscah.org and find further information in the camp blog!

Nurses needed for summer youth camps! Camp Mennoscah needs nurses for June 17-19 (First Camp), June 20-26 (Junior I) and July 25-30 (Senior High). Nurses receive a stipend or a discount up to full camp fees for their camper (camper does not have to attend the same camp week). Contact us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for more information.

Happy
Mother's
Day

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

Announcements

It's great to be able to join in limited in-person worship. As we return to worship remember:

- Be humble, patient, careful, and gracious toward all who come and toward all who don't yet feel safe and comfortable gathering in person.
- Wear masks, keep social distance, and save person-to-person conversations for outdoors.
- Exit from the back and move outside as directed by the ushers.

The offering for today and May 16 is for Local Mission. 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.

First Mennonite Church by the numbers—attendance for May 2—140.

We are thankful for the decrease in Covid-19 infections and hospitalizations in Harvey County and are glad for the adult Sunday School classes that are beginning to meet again as the number of persons vaccinated increases. However, we want to remind everyone that there is still no vaccine approved for persons under age 16. For that reason we will continue to ask that masks are worn, practice social distancing, exercise caution regarding congregational singing, and wait to begin gathering children's and youth Sunday School classes in the building. Thanks for your understanding and patience.

To the people of First Mennonite Church of Newton—It is with joy that I accept your invitation to serve as your pastor. Many thanks to the Search Committee for all they did to help make the candidating experience run smoothly despite the limitations of Covid. And many thanks to you, the congregation, for opening your hearts to me this past weekend and sharing with me your questions, your dreams, and your love for God and the church. I am looking forward to joining our stories together and following Jesus together in Newton, Kansas!

~In Christ, Pastor Laura Goerzen

If you are graduating from high school or college this May, or know of someone from our congregation that will be graduating, please email or call the Church Office by **Wednesday, May 12**, so we can include them in the announcement for the upcoming bulletin.