



FIRST
MENNONITE
CHURCH,
NEWTON,
KANSAS

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—Worshiping together, welcoming, accepting, encouraging, and inviting all to follow Christ.

FMC Connections

Volume 31, Issue 10

November 2021

A Day in the Life. . .

What does a pastor do all day? We probably all know that on certain weeks a pastor prepares a sermon. But what happens in between sermons? Pastoral work can be mysterious for those who have never worked from a church office. So, for those of you who are curious, here's my attempt to share a little bit about what I have been up to here at First Mennonite.

Since I am just starting my time at First, agenda item number one for me has been getting to know people. I've chosen a number of methods for doing this:

1. Birthday greetings. Each week I follow the birthdays listed on the bulletin and reach out with a text, email, or phone call. I love it when people respond and tell me a little bit about what is going on in their lives!
2. Visits. When I become aware that someone is going through a significant

life transition, facing a chronic illness, or just has a life story to share, I initiate a visit, usually at the church or outdoors at a park. I can't wait for the time when I can invite people out for lunch or coffee!

3. Introductions: Pastor Susan has gradually set up visits to introduce me to our church members living at home or in care facilities who are not able to get out much.
4. External church connections. I have visited with Pastor Graciela of Casa Betania, attended my first Casa Betania support group meeting, and am looking forward to joining other Newton Mennonite pastors for a meeting next month.
5. Walks. Pastor Susan and I took a fall walk around the First Mennonite neighborhood, noticing well-loved houses, struggling houses, apartment buildings, church member homes, and other markers in the community.



Pastor Laura Goerzen

6. Spontaneous Chats. Part of the joy of working at a multi-staff church is the opportunity to chat with co-workers about life—family transitions, house renovations, lost cats, booster shots, and anything else relevant to our lives. Additionally, we get to chat and check-in with the many people who pass through the office over the course of the week.

Beyond getting to know people in church and in our local community, there is the on-going work of planning for worship and other logistical pieces of church life:

1. Multiple emails per day related to the work of various commissions—

(continued on page 2)

Caregiving Commission and Nurture Commission being two areas of recent focus.

2. Planning meetings and emails related to Advent and Christmas Eve (yes Christmas Eve!!!)
3. Weekly meetings with Pastor Susan and also with our whole church staff to coordinate our planning, work, and schedules.
4. Writing up prayer and praise notes on non-preaching weeks, pastor reports, and newsletter articles are additional forms of communication that take some time and thought.

I love so many things about my work! I love that it is always different. No day or week is ever the same.

Preaching weeks are different from non-preaching weeks. Days are as different from each other as the people who fill them. And even as there are tasks of worship, service, mission, and business that we seek to accomplish, each one provides opportunities to relate to each other and nurture and encourage each other in different ways. It is such a privilege to be able to spend my days connecting with you all and doing such rewarding work, and it so exciting to be on this journey of faith with you!

The Mennonite Central Committee Meat Canner is Coming

Mennonite Central Committee works to meet hunger, sanitation and education needs around the world. One of the ways local people can help is at our yearly meat canning event. This year it will be November 16 and 17 for Newton area churches at the MCC mid states building in North Newton. Please use the attached link to sign up to help. Financial donations are also needed.

If you have questions, contact Alan Entz or call the MCC office at 316-283-2720.

<https://tinyurl.com/MeatCanning2021>

Camp Mennoscah Updated Wish List

Your gifts and prayers help create a great visit for everyone at Camp Mennoscah. Below are some items that will help maintain the campgrounds and facilities, as well as offer activities for all ages! If you go to campmennoscah.org you will also find the list there along with the links of where to purchase the items.

Maintenance Wishes:

- 12/350 Foot Extension Cord Yellow Jacket With lighted ends \$45.00
- Mechanics Toolbox, Craftsman, 224 pc 1/4 Inch, 3/8 Inch and 1/2 Inch Drive, \$250.00
- 48 Inch Electronic Level, Stabilila, Dust and waterproof, \$275.00

General Wishes:

- Anabaptist World subscription (Account Number: 00079659, zip code: 67111), \$54/one year
- First-class postage stamps
- Twin sheet sets, white
- PaperPro in Power20 Stapler (2)
- SD card, 32 GB
- Wall Mounted File Holder Organizer \$19.79
- Copy paper 8.5 x 11 | 5000 Sheets \$35.73
- Standard pillow cases, white
- Queen sheet set (1-2), white
- Standard/Queen pillows for Retreat Center (\$14-\$20 each, need 19 total)

Summer Camp Wishes:

- Giant 4 in a Row game (either 3' or 4')
- Spikeball (3 sets)
- Lanyard lacing (bright and sparkly colors)

- Rainbow Color - Friendship Bracelets Floss \$10.47
- 1440 Count COTU (R) Silver Safety Pins (1.1 inch) \$19.99
- Children's books and fun posters for the sick room—new or used/ good condition
- New/gently used board games
- Spikeball replacement balls

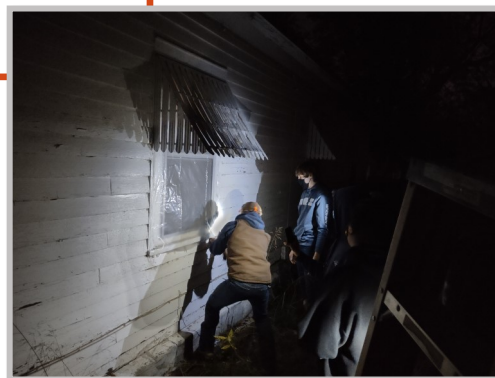


Newton Et Cetera Shop is getting ready for the holidays!

Newton Et Cetera Shop is getting ready for the holidays! Our Christmas Shop will open on Wednesday, November 3, and we'll continue putting out new holiday items throughout the remainder of the season. Please consider decorating your home or workplace with secondhand decor! We also have many gift items for sale during the holidays, including some extra special items such a diamond ring, local railroad memorabilia, and vintage German, Italian and American Christmas decor.

If the holidays have you in a sharing mood, you might consider purchasing \$10 Newton Et Cetera Shop gift cards for one of our many community partners! We regularly donate \$10 gift cards to Safehope, Newton USD 373, New Hope Shelter, Salvation Army, Peace Connections, EmberHope, Mirror, and New Jerusalem Missions. If you'd like to give our gift cards to any of those organizations, you can deliver them yourself or leave them with us to deliver. These gift cards support community members in urgent need AND support the mission and vision of the Newton Et Cetera Shop! If you're interested in becoming a volunteer at the Shop, we're holding new volunteer orientation on Thursday, November 11, 6:00-7:00 PM. Join us to learn more about volunteering at our shop!

On Wednesday night, October 27, members of the FMC youth group, along with sponsors, took a quick trip away from the church to help out a new friend. This neighbor needed some plastic sheeting up over her windows to help stave off the coming winter winds, so the group complied with her request. While some went inside her home to chat with the woman, others measured and cut clear plastic, then attached it to cover vulnerable window areas. The youth group appreciated the opportunity to make a friend and to help her keep a little warmer in this season as well as the chance to work together and practice being the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighborhood.



Happy Birthday

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

Stephanie Weaver—11/1
Isaac Koehn—11/3
Arlen Wiens—11/3
Logan Hamm—11/5
Ronald Ratzlaff—11/7
Alisa Krehbiel—11/8
Clint Litsey—11/8
Mary Lou Schmidt—11/8

Evelyn Gaertner—11/9
Kathryn Penner—11/10
Harland Unruh—11/12
Janice Good—11/14
Charlie Regier—11/14
Tracy Kerr—11/18
Hope Ewy—11/19
Kenneth Fast—11/20
Frances Schrag—11/20
Lori Shelly—11/20
Andrew Simmons—11/22
Shirley Dietzel—11/23

Chad Frey—11/23
Jim Schrag—11/24
Barb Walker—11/25
Reid Graber—11/27
Virginia Bestvater—11/28
Rick Brown—11/28
Helen Ortman—11/28
Marissa Murphy—11/29
Linda Connor—11/30
Joan Entz—11/30
Mary Janzen—11/30



Happy Anniversary

Michael & Pamela Garcia—11/6
Daryl & Cindy Unruh—11/8
Jeff & Melody Enns—11/11
Kelson & Kenna Graber—11/16
Paul & Beverly Buller—11/23
Jerry & Delora Decker—11/24
Lewis & Geraldine Wiebe—11/26

Safehope
Holiday Boutique

Taking donations now through December 3

Kitchen Items	Toys & Games	Movies & Music
Gift Cards	Teen Gifts	Towels
Arts & Crafts	Small Appliances	Room Decor

The Safehope Holiday Boutique allows families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and mass violence to pick out gifts from the new items you donate!

316-803-1800, 316 N Oak
Newton, KS 67114 safehope.net

Happy Thanksgiving

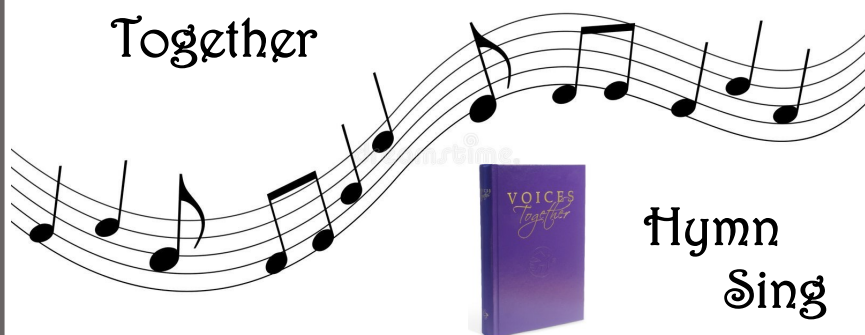
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Worship Comm. 4:45 PM	3 Staff Meeting 10:00AM Youth Group 7:00PM	4 Nurture Commission 6:30PM	5	6
7— Daylight Savings Fall Congregational Meeting following worship service Casa Betania worship 4:00PM	8	9	10 Staff Meeting 10:00AM Youth Group 7:00PM	11 Church Board 7PM	12	13
14 Casa Betania worship 4:00PM	15 Kitchen reserved	16 Kitchen reserved	17 Staff Meeting 10:00AM YG Turkey Dinner drive thru 5-7PM	18 Caregiving and Membership Commission 7:00PM	19	20
21 Casa Betania worship 4:00PM	22	23	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed 	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 First Sunday of Advent Casa Betania worship 4:00PM	29	30		 Happy Thanksgiving		

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

Voices Together



Hymn Sing

Sunday evening, October 10, Rosi Penner Kaufman guided us through features of our new hymnal *Voices Together*. The evening focused on Anabaptist contributions to the hymnal, new and old. We sang our last two songs together, masked, ending a beautiful evening. Thank you, First Mennonite Worship Commission for facilitating this event!



Harvest of Love

Fall is here! Fall brings so many wonderful things: cooler weather, pumpkins, colorful trees, and the annual Harvey County Harvest of Love campaign. Harvest of Love is co-sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Newton Ministerial Alliance. **The campaign begins in November and continues through December.** This is an opportunity for all of us to help families in our community who are in need of food. Boxes will be available in the Gathering Area and inside the west door near the elevator for your contributions. Food items contributed should be non-perishable with long expiration dates. The following is a list of

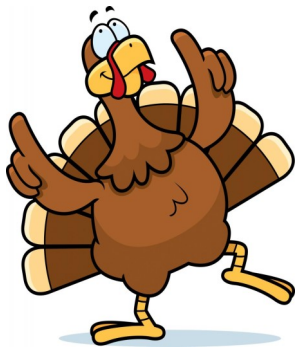


popular food items needed but any non-perishable item will be accepted: tuna, macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, canned vegetables, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, dried beans, rice, flour, sugar, cereal, canned soup, Jell-O. The Salvation Army will also accept monetary donations. Please make checks

payable to Salvation Army. There is an increased need for food items at this time because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let's celebrate fall by giving freely of our resources to this worthy community campaign!

Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.



Save the Date for The Annual Youth Group Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Drive thru pick up.

Watch the bulletin for more information.
First Mennonite Church



The menu will be:
Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,
Corn, Cranberry Salad,
Homemade Rolls and Yummy Pumpkin Dessert.

Donations accepted. Most proceeds will go towards the Summer Mission trip.



FMC Connections

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



NOVEMBER 2021

Caring Fund Proposal Local Mental Health Support Project

(this was in the May 2021 Connections Newsletter)

The purpose of this project is to encourage and support access to mental health services for our church congregants, as well as participants of Casa Betania and those served by New Hope Shelter. Nearly everyone at some time in their life could benefit from visiting with a trained listener to help navigate the stresses and crises of life. This could include adults, adolescents, or children experiencing such things as anxiety, depression, marriage, family, or other relationship issues, addiction and substance abuse issues, and even the stress caused by the ongoing pandemic. Pursuing mental health services can sometimes be subject to barriers of finances, or a certain stigma attached to asking for help, and this project seeks to provide support in accessing these valuable resources. In partnership with our local community mental health center, Prairie View, the Caring Fund Estate Gift money will contribute a limited financial reimbursement of up to \$250 for each individual requesting financial assistance. Those involved with writing and developing this project include Barb Claassen, Wendy Funk Schrag, Laura Sharp, and Barb Walker

***Please check your church mailbox for more information on this program.**