

Dare to Imagine God's Song

December 12, 2021

Gathering

Welcome

Janice Good, worship leader

Lighting of the Candles—The Menninga Family

Leader: We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

People: Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!

Leader: We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Meditation music

Prelude on "Freu dich Zehr by Raymond H Haan
Amanda Rempel, organist

Call to worship

Janice Good, worship leader

Listening

Words for the children

Luke Unruh

Worship song

Hope is a Candle VT 211
Joan Entz, leader

Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

Janice Good, worship leader

Scripture

Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Sarah Koehn, reader

Sermon

Dare to Imagine God's Song
Luke Unruh

Prayers of the church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending song

O Come, O Come Immanuel VT 210 (vss. 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7)
Joan Entz, leader

Announcements and benediction

Janice Good, worship leader

Postlude

Wake, awake for night is flying by J. G. Walther, Schmitt
Amanda Rempel, 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. Today, Ryan Koehn, Ryan Goerzen Regier, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Rempel and Joan Entz. Thank you to Carol Goering for the visual art. Property Committee: Brent Voran.

Upcoming Worship Services

December 19—*Dare to Imagine God's Face*—Pastor Laura; Everett Koop dedication

December 26—*Dare to Imagine God's Robe of Blessing and Saving*—Pastor Susan

January 2—*Dare to Imagine God's Dance*—Pastor Laura; Communion

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

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

PO Box 291, 429 E. First Street, Newton, KS 67114-0291

Phone: 316-283-0273

E-mail: office@firstmennonitenewton.org

Website: www.firstmennonitenewton.org

Pastoral Team

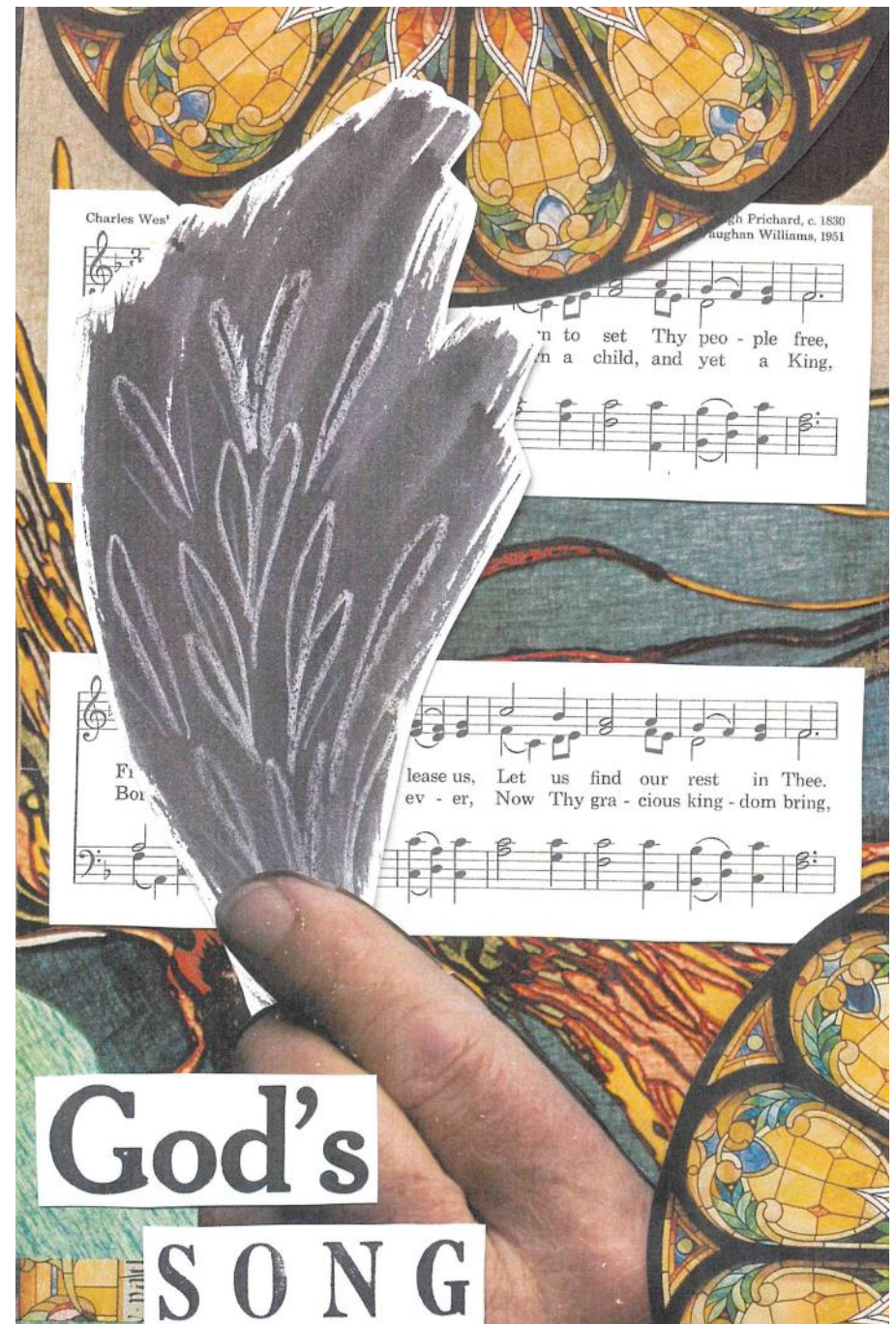
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org

Susan Jantzen, Interim Pastor—620-877-7923; susanj@firstmennonitenewton.org

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

Administrative Assistant

Tracy Kerr—316-283-0273; office@firstmennonitenewton.org



**First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS**

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—Sunday, December 12; In-person and Zoom, 9:15 AM.
 - No YG on Wednesday, December 15. Study for finals, people!
 - Youth Group Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 22, 7:00 PM, at FMC!
- Keep watching your email for updates and details.

As the classroom remodel comes to an end, the Property Committee is looking for an individual or group to help coordinate a final deep cleaning of the rooms—wiping off walls and cabinets, etc. and getting things set back in place and ready to use. Please contact me or one of the other Property members if you are interested. Thank you!

As we learn to live with the on-going reality of COVID-19, our COVID-19 advisory group has recommended the following changes to our COVID-19 safety protocols.

1. Starting December 19, we will invite masked congregational singing for two songs, instead of one, over the course of the service. Additionally, our services on Christmas Eve and on Dec. 26 will include numerous opportunities for masked congregational singing.
2. Starting December 19, we will invite people who wish to maintain maximum distancing during their exit to leave during the postlude. After the postlude, all others will be invited to exit or linger as they choose without ushers dismissing rows.
3. We will continue to observe seating in every-other row in the back (you will note clearer signage) with the front 10 rows having no seating restrictions except a buffer row around the pastor's family.
4. Please remember to wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth when you enter the church and/or leave your Sunday school classroom. This curtesy protects our little ones who cannot yet get vaccinated as well as those who are immunocompromised or facing other health concerns that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19. Conversations are in the works for a modified Wednesday night format for spring of 2022, so stay tuned for further details.

Transitional Information: THE BIG WEEKEND IS HERE! Please be aware of the scheduled times this week for meeting our pastoral candidate, Luke Unruh. There are opportunities for each Sunday School class, youth groups, and open meeting times for anyone who would like to attend. The meetings will be available either in person and on zoom link for specific groups. All meetings will be at the church with an opportunity to meet Luke and ask any questions you might have. A special congregational meeting will be held after the worship service this Sunday in which Luke will be giving the children's time and preaching. A vote on calling Luke to be one of our pastors will be held and the meeting will be available in-person or on a zoom link. Those attending on Zoom will be able to vote. Please be in prayer for Luke as he discerns accepting this call if offered and for FMC as we ask for discernment about extending the call.

Healing & Hope: A confidential group of women supporting each other in seeking healing and hope after experiencing betrayal trauma (a spouse or partner's use of pornography, affair, or sexual addiction). The group is hosted by FMC and facilitated by Audrey Ratzlaff, M.Div, and Gail Unruh-Revel, LSCSW, CST, CSAT. Please contact Pastor Laura or Caregiving representative, Laura Sharp, if you have questions or would like to participate. Meetings will begin in the New Year.

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. So far, we have collected 308 pounds of food and \$50 in donations. Thank you!

Community Announcements

Today the Lighting of the Green returns in-person this year—8:00 PM on the Bethel College campus.

Are you concerned about people in other countries not receiving enough COVID-19 vaccine? You can help! COVAX, part of the World Health Organization, is the main supplier of vaccines to underserved countries. Each dose of vaccine costs about \$7.00 US. (<https://gogiveone.org/>) MCC is not currently distributing vaccines, but is engaged in other efforts such as providing PPE and other COVID-mitigation aids. You can donate at: mcc.org/covid-19-giving. ~Ib and June Thomsen

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will give their Christmas Brass Concert today, 7:30 PM, in the Goessel HS gym. This event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Note the location change accommodating for social distancing. Come and enjoy a festive brass Christmas concert!

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks a visitor services coordinator: an organized, detail-oriented, social media-savvy, curious, friendly individual to work 75-100% FTE with visitors, school groups, volunteers and student staffers, and to do scheduling and internal office management. The VSC will be a part of a multitasking team of five. For the job description and to apply, kauffmanmuseum.org/vsc. For more information, contact Andi Andres at asa@bethelks.edu; 316-283-1612.

Have yourself a good holiday, December 17, 4:00-6:00 PM! MCC is thrilled to host this drive-thru event again this year. Order your charcuterie box(es) today to enjoy in the comfort of your home, spread Christmas joy and order extra to give as gifts! Suggested

donation per box is \$25. We're also collecting items for MCC hygiene kits at this event. Place your order by 5:00 PM on December 9. Details and order form are on mcc.org. Questions? Please call 316-283-2720.

Christmas Gathering on December 18 at 2:30 PM! Join us in the Dining Hall at Camp Mennoscah for afternoon fun—bring games to play indoors or out. Camp will provide popcorn and generic pop. (Masks recommended and encouraged for inside activities.)

The MCC Comforter Blitz Committee is looking for additional committee members! Would you be interested in assisting the making of comforters for Mennonite Central Committee, and helping to plan the annual three-day comforter making event in Yoder, Kansas? If so, we would love your skills and your voice! If interested, please reach out to Committee Chair, Kara Klingenberg at k.klingenberg@hotmail.com or call her at 620-983-9003 for more information. We are currently looking for a treasurer, advertising help, and anyone else who is interested in helping.

Get a seminary education at a distance! Strengthen your leadership skills and deepen your faith — from wherever you are located — through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's MA: Theology and Global Anabaptism (fully online); Master of Divinity Connect (with online and hybrid courses); or Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (fully or partially online). We offer generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships! ams.edu/academics.

New job opportunities are available at Mennonite Mission Network: North America Co-Administrator, Editor, and Training & Resources. See full job descriptions and apply at MennoniteMission.net/Employment or direct questions to: StaffRecruitment@mennonitemission.net.

Camp Mennoscah Merch! From CamelBaks to tee shirts and stickers, you can find your Camp Mennoscah merchandise at camp-mennoscah-store.square.site/s/shop. Share a bit of summer with friends and family this Christmas!

Announcements

The offering for December 19 will be for Local Missions. 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, contact the church office or go to the church website: firstmennonitenewton.org.

First Mennonite Church worship attendance—December 5—120.

Local Mission Update: Currently we are \$22,000 short. Thank you to all who have faithfully supported the church in 2021. ~Betty Pauls, Treasurer

A special congregational meeting will occur today right after the worship service for the purpose of calling Luke Unruh as one of our Pastors.

Eva Mae Andres is turning 90 on December 13! We would like to bless her with cards from friends and her beloved church family. Her address is : Eva Mae Andres, Schowalter Villa, 200 W. Cedar Street, Hesston, Ks. 67062. We thank you for your thoughtful attention. ~Cindy, Marsha, Chris and Mark

Offering envelopes—if you give offering online and no longer need the envelopes, please email or call the Church Office and let Tracy know. The 2022 offering envelopes will be placed in your church mailboxes by December 19.

The tree in the Gathering Area is our 'FMC Mitten Tree". Bring mittens, gloves, hats, scarves or socks to decorate our tree. These can be for children and/or adults. Let's fill the tree and share a warm hug with our neighbors as the weather gets colder. These will go to the Salvation Army for sharing after the first of the year.

FMC Nativity photo shoot for ALL AGES! Come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 AM, Sunday, December 19, during the Sunday school hour (Sunday school teachers who don't want to plan a lesson for the 19th, here's an opportunity for you!). Costumes will be ready and once dressed in the Nativity fun of your choice, we will head to the Sanctuary to take several sets of posed Nativity photos. Masks will be worn at all times. Kids, youth, and adults are all welcome!

Yearbook update forms have been placed in your church mailbox. Please fill out the form and return the form to the Church Office by Sunday, December 26. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. **If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form. Extra forms are also available in the Church Office.**