

# Dare to Imagine God's Face

## December 19, 2021

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### Gathering

#### Welcome

June Thomsen, worship leader

#### Lighting of the candles—John and Martha Goerzen

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine

**People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.**

Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us,  
to save us, restore us.

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

#### Meditation music

*Gesu Bambino* by Pietro A. Yon  
Amanda Entz, organist

#### Call to worship

June Thomsen, worship leader

### Listening

#### Words for the children

Sheralyn Goering

#### Dedication of Everett Regier Koop

#### Worship song

*Hark! The Glad Sound* VT 217  
Daryl Unruh, leader

#### Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

June Thomsen, worship leader

#### Scripture

Micah 5:2-4; Luke 1:39-56  
Madelynn Hamm, reader

#### Sermon

*Dare to Imagine God's Face*  
Pastor Laura Goerzen

#### Prayers of the church

Dennis Good

### Sending

#### Sending song

*What Child Is This* VT 267  
Daryl Unruh, leader

#### Announcements and benediction

June Thomsen, worship leader

#### Postlude

*Noel #6* by Daquin  
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. Today, Tim Regier, Alex Goering, and Brian Kennell are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Entz, Daryl Unruh, leader. Thank you to Carol Goering for the visual art. Property Committee: Kevin Hamm.*

## Upcoming Worship Services

**December 24**—7:00 PM—Celebrate Christ's birth!

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

Website: [www.firstmennonitenewton.org](http://www.firstmennonitenewton.org)

#### Pastoral Team

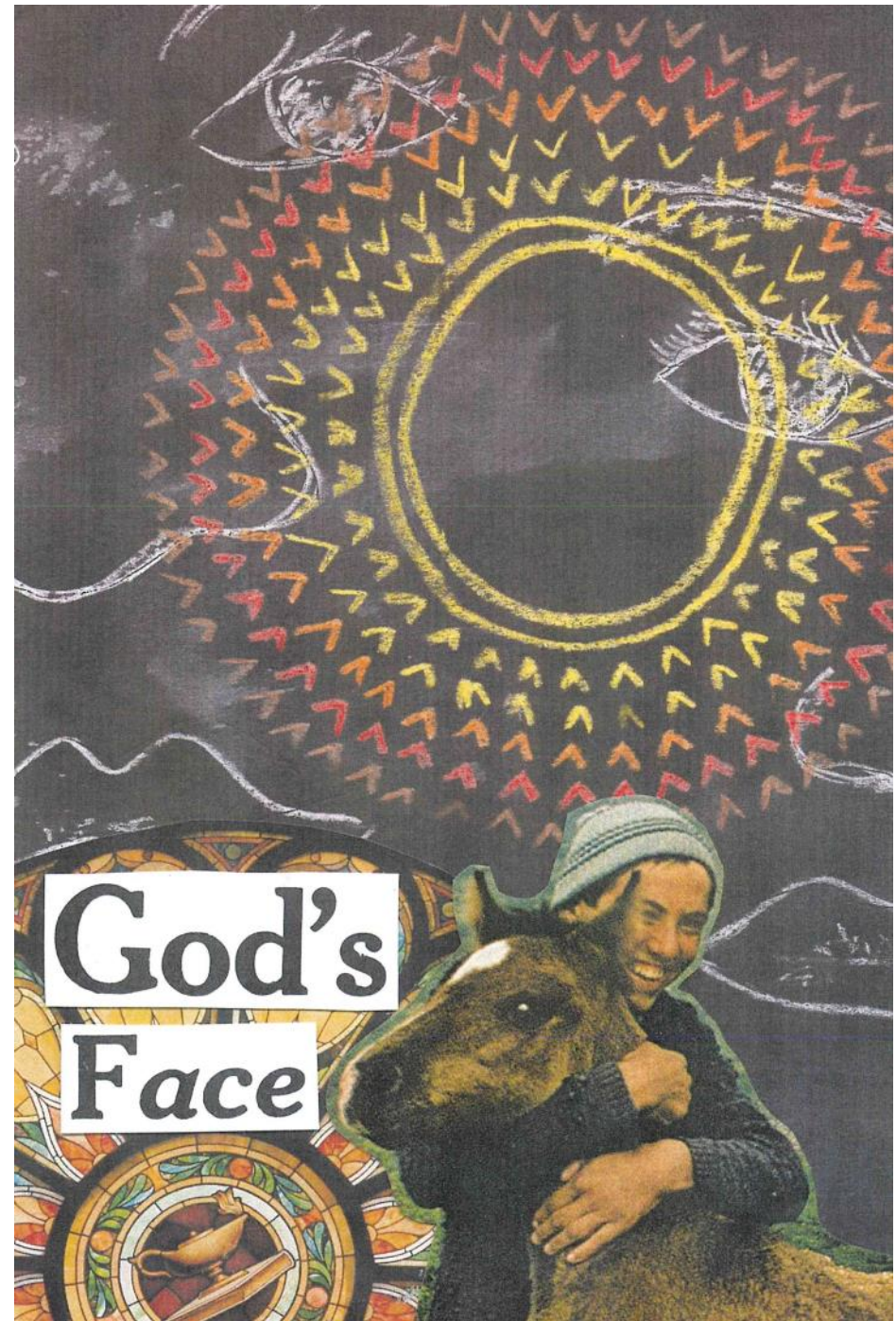
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; [laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org)

Susan Jantzen, Interim Pastor—620-877-7923; [susanj@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:susanj@firstmennonitenewton.org)

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

#### Administrative Assistant

Tracy Kerr—316-283-0273; [office@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)



# God's Face

**First Mennonite Church  
Newton, KS**

**Transitional Information: GREAT NEWS!** Church Board and the Search Committee are very excited to share an exciting outcome to the two year search process. Pastor Luke Unruh was called by a congregational vote of 97% approval of the motion to hire him for a second pastoral position. He will be serving at a 75% time basis, 33-35 hours per week, with emphasis on junior high and senior high youth, and visitation beginning the first part of April 2022 for a three year term. We are excited to welcome him. With that hire, our pastoral team is in place with one additional part time pastor, emphasizing worship, to be hired mid-2022 to complete our staffing. This hire will be the responsibility of the Church Board through the Church and Staff Relations Committee. A big thank you is given to those who have served for two years on the Search Committee! Job well done by a group of dedicated, caring individuals who have a heart for FMC and our future. Prayers are requested for our new team as Pastor Laura continues with us, Pastor Susan serves through March, and for Pastor Luke as he prepares to join us in April. Thank you to the church for your support and prayers through this journey.

**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.

**SAVE THESE DATES FOR ALL COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** January 19, 2022, all members of commissions and committees are invited to an evening in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-9:00 PM, to learn about the Intercultural Competency Assessment and how we could use this information in our mission at FMC. The following Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 9:00-11:40 AM, there will be a "kick-off" event for the year for all commissions and committees. This will be our first goal planning opportunity in two years so we are encouraging all members of those groups to attend. More information will be coming but please note these dates on your calendars!

**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! Kevin Hamm 316-217-3593.

## SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—Sunday, December 19; In-person and Zoom, 9:15 AM.
- Hold on for deer life! We are having our annual YG Christmas party this next Wednesday, December 22, at 7-8:30 PM. But wait--there's myrrh. Bring a "white elephant" gift and favorite Christmas snack for us to devour. Your presents is requested. Invite a friend or two, Claus I said so! And be prompt or yule be sorry!

**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, LCSW, 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!

**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 are in the works for a modified Wednesday night format for spring of 2022, so stay tuned for further details.

### Community Announcements

**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](https://mcc.org/covid-19-giving). ~Ib and June Thomsen

**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](mailto: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! [ambs.edu/academics](http://ambs.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](http://MennoniteMission.net/Employment) or direct questions to: [StaffRecruitment@mennonitemission.net](mailto: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](http://camp-mennoscah-store.square.site/s/shop). Share a bit of summer with friends and family this Christmas!

**Western District Conference staff position opening:** Western District Conference seeks an Administrative Assistant to work part-time (18 hours/week) with the WDC Associate Conference Minister (Texas-based), beginning February 1, 2022. Responsibilities include clerical and logistical support, communications, records management, and translation. Qualifications include strong organizational and computer skills, communication skills in Spanish and English, ability to collaborate as part of a team, intercultural competency, and willingness to promote WDC's mission and priorities. For position description and application form, contact Sandra Montes-Martinez, Associate Conference Minister, at [sandram@mennowdc.org](mailto:sandram@mennowdc.org) or 214-907-6309; or contact the WDC office at [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or 316-283-6300. Applications will be accepted until December 31 and will be processed in January 2022.

**Camp Mennoscah has openings** for a part-time custodial/housekeeping position (10 hours) and a part-time office/administrative position (30 hours with benefits). Some of the office/administrative tasks can be done from home. Contact Olivia at [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) for more information.

## Announcements

**The offering for December 26** 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: [firstmennonitewton.org](http://firstmennonitewton.org).

**First Mennonite Church worship attendance**—December 12—157.

**I am happy to announce** that I am accepting the offer to be co-pastor at First Mennonite Church in Newton! During the candidating process, I felt much affirmation and excitement from everyone I interacted with. I felt the Spirit moving in our meeting spaces throughout the weekend. I am excited to grow in my ministry in the coming years and look forward to getting to know the congregation better! I want to thank the Search Committee for the smoothness of the candidating process. I also want to thank the congregation for their support and affirmation as they call me into this position. I am excited to work with you in the future and serve FMC in this way. ~Blessings, Luke Unruh

**Thank you for the cards** sent for Eva Mae Andres's 90th birthday!! She enjoyed reading the cards and the memories you shared. Thank you for making it a memorable day.

**Offering envelopes for 2022** have been placed in your church mailbox. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them or have any questions, contact the Church Office.

**Our Christmas Eve service this year** will be at 7:00 PM with the prelude beginning at 6:45 PM. We will have masked singing, instrumental music, candle-lighting, and special recorded contributions from our children. Come join us to celebrate Christ's arrival into our world!

**Christmas Brunch by Zoom**—As we continue to live in this pandemic, Nurture Commission will once again offer Christmas Brunch by Zoom. Since we are not eating together as a church family yet, please get your breakfast and join others on Sunday, December 26, 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 will be sent by email next week. We hope you will join us for a time of fellowship with each other. \*There will be no pre-K-5th grade Zoom Sunday school classes on Dec 26. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Weaver.

**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.