

God's Embrace

December 5, 2021

.....

Gathering

Welcome

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Lighting of the Candles—The Koop Family

Leader: We light a candle of peace.

And we imagine:

People: God's tender mercy, God's compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel

God's embrace, God's nearness, God's breath.

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

Meditation music

Here I am to Worship arr. Victor Labenski

Nora Miller, pianist

Call to worship

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Listening

Words for the children

Nick Sharp

Worship song

We Come VT 225

Ben's Band

Prayer for the offering—Western District

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Scripture

Ezekiel 47:3-9; Ephesians 3:14-21

Payton Hiebert, reader

Sermon

Dare to Imagine God's Embrace

Judy Murphy

Prayers of the church

Paul Schrag

Sending

Sending song

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus VT 218

Ben's Band

Announcements and benediction

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Cindy Berry

Nora Miller, pianist

All rows remain seated during postlude.

Thank you.

.....

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: Nora Miller, Ben's Band. Thank you to Carol Goering for the visual art. Property Committee: Mason Unruh.

Upcoming Worship Services

December 12—Candidating Sunday

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

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

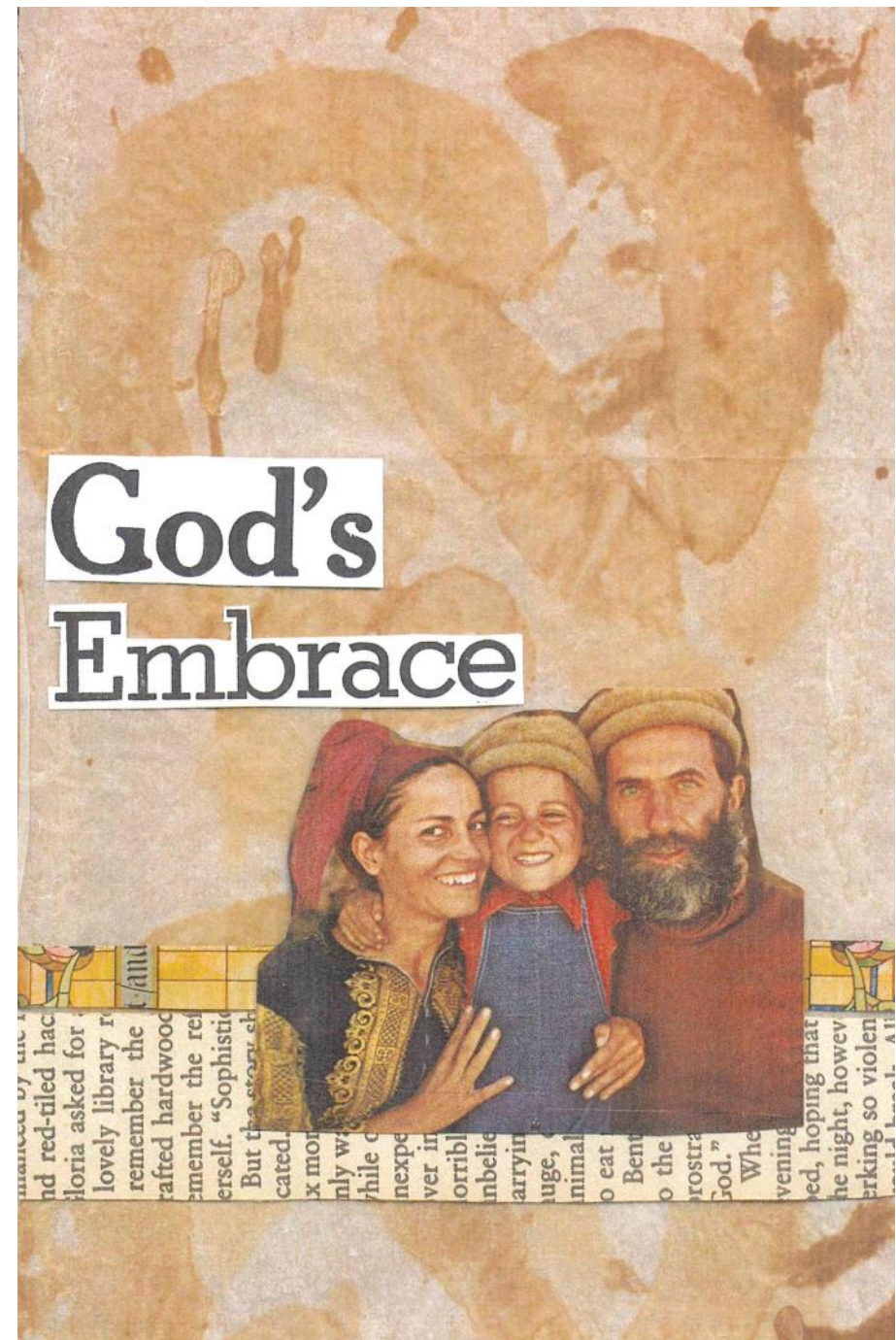
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org

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 5; In-person and Zoom, 9:15 AM.
 - Youth Group—Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 PM, at FMC. We are planning to try worship around some fire pits! Also, and very importantly, we will be meeting and getting to know the candidate. Be there!
 - Upcoming—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.

Harvest of Love—Throughout November and 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!

A support group for survivors of sexual abuse will meet under the guidance of a professional therapist on Thursday, December 9. If you have experienced sexual abuse, you are welcome to attend. Please contact Laura Sharp from the Caregiving and Membership Commission for details: 574-849-7205.

Casa Betania Burrito Fundraiser—order your burritos by December 6. They will be ready for pick up on Thursday, December 9. Pick up will be a drive thru line in the east parking lot of FMC. You can choose to have your burritos cold or hot. The hot burritos will be ready to eat and comes with rice on the side. Cost is by donation. Email Pastor Graciela (pastortijerg@gmail.com) or Linda Shelly (lindajs81@gmail.com) to place your order.

Transitional Information: Our candidate's name has been shared! Luke Unruh, currently an interim supply pastor for Tabor Mennonite Church, has been announced as the Search Committee and Church Board's recommendation for our second pastoral position. We are planning a candidating weekend with opportunities scheduled for as many as possible to meet him, either in person or by zoom. Meetings with Luke will begin on Wednesday, December 8, for senior high and junior high youth and sponsors then various times for different groups, are scheduled for Friday, December 10, and Saturday, December 11. Sunday, December 12, Luke will preach and share the children's time during our worship service. A congregational meeting will be held following the worship service for a vote to call Luke to be one of our pastors. The schedule for times for the opportunity to meet Luke will be sent via email and available from the church office. Please continue in prayer for the process and the candidating weekend. God's leading is what we are seeking in this decision.

Roots of Justice Training will again be offered in Newton on January 14-16, 2022. This is an excellent training on anti-racism. Registration is \$350. Outreach Commission is offering \$150 scholarships to help with that cost for any from FMC who would like to attend. Please speak with Chris Weaver, Miriam Goertzen-Regier, Dave Wiebe, Bev Regier, or Pastor Laura if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

The registration form is found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/FAIpQLSfsgGDfcJ6QDRYOMuSYUVZta0Q1416ITA0JH_sGjmNjK1LLA/viewform.

In addition, Outreach will match the funds donated for FMC scholarships with scholarships for community members including BIPOC and those without institutional backing, making it possible to enable maximum participation in our community. You also can donate for community scholarships at this link: www.flipcause.com/ecure/donate/MTMONTcw. Together we can support racial justice in the Newton community!

Community Announcements

This Tuesday, December 7, Circle of Hope will be celebrating the hard work and dedication of eight amazing individuals! If you would like to see the impact Circle of Hope has in our community, please join us for the Getting Ahead Graduation. The ceremony begins promptly at 6:30 PM and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church (801 N. Main in Newton).

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 Annual Treble Clef Christmas Vespers concert is scheduled for **today, 3:00 PM**, at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus Ave, Newton. This year the concert will include piano music by Joan Wulf, the Treble Clef Choir, the Prairie Bronze-Handbell Choir, and Hearts-4-Him. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Treble Clef Scholarship Fund, which awards high school seniors pursuing a college degree in music.

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will give their Christmas Brass Concert Sunday, December 12, 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.

Full-time job opportunities are available in various departments at Mennonite Mission Network: Human Resources, Finance, Global Partnerships, and Training & Resources. See full job descriptions and apply at MennoniteMission.net/Employment or direct questions to StaffRecruitment@mennonitemission.net.

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.)

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 Seek discipleship program for young adults: Seek is a new six-month intentional discipleship program from MCC which encourages young adults (18-20 years of age) to learn more deeply what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus. The program will include multiple discipleship and service opportunities with MCC partners in Palestine and Israel and Jordan. The Seek program begins in January 2022 and takes place in Palestine and Israel. To learn more and apply for the Seek program, visit mcc.org/seek.

Are you looking for a meaningful Christmas gift for friends or family? Give a gift of peace and inspiration with the **"Pause: Play, Breathe, Pray" card deck!** Developed by Mennonite Church USA Faith Formation leaders, each card has a different image on one side and a prayerful pause on the other. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/pause-play-breathe-pray.

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 or 214-907-6309; or contact the WDC office at wdc@mennowdc.org or 316-283-6300. Applications will be accepted until December 31 and will be processed in January 2022.

Announcements

The offering for December 12 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.

First Mennonite Church worship attendance—November 28—115.

The offering for November 21 and 28—Local Missions \$17,546; online giving for Local Missions—\$6,796.

Advent Circle participants, the craft jars in the gathering area are for you! Each household participating in Advent Circles is invited to pick up one of the canning jars setting out in the gathering area. Inside the jar you will find craft supplies and instructions for creating a colorful candle holder to remind you of Christ's light coming into the world.

A special congregational meeting will occur after the Sunday Morning Worship Service on December 12, for the purpose of calling Luke Unruh as one of our Pastors.

Lost and found tub—there is a new tub in the Gathering Area that will be our new lost and found. When things are found in the church that look like they belong to someone, the items will be placed in this tub. Please occasionally check it to see if there is anything that is yours. After the items have been in the tub for several weeks, the items will go to the trash or Et Cetera Shop.

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.

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.**

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 will be 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.