

Dare to Imagine God's Dance

January 2, 2022

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Gathering

Welcome

Brent Voran, worship leader

Meditation music

There's a Song in the Air arr. Cindy Berry
Nora Miller, pianist

Call to worship

Brent Voran, worship leader

Leader: Come and join in a holy dance—
a dance God has been imagining since the beginning.

People: We come, weeping.

Leader: Join in God's comforting dance.

People: We come with nothing.

Leader: Join in God's dance of abundance.

People: We come, feeling disconnected.

Leader: Join in God's tender dance.

People: We come, although we do not know how to dance.

Leader: Will we dare to learn? Do we dare step onto the floor?

People: Yes! We will join in God's daring dance.

Listening

Words for the children

Andrea Enns Regier

Worship song

The First Noel
vss. 1, 2, and 5 VT 250

Prayer for the offering—Mennonite Mission Network

Brent Voran, worship leader

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Brent Voran, worship leader

Sermon

Dare to Imagine God's Dance
Pastor Laura Goerzen

Communion

Song of preparation

One Beautiful Day

Prayer of Confession

Taking the Bread and the Cup

Closing prayer

Prayers of the church

Dwight Regier

Sending

Sending song

Go Tell It on the Mountain VT 252

Announcements and benediction

Brent Voran, worship leader

Postlude

Angels From the Realms of Glory arr. Victor Labenske
Nora Miller, pianist

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 Goertzen Regier, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Nora Miller and Ben's Band. Thank you to Connie Claassen for the visual art. Property Committee: Kevin Hamm.

Upcoming Worship Services

January 9—Pastor Laura Goerzen will be preaching

January 16—Sara Dick from the Newton Et Cetera Shop will be preaching

January 23—Dale Schrag will lead us in celebrating World Anabaptist Sunday

Happy Birthday!

Angela Nye—January 2

Tjaden Simmons—January 2

Alan Entz—January 3

Oneta Unruh—January 7

David Shelly—January 8



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

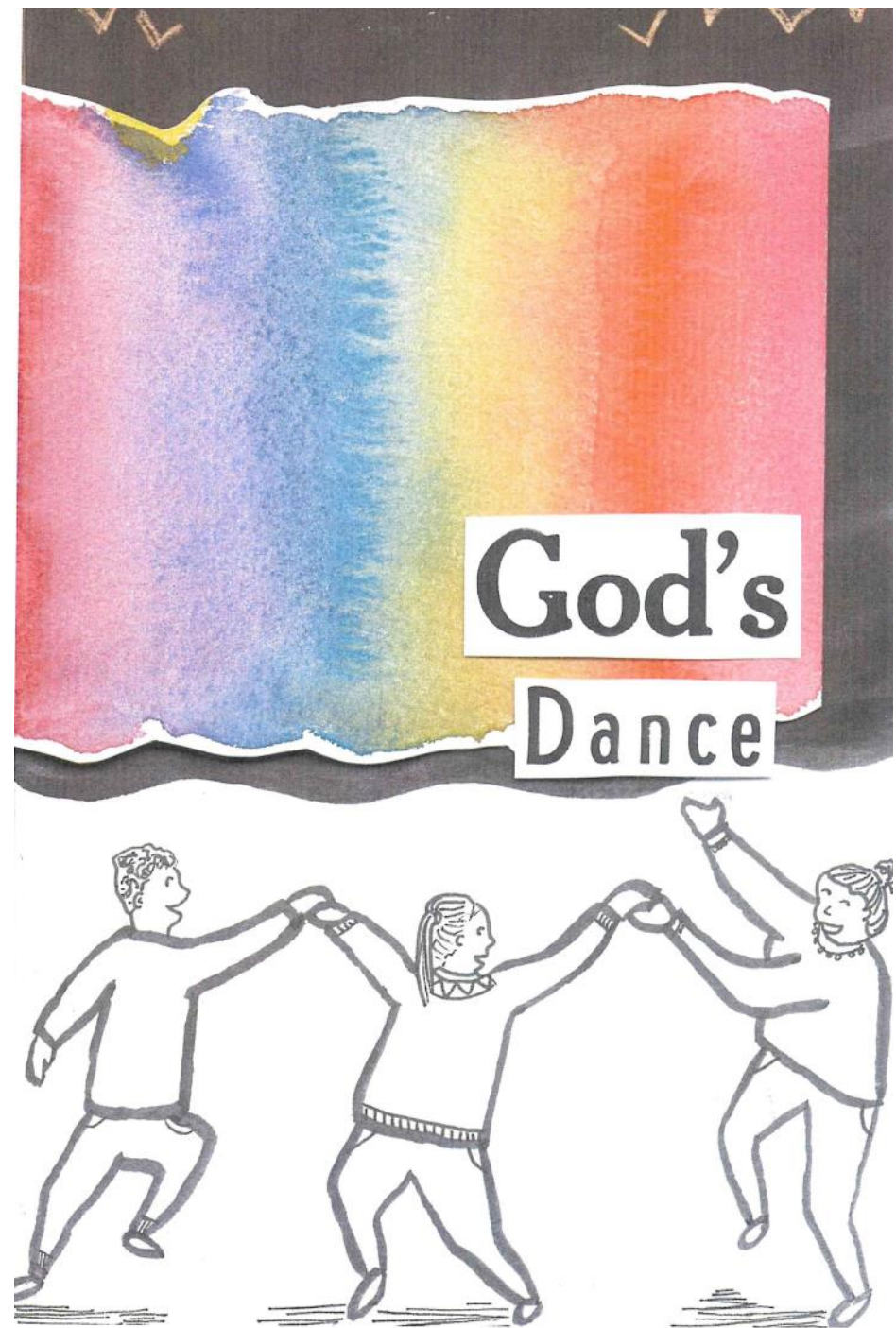
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org

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**

TRANSITION BOX: The work of the Search Committee is officially complete! After a two year journey of Zoom meetings, in-person meetings, lots of paperwork, tons of emails, and most importantly, many prayers, we have fulfilled our goal of finding pastoral staff with the calling of Pastor Laura and Pastor Luke. Please thank the following people who have served well as a Search Committee with listening to each other well, faithfully giving hundreds of hours of time, meeting deadlines and requirements, contributing their best thoughts and ideas, and being dedicated to following God's will for FMC: Payton Heibert, Sean Claassen, Jennie Wintermote, Miriam Goertzen-Regier, Keith Knopp, Don Schmidt, Wendy Funk Schrag, Ken Regier, Pastor Laura, Janice Good, Ron Ratzlaff, chair. The prayers given by our church family during this two year journey have been felt and appreciated. Please continue with prayer for our future decisions and continued striving to serve God well as a church.

The Regier family (the Ken and Amy edition) is happy to announce the release of their family band's first CD (Kilometer 81). This bluegrass/folk CD has some of our favorite songs, and includes six new original songs. CD's are on sale for \$15, and you can call (620) 837-3173 or email us at kenandamyregier@gmail.com to purchase one.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is January 19-25. If you are able to help, contact Lee Penner or Ruby Moore.

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 Audrey Ratzlaff at aaratzlaff@yahoo.com, Pastor Laura or Caregiving representative, Laura Sharp, if you have questions or would like to participate. Meetings will begin in the New Year.

Do you have trouble hearing in the sanctuary? Thanks to a generous donation, we have installed a new hearing assist system. There are eight units that can be picked up and used during the service along with earbuds. If you have hearing aids that are compatible with t-loop, we also have the capability put the sound into your hearing aids. If you would like to use a hearing assist unit this Sunday, stop by the sound booth before the service.

Community Announcements

Circle of Hope is offering free training. Bridges Out of Poverty training addresses the root causes of poverty, addresses support for families as they build resources. It increases your understanding and reduces barriers. First training is offered on January 7, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. To RSVP, call Peace Connections at 316-284-0000 or go to peaceconnections.otg/events.

Job opportunities are available at Mennonite Mission Network. See full job descriptions and apply at MennoniteMission.net/Employment or direct questions may be sent to: StaffRecruitment@mennonitemission.net.

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! amb.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.

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.

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 for more information.

The December edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS responds to the deadly tornadoes in the Midwest and parts of the South, MDS Canada needs volunteers to help survivors recover from extensive flooding in British Columbia, and you can learn more about our Annual Celebration in Sarasota, Florida in January.

Christmas may be over, but there is still one more week left in Mennonite Church USA's Advent at Home worship guide! View the Epiphany ritual in the Advent at Home guide, found here: mennoniteusa.org/adventathome.

2022 Summer staff applications are being accepted! Applicants should be 18 years old or older and in agreement with the Camp Mennoscah mission statement. See website for details. Call or email with questions! Interviews will be scheduled soon.

Camp Mennoscah Newsletter—the winter issue is now available online. You may view the newsletter at campmennoscah.org.

Announcements

The offering for January 9 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: firstmennonite-newton.org.

First Mennonite Christmas Eve Service attendance—113

First Mennonite Church worship attendance—December 26—78

Address update—Larry Becker has moved temporarily to Kidron Bethel Health Care, Room 20W.

Dana and I want to thank all of you who contributed to the care basket that was delivered to our home. Many of you have let us know you are continuing to remember us in your prayers. This is much appreciated! We wish you all God's best in the new year.

~Kathleen Neff

The Christmas season is over and it is time to take down the trees and lights that we have enjoyed in our building. Come help us take down and box up the decorations on Saturday, January 8 at 10:00 AM.

De-mystifying our church culture: Wednesday, January 19 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM, the Church Board and any commission or committee members who are interested are invited to an evening with Karin Kaufman Wall and Michelle Armster introducing the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). The IDI is a tool to help us better understand the ways that culture expresses itself, including the ways that make it difficult to understand each other and think about each other. Our experience of the world is shaped by our own socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, and so much more. These parts of our identity affect how we think about race, systems of power, and our physical neighborhood. The IDI helps us understand our own culture, individually and as a church, in order to better understand those in our community.

ALL COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS: Please save the date of Saturday morning, January 22, 8:45 -11:45 AM, for an in-person meeting in our Fellowship Hall to begin our year. Our purpose will be to establish individual group goals but do some thinking, planning, and praying as lay leadership for 2022 at FMC. Our theme will be: Dare to Imagine! This is an important start for our year so please attend if at all possible. Food, juice, coffee will be provided.

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—Sunday, January 2—In-person and Zoom, 9:15 AM.
- Youth Group for Wednesday, January 5—watch your email for information.

Prayer and Praise Notes
January 2, 2022