



FIRST
MENNONITE
CHURCH,
NEWTON

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

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FMC CONNECTIONS

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A LITTLE BIT ABOUT LUKE



Over the last few weeks, I have learned a lot: some First Mennonite history, the functionalities and logistics of worship, the extravagant and beautiful building, the roles and responsibilities of commissions and committees, the workings and functions of the youth group, and the people. I am so thankful for the welcoming heart that each of you have shown me in my first couple of weeks. I look forward to getting to know all of you a bit better! If you would like to have lunch or coffee, or just have a visit, please reach out or stop by the office. I love spontaneous pop-ins!

During my first meeting with the youth group, I set up a Jeopardy! for the youth and sponsors to play to get to know me a bit better. I figured it was only fair to let the rest of the congregation play along as well, so I have included a paper version of the game below. Enjoy!

Questions

100	Where did Luke go to college?	How old is Luke?	Where is Luke going to seminary?
200	What kind of car does Luke drive?	What is Luke’s favorite NFL team?	What is Luke’s favorite MLB team?
300	What is Luke’s favorite fruit?	How many siblings does Luke have?	What is Luke’s favorite ice cream flavor?
400	What is Luke’s favorite NHL team?	Where did Luke go to high school?	What was Luke’s major in college?
500	What is Luke’s middle name?	Including the US, how many countries has Luke been to?	How much did Luke’s surprise sell for at the youth auction?

Answers are on page 4

Diversity, God's Design
Resources for further learning

There is a book cart in the church library with some of these materials as well as some children's' books

Books and materials related to diversity in all forms:

- The Inclusion Dial, a continuum for moving to full inclusion. Safe - to - Welcomed - to - Celebrated - to - Cherished
- The Turquoise Table, by Kristin Schell, about connecting in your neighborhood
- Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes – Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible, by E. Randolph and Brandon J. O'Brien

Books related to growing up in poverty and/or abuse:

- Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance
- Bars, Dumps, and Other Childhood Hangouts by Kathy Wiens
- Please Don't Send Me Back by Kathy Wiens
- Etched in Sand by Regina Calceterra
- Heartland by Sarah Smarsh

Books related to Immigration

Love Undocumented by [Sarah Quezada](#) and Alexia Salvatierra

- Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario

Books related to sexual orientation

- Oriented To Faith by Tim Otto
- Does Jesus Really Love Me? By Jeff Chu

Books related to race

- Dear White Peacemakers by Osheta Moore
- Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison
- So you want to talk about race by Ijeoma Oluo
- How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram Kendi
- Trouble I've Seen, and Who Will Be A Witness, both by Drew Hart
- My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem
- Be The Bridge - Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation, by Latosha Morrison
- Dream with Me: Race, Love and the struggle We Must Win, by John M. Perkins
- Reawakened: Activate Your Congregation to Spark Lasting Change, by Glen Guyton
- Been in the Struggle: Pursuing An Antiracist Spirituality, by Regina Shands Stoltzfus and Tobin Miller Shearer
- Color of Compromise (book and study guide) by Jemar Tisby

Books related to singleness

- The Proper Care and Feeding of Singles by R.M. Buchanan

Books related to Indigenous Peoples' Experiences

- The Land is Not Empty by Sarah Augustine
- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Kimmerer

Podcasts

- Revisionist History podcast, by Malcolm Gladwell. Some of the episodes are about Black history.
- Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery podcast, by Sarah Augustine and Sherri Hostetler
- Seeing White, and The Land That Never Has Been Yet, both by Scene On Radio

Experiences, Groups, and Classes addressing various kinds of diversity:

- Bridges Out of Poverty training---highly recommended.
- Form a group that intentionally goes out and does activities together that exposes them to new cultures and stories.

Maybe Sunday School classes would like to band together to do these sorts of things as group activities.

- attend a synagogue, mosque, Orthodox, or Black church together,
 - visit the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita, or the Kaw museum and reservation near Ponca City, OK, or the Kaw Mission School museum in Council Grove.
 - Go to the Spanish-speaking shopping mall in the West 21st Street area of Wichita to shop and eat lunch.
 - Eat at restaurants that feature authentic foods from different cultures. I'm sure other people could think of more ideas!
- Or maybe Sunday school classes would like to band together to do these sorts of things for group activities.
- Hope 4 Da Hood <https://hope4dahood.com/> A ministry in Wichita begun by an ex-gang member doing evangelism and discipleship.
 - Form a book club or do a book study together as a class, using some of the recommended books on diversity.
 - Attend FMC Allies group as a way to learn of the experience of the LGBTQ+ folks and their families who are among us.
- Wendy Funk Schrag is a contact person for the group.
- Be The Bridge Foundations class, and Whiteness Intensive Class
 - Do an MDS service and learning trip. Chris Weaver is the contact person for MDS.
 - Create a garden to share with others around our church.
 - The Neighboring Movement

When you look at me...

By Jenna Ratzlaff

When you look at me, I want you to see the golden tone of my brown skin.

When you look at me, I want you to see my deep, rich, dark brown eyes.

When you look at me, I want you to see and notice the shape of my nose; a feature in which I used to hate because a friend made fun of me for it, but I have now come to love because it is a feature that has been passed down from my Mayan ancestors.

When you look at me, I want you to see my hair color, in which I have spent years coloring and changing, with hopes that society would accept me more; because I learned from a young age that black hair isn't always accepted by society

When you look at me, I want you to see the pride I hold as I talk about my heritage from Guatemalan culture and about my Mayan ancestors.

When you look at me, I want you to see the way in which I furrow my eyebrows when in deep thought

When you look at me, I want you to see the way in which my face lights up when I talk about something I love

When you look at me, I want you to see my smile; in which many describe as warm and inviting

When you look at me, I want you to see the young woman that I have been raised to be; strong, curious, resilient, vivacious, vulnerable, ambitious, stubborn, and compassionate.

When you look at me, I want you to see all of these things.

When you look at me, I want you to see the ways in which we might be different and how privilege is at play.

When you look at me, I want you to see that conversation surrounding race, ethnicity, diversity, etc., is not one I learned from textbooks in school; it is one I experienced at a young age without choice

When you look at me, I want you to notice all those things about me, but do not treat me differently because of them.

When you look at me, I want you to see that I am human too, and that I deserve to be treated fairly.

When you look at me...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Remember to pray for each other!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Continued from the front page

Pastor Luke's answers

100	Bethel College	23	Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
200	2012 Nissan Altima	Green Bay Packers	Kansas City Royals
300	Peach	2 older sisters	Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (but I like a wide variety of flavors!)
400	Colorado Avalanche	Goessel High School	Social Work AND Bible & Religion
500	Benjamin	6 - United States, Mexico, Germany, The Netherlands, France, and Switzerland	\$250

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 FH/Kitchen reserved after worship service Casa Betania worship 4PM	2	3	4 Staff meeting 10AM Youth group 7PM FH reserved 6:30-9:30 PM	5 Nurture Commission 6:30 PM	6	7
8 Casa Betania worship 4PM	9	10	11 Staff meeting 10AM	12 Church Board 7PM	13 Gathering Area and kitchen reserved 6PM	14
15 Casa Betania worship 4PM	16	17	18 Staff meeting 10AM Youth Group 7PM VBS Orientation 7PM FH	19 Caregiving and Membership-7PM Warkentin Room	20	21
22 Casa Betania worship 4PM	23	24	25 Staff meeting 10AM Youth Group 7PM	26	27	28
29 Casa Betania worship 4PM	30 Memorial Day Church Office closed	31 VBS 5:30-7:30 PM starts				

FMC Connections

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



VBS INFORMATION

Making summer travel plans? Register your child for VBS Passport to Peace and they will travel the world as peacemakers! Your child will make new friends, sing fun songs, meet peacemakers in the Bible, do art projects and science explorations, and play active games. Your child will practice strategies for experiencing peace inside and learn how to live at peace with others. May 31-June 5, 5:30-7:30 PM at First Mennonite. A light meal for the children and volunteers will be served each night upon arrival. We will celebrate the conclusion of VBS by joining with the other participating churches: Bethel College Mennonite Church, Shalom Mennonite Church, Faith Mennonite Church, Casa Betania, and New Creation Fellowship, for worship at Athletic Park on June 5, at 10:00 AM. Follow the QR code or the link below to register.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZRAAnVmJAKzR_ZSWfI79TfWK8dqB8nqNmWsMdTfqlX4/viewform?ts=62689ae7&edit_requested=true

