

# Questions and Answers

## October 30, 2022

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**Prelude Music**  
Regier Family

### Gathering

**Gathering song**  
*Talk About Suffering*

**Welcome**  
John Good, worship leader

**Meditation music**  
*Ain't Gonna Wait* by Jeff Rose and Missy Armstrong

**Call to worship**  
John Good, worship leader

### Listening

**Worship song**  
*Living By Faith*  
by James Wells and Robert E. Winsett

**Words for the children**  
Nick Sharp

*\*Children ages 2-5 may leave for supervised play time in Room #234.*

**Prayer for the offering**  
**Western District**  
John Good

**Scripture**  
John 3:1-21  
John Good, worship leader

**Sermon**  
*Questions and Answers*  
Pastor Luke Unruh

**Response Song**  
*Where the Soul of Man Never Dies* by William Golden

**Prayers of the church**  
Pastor Laura Goerzen

### Sending

**Sending song**  
*Traveling that Highway Home* by Walter and Frankie Bailes

**Announcements and benediction**  
John Good, worship leader

**Postlude**  
*Drinking Gourd*  
Austin Regier and Eli Regier

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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](http://firstmennonitenewton.org)), on our Facebook page, YouTube, or at our Vimeo site. Recordings of the service will be available afterwards as well. Today, Sarah Koehn, Ryan Koehn, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Ken, Amy, Austin, and Eli Regier, Jeff and Addie Kauffman. Property Committee: Rod Wedel. Visuals: Cindy Unruh.*

**Want to learn more about First Mennonite?**  
Scan the QR code or fill out the purple or green card in your pew and a pastor will reach out to you!



## Upcoming Worship Services

**November 6**—*Remembrance Sunday*—Pastor Laura Goerzen

**November 13**—*Request a Sermon*—Pastor Laura Goerzen

Potluck and Fall Congregational Meeting after worship service.



**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

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#### Pastoral Team

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

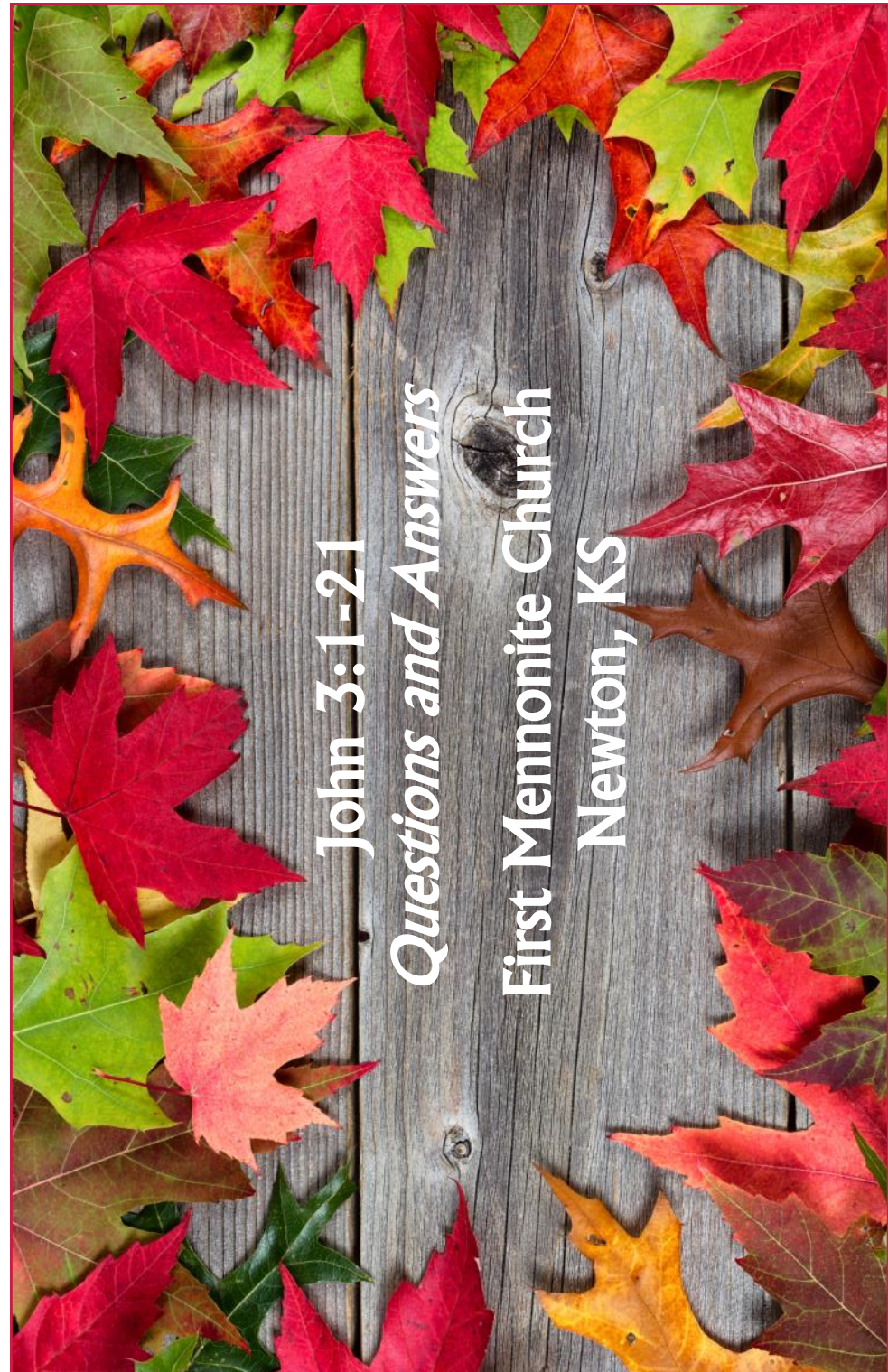
Luke Unruh, Pastor—620-386-4596; [lukeu@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:lukeu@firstmennonitenewton.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

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



John 3:1-21  
Questions and Answers  
First Mennonite Church  
Newton, KS



# SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—9:15 AM
- Youth Group—Wednesday, November 2, 6:45 PM (ish)

Check your email for more information on Sunday School and Youth Group.

**The Fall Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 13. We will have a carry-in meal following the Worship service. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall around 12:30 PM or as soon as possible after we finish eating. During the meeting we will hear various reports and take action on the 2023 budget and ballot for commissions, committees, and board positions. – Ryan Koehn, Church Moderator

**SAVE THE DATE**—Youth Group Turkey Dinner will be Wednesday, November 16, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**Request a Sermon!** Pastors Laura and Luke invite YOU to submit scripture requests for our sermons between now and Advent. Your request can be a favorite scripture passage, a scripture passage you've always wondered about, or even a funny scripture passage! Maybe you want to hear one of us preach on Balaam and his talking donkey! Whether funny or serious, email one of us or slip a note in one of our church boxes with your request. We may not get to all the requests this fall, but we will keep them all and use them at other times when we have open Sundays. Sorry, we cannot take anonymous requests or requests without a scripture citation.

**A support group** for survivors of sexual abuse will meet with the guidance of a professional therapist on Tuesday, November 8. If you have experienced sexual abuse, you are welcome to attend. Please contact Laura Sharp from the Caregiving and Membership Commission for details at 574-849-7205.

**AN INTENTIONAL PAUSE:** After prayerful consideration, the Church Board has decided to pause from church-wide conversation of MCUSA's Repentance and Transformation Resolution until September of 2023. At that time, the Board will revisit this topic and discern what, if any, further conversation we might be called to have at First Mennonite regarding this resolution. Individuals and small groups, of course, continue to be welcome to explore the topic of this resolution by talking with a Pastor or Board member, reading recommended resources, or watching MCUSA's "What's Next" webinar on the delegate resources page. Church leadership will simply not be guiding any church-wide conversations during this one year pause. Our reasons for taking a one year intentional pause are as follows:

- We desire any conversation we have around MCUSA's Repentance and Transformation Resolution to be unhurried and non-reactive.
- The Church Board wishes to allow time for us to better understand the impact this resolution will have on the wider Mennonite Church.
- The Church Board hopes that we can spend this coming year building fresh Jesus-centered relationships in the wake of COVID-19 and learning what it means to be a good neighbor to the community that surrounds us.

## Community Announcements

**New Hope Shelter Fundraiser**—Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30, from 11 AM to 7 PM, Kiko's Mexican Restaurant, 1728 North Main, Newton is giving 100% of its sales during these two days to the shelter. You may eat-in, drive-thru or pick-up. All are invited to come and eat.

**MCC Buckets of Thanks:** This Thanksgiving season, show your gratitude and provide hope to those in need by collecting relief supplies for MCC. The supplies you donate will fill a Bucket of Thanks (aka an MCC relief kit) for people affected by conflict or disaster around the world. For more information, including supply lists and a ready-to-use curriculum for children, visit: [mccbuckets.org](http://mccbuckets.org).

**Registration is now open** for *Joining Voices Together*, Bethel College's Worship and the Arts Symposium, Saturday, November 12, on campus, featuring resource people Bradley Kauffman, Rachel Epp Buller, Katie Graber, SaeJin Lee, Cynthia Neufeld Smith, Adam Tice and Isaac Villegas. Register at <https://www.bethelks.edu/worship-arts-registration-2022>; discount for three or more people from the same congregation. In addition, the public is invited to a Community Evensong service, November 12, 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall, which will consist entirely of congregational singing from the *Voices Together* hymnal, arranged around the 12 artworks found in the hymnal. Please bring your copy of *Voices Together* if you have one; there will be copies to borrow or to buy at the service.

**Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat on October 28-30!** Crafters and scrapbookers are all invited to come for a weekend of creativity and friends. Lodging will be in the Retreat Center and cropping/crafting will be in the Main Camp dining hall. Space heaters will be available for both areas since the repairs for the furnaces will not be completed.

**November 2, at 7:00 PM, Ted & Co. presents "We Own This Now"**. This play by Alison Brookins, asks: What does it mean to own something – specifically land? What is the relationship between "owning" and "taking" – and what is the relationship between "ownership" and (taking) responsibility? Professional theatre artists Ted Swartz & Michelle Milne will incorporate humor with the difficult issue of how we have treated indigenous people in our history. Tickets are available online at [tabor.edu/tickets](http://tabor.edu/tickets) or at the door. \$5 Student/\$12 Senior/\$15 General Public. Also, chapel at 10:00 AM, presents "Home", which weaves biblical story and personal stories in a unique blend of humor and insight. They will explore the lasting, relevant power of story, both ancient and current, around themes of justice, belonging and home. Both shows will be held at Tabor College, in the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts. (There will be a freewill offering to benefit the Kanza Heritage Society)

**"Old Books Made New –The Surprising Wisdom of Erasmus for Today,"** an intercollegiate symposium honoring the Mennonite Library & Archives at Bethel College and libraries everywhere will be November 4-5. Keynote address by Greta Kroeker, Ph.D., Friday, November 4, 6:30 PM, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Saturday events in Krehbiel Auditorium and via technology at Conrad Grebel University College, Eastern Mennonite University and Goshen College. See [marpeck-fund.bethelks.edu/events/old-books-made-new/](http://marpeck-fund.bethelks.edu/events/old-books-made-new/)

**Kauffman Museum bird walk**, Saturday, November 5, 8:00 AM, start time in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail (terrain is mostly wood-chip path and sometimes uneven/sloping).

**Puerto Rico Peace Camp:** Young adults are invited to join MCC on November 6-11 on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico as we discover new ways to live and proclaim the gospel of peace. This week-long experience will be filled with practical learning about deconstructing oppressive systems, building community, participating in spaces of healing and commitment to hospitality. This experience will be facilitated in Spanish; a minimum of conversational Spanish is expected from all participants. Registration fee is \$200; sign up now at [mcc.org/campamento-de-paz](http://mcc.org/campamento-de-paz). More information about peace camps: [mcc.org/peace-camps](http://mcc.org/peace-camps). Our prayers are with the people of Puerto Rico after the devastation from Hurricane Fiona this past weekend. After speaking with peace camp organizers on the ground there, we are glad to know that they are managing okay, and that the peace camp location was not impacted. As of today, we expect the peace camp to take place as planned.

**On Saturday, November 12**, we will be playing in the dirt at Camp Mennoscah! It's the last step (we think) in finishing up the newly renovated amphitheater. Dirt needs to be moved by hand between the rows of limestone seating. We'll start at 9:00 AM and work until the last tablespoon of dirt is in place. Stay for as long as you are able. Bring your water bottle, weather appropriate gear and we'll provide a lunch. (Call us at 620-297-3290 and let us know of any dietary considerations.)

**Shop to support MCC's work** with welcome and migration on Saturday, November 12, 10:00 AM-5:30 PM! Proceeds at Newton Et Cetera Shop support Mennonite Central Committee and our local partners year-round. On November 12 we're doing something different! Every single dime and dollar you spend at the shop will go to MCC, not just the proceeds! We'll also have someone from MCC here to talk more about the work they're doing, and how shopping, donating and volunteering at MCC Thrift Shops helps to support this work. Mark your calendars now for some holiday shopping to support MCC and to learn more about their work with people on the move!

**The Kansas MDS (Mennonite Disaster Service) Unit** is sponsoring a Learning and Service trip to Jennings, Louisiana, January 28-February 4, 2023. Participants will leave on Saturday traveling to New Orleans, staying over night, learning about long term recovery from disasters and visiting Laura Plantation on Sunday. Your cost will be one night lodging, two tours we will take and meals on the days we travel. MDS is covering the transportation, meals and lodging while on the MDS project in Jennings. We will be rebuilding homes with MDS from Monday through Friday. To make your reservations or for more information contact Cleo Koop at [cleohkoop@gmail.com](mailto:cleohkoop@gmail.com) or call 316-282-0797.

## Announcements

**The offering for November 6** will be for Mennonite Central Committee. 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: [firstmen-nonitewton.org](http://firstmen-nonitewton.org).

**Nursery care is now available** for infants and toddlers every Sunday during Sunday school and worship.

**Childcare is now available** for children ages 2-5 during the worship service. Children of this age will have the opportunity to leave after the "Words for the children" for supervised play time in the Beginner's classroom, Room #234. Parents, please pick your children up promptly following the conclusion of the worship service.

**First Mennonite Church** worship attendance for October 23—146.

**Choir rehearsals will begin** this Wednesday, November 2 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Any interested singers are welcome to join in as we prepare for participating in worship on November 20 and December 18.

**Remembrance Sunday, November 6.** We will take time in our service on November 6 to remember loved ones who have passed away. There will be an open time during which anyone will be welcome to come forward, name their deceased loved one, and light a candle on their behalf. If you are uncomfortable or unable to come forward on November 6, and would like us to name a loved one and light a candle for you, please contact the church office with your request no later than Wednesday, November 2.

**The Knitting4Peace group** will meet Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. This group has been tying comforters for MCC and working on individual projects for donating to the Safe Hope shelter (afghan, knitted toys for kids, etc). Come join us, and if you can't join us but would like to donate any hand-made items to the Safe Hope shelter or another community organization, contact Elena Entz Wiebe at [ele413@gmail.com](mailto:ele413@gmail.com) or Wendy Funk Schrag at [pwschrag@cox.net](mailto:pwschrag@cox.net).

**Wednesday Community Nights** Join us this Wednesday for:

**5:45 PM**—Meal (bringing your own tableware welcomed, but not required)

Meal will be served by Koinonia Sunday School.

The menu is taco salad, clementines, and dessert.

The meal is by donation and all are welcome

**6:30– 7:30 PM**

- Preschool – Kindergarten class with Rachel Koehn—Room 234
- Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class with Shannon Bartel—Rooms 132 & 134
  - Activities for Jr/Sr Youth
- Adult class – "Lab 1: The Ingredients of Neighboring" with Pastor Laura—Room 136

*The front doors will be locked. Please use the south, east or west doors for Wednesday night activities.*