

Upcoming Worship Services

December 18—4th Sunday of Advent—*Do Not Be Afraid*—Choral Cantata

December 25—Merry Christmas!—No Sunday School—Our worship service will be an intimate time of music, prayer, and celebrating Christ's birthday, led by Pastor Laura.



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!



SCAN ME

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

Luke Unruh, Pastor—620-386-4596; lukeu@firstmennonitenewton.org

Administrative Assistant

Tracy Kerr—316-283-0273; office@firstmennonitenewton.org

Advent 3: Restoration is Near

First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS



December 11, 2022

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Gathering

Welcome

Kevin Miller, worship leader

Meditation music

Comfort, comfort these my people by Michael Burkhardt
Amanda Rempel, organist

Candle lighting

Kevin Miller and Wintermote Family

Worship Leader: Look! The coming of the Lord is soon!

Tell what you hear and see:

**People: The lost are found, the blind receive sight, the deaf hear,
the lame walk, the poor hear good news,
and those who are dead in spirit receive new life.**

(light candle)

Candle lighters: We light this candle as a sign of your love
made visible among us.

People: O God, bring restoration to your people, we pray.

O Come, O Come Immanuel (v. 5 & 6)
John Goerzen

Listening

Worship songs

Hope Is a Candle VT 211
Hark! The Glad Sound! VT 217

Words for the children

A Shepherd Remembers
Ken Frey

Prayer for the offering

Local Mission

Kevin Miller, worship leader

Scripture reading

Matthew 11:2-11
Kevin Miller

Sermon

Tell What You See and Hear
Pastor Laura Goerzen

Response song

How Can We Be Silent VT 790

Prayers of the church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Welcoming Bob and Linda Koch into membership

Sending

Sending song

Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called VT 220

Announcements and benediction

Kevin Miller, worship leader

Postlude

The King shall come when morning dawns arr. David N. Johnson
Amanda Rempel, 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, Brian Kennell, Ryan Goertzen Regier, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Rempel and Daryl Unruh HAT Team. Property Committee: Rod Wedel. Visuals: Carol Goering and Cindy Unruh.

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

Advent at Home 2022 worship guide, “Restoration is Near!” for families and households is now available. Access the guide digitally or print it out [here](#). This resource comes from Mennonite Education Agency and Mennonite Church USA.

Now at Kauffman Museum on the Bethel College campus: “Reeds and Wool: Patterned Screens of Central Asia,” revived from 20 years ago in memory of the late John Sommer, who collected the screens, made by nomadic Kyrgyz women, and organized the original exhibit. Regular Kauffman Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM-4:30 PM, Saturday-Sunday, 1:30-4:30 PM. The museum is closed Mondays and major holidays, so it will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. There is a small admission charge for non-members. The Museum Store is open during exhibit hours and is Harvey County’s only source for Ten Thousand Villages fair-trade gifts, as well as a selection of books, puzzles, cards and many local gift and craft items. See kauffmanmuseum.org or Kauffman Museum Facebook page.

MCC Christmas Giving! Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and more. Give at mcc.org/delight, call 888-563-4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street. With each gift you can get a card and insert explaining the project. These gifts (from \$10-\$4,000) make wonderful hostess/teacher gifts, stocking stuffers and are ideal for those on your Christmas list that are hard to shop for!

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 or call 316-282-0797.

Application and further details for summer staffers here! We are seeking stunning summer staff to fill the following leadership positions for the 2023 summer: crafts, lifeguard, music, nature, office, and grounds. These positions are typically filled by college-age students, are summer-long and receive a stipend. A summer of fun, service and faith formation!

January 2-7, 2023: Peace for the Weary at Camp Deerpark: Calling young adults living in metropolitan areas to take a break from daily life and join MCC for a transformational week of connection and learning. During this experience, you will gain tools for understanding trauma and develop strategies for self-care and healing through the lens of restorative justice to bring back to your city. Registration fee is \$200; sign up now at mcc.org/peace-for-the-weary. For more information about peace camps: mcc.org/peace-camps.

Announcements

The offering for December 18 will be for Local Mission. 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: firstmennonitenewton.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 December 4—149.

Restoration Visuals for Advent—The visuals in the front of the church represent restoration in several ways. The banner on the pulpit is torn fabric that is slowly being mended is done using visible mending (check out this concept on the internet). Over the weeks of Advent a picture will begin to form. The advent candles are surrounded by a forest that is slowly being restored. Finally the cloth beneath the advent candle was woven by Carol Goering and is the pattern The Star of Bethlehem which is an overshot pattern requiring the weaver to throw two shuttles alternately to form the design. The star signals the place where the birth of Jesus occurred which continues to bring joy and hope to all people. For a more complete experience you are encouraged to step up closer and see these visuals before or after church.

Special Congregational Meeting—We are calling a congregational meeting **to be held today**, immediately following the worship service. During the meeting we will take action on a motion from the church board to sell the additional lots West of the church. This includes the parking lot and the lot off 2nd street. Additional information will be sent out prior to the meeting. ~Ryan Koehn, Church Moderator

Local Missions Update: For the month of December we will need to receive around \$55,000 in order to end the year in the black. You as a congregation should be commended for the wonderful way that you have contributed to keep the church in the black these last few years. May God continue to bless you. The Financial Stewardship Committee.

The Allies group, which supports people with various sexual and gender identities and their families and friends, will be meeting Sunday, December 11, 3:00 PM at FMC in the main floor southwest corner room, #224. For more information, contact Wendy Funk Schrag at pwschrag@cox.net.

Digital Media Coordinator—First Mennonite Church is seeking a Digital Media Coordinator (DMC). This is a quarter time non-exempt position working 5 to 10 hours a week. The DMC will work in conjunction with the pastoral team to develop First Mennonite's online presence through effective use of technology and social media. The primary responsibilities for this position will be to:

- Maintain FMC's website with engaging and up to date information for those interested in learning more about FMC
- Develop our Facebook and social media presence, sharing our mission and opportunities for engagement on Sunday mornings and beyond
- Devote time to learning Realm, our church management software, and teach our church body how to utilize its various functions to enhance communication, volunteer management and connect Sunday schools and small groups
- Coordinate with photographers to maintain a collection of high-quality photos reflecting the life of the congregation together
- Develop videos or slideshows relevant to the work or worship of the church
- Help run sound and/or stream worship services as needed, particularly for week-day events
- Contribute and execute ideas for communicating who we are to the surrounding community
- Check-in weekly with the Pastoral Staff

The ideal candidate will be a team player, have strong written communication skills, be proficient in Microsoft PowerPoint and video editing software, have experience working with and/or designing websites, be familiar with running a sound system, and have the ability to work creatively and offer ideas for increasing FMC's reach on social media. Interested individuals should contact the church office for an application.

In recent years, FMC has partnered with MDS to frame houses in our parking lot that will be taken apart and shipped to a job site somewhere in the US. There has been some talk of doing this again to help out families whose homes were destroyed due to tragic events. If you have any interest in taking charge of this project or participating in any way, talk to John Good (316-258-5389). Once enough interest is garnered, there will be an informational meeting (TBD) for those who would like to participate.

On Sunday, December 25 there will be no Sunday School classes. We will see you at the worship service at 10:30 AM.

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—9:15 AM
- Youth Group—Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM.

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

Attention Singers—It's Kansas Mennonite Men's Choir time! All men and boys who enjoy singing, are encouraged to sign up by December 21, but it's not a deadline. It's an early record date so music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact Donnie Kingsley at 316-773-8044 or email: dj_jr@cox.net. First rehearsal is January 29, 2:30 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. Also, past members please check you church mailboxes. 2023 concert schedule: April 23—Bethel College Memorial Hall— North Newton at 7:00 PM and April 30—Bethany College Presser Hall—Lindsborg—7:00 PM.

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. 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 entrance to collect non-perishable items. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may write a check to "Harvest of Love" and place it in the offering. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives!

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is January 4-10, 2023. If you are able to help by volunteering or with meals, contact Lee Penner or Ruby Moore.

Attend or Sponsor Annual Roots of Justice Anti-Racism Training January 13-15, 2023. First Mennonite's Outreach Commission hopes you will consider attending this event or sponsoring scholarships for others from our congregation and community to participate in this powerful, hope-filled training. Cost for one participant is \$300 before December 1 and \$350 after December 1. Donations can be made through First Mennonite if designated for "Roots of Justice." Please contact the church office if you wish to attend. Training Dates: Friday, January 13 (6:00-9:00 PM), Saturday, January 14 (9:00 AM-5:00 PM), Sunday, January 15 (9:00 AM-5:00 PM). Location: Newton Recreation Commission, 415 N Poplar St., Newton, KS

Community Announcements

37th annual Lighting of the Green on the Bethel College campus—today at 8:00 PM.

Join the Advent journey by using Joanna Harader's Advent Devotional—*Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women who Prepared the Way*. The WDC Resource Library will host a discussion over the first part of the book on Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. Limited copies of the devotional are available at the library. Register for the conversation by emailing clrib@mennowdc.org or at <https://forms.gle/YfpcrkfwtdiuJmk7A>

Central Kansas Master Chorale—*Christmas with the Chorale*—December 18, 3:00 PM at Hesston Mennonite Church. For more information visit: centralkansasmasterchorale.org.