

## Upcoming Worship Services

**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 Goerzen.

**January 1**—Another special service, led by Pastor Luke 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!



**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](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)

Website: [www.firstmennonitenewton.org](http://www.firstmennonitenewton.org)

#### 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)



Advent 4: Do Not Be Afraid

First Mennonite Church  
Newton, KS



# December 18, 2022

---

## Gathering

### Welcome

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

### Meditation music

*What child is this?* arr. Mark Hayes  
Donna Stucky, organist

### Candle lighting

Wendy Schrag and Miller Family

Worship Leader: Behold! Do not be afraid; God is with us.  
God is our strength and our salvation!

**People: Lord, we stand in your presence in faith, not fear.**  
(light candle)

Candle lighters: Holding fast to God's promise to be with us,  
we light this candle as a sign of our joy.

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

*O Come, O Come Immanuel* (v. 4 & 7)  
Men's Quartet

## Listening

### Words for the children

*A Shepherd Remembers*  
Ken Frey

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

### Congregational song

*Poor of the Earth* VT 213

### Choir

*Be Not Afraid! The Messiah is Born!*

### Zechariah Remembers

Kevin Miller

### Choir

*Morning of Promise (Veni, Emmanuel)*

### Mary Remembers

Carol Entz

### Choir

*Lo, How a Rose*

### Joseph Remembers

Chris Weaver

### Congregational song

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VT 243

### A Magi Remembers

Keith Knopp

### Choir

*What Child is This?*

### Concluding thoughts and prayers of the church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

## Sending

### Sending song

*Love Has Come* VT 258

### Announcements, offering reminder and Benediction

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

### Postlude

*Vom Himmel Hoch* arr. Michael Bedford

Donna Stucky, organist

---

*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, Joey Menninga, Alex Goering, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Donna Stucky and Jyl Ewy. Property Committee: Mason Unruh. Visuals: Carol Goering and Cindy Unruh.*

**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](http://kauffmanmuseum.org) or Kauffman Museum Facebook page.

**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.

**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](http://mcc.org/peace-for-the-weary). For more information about peace camps: [mcc.org/peace-camps](http://mcc.org/peace-camps).

**Do you have a hankering for a giant bonfire?** Camp Mennoscah has several burn piles and tall grass areas that need to be burned. This takes several people, a full day and cooperating weather. Burning hasn't been done for a few years and we'd like to have the piles and tall grass done for safety reasons. Call 620-297-3290 or email [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to volunteer.

## Announcements

**The offering for December 25** 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](http://firstmennonitenewton.org).

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

**Childcare is 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 11—133.

**Delia Schroeder (92 years)** passed away Tuesday, December 13. Her memorial service will be on Friday, January 6, at 10:00 AM, at Petersen Funeral Home. We extend our condolences to Delia’s family and friends.

**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.

**Offering for Local Mission**—December 4 & 11—\$5,615. Online Local Mission—\$3,670.

**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.

**It would be wonderful** if we could get the boiler expense paid off this year, since it was an expense in this year. The amount we still need is \$30,000.

~Financial Stewardship Committee.

**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.

**Our Christmas Eve service** will be at 7:00 PM. Come and hear the program *The Other Wise Man* and join us to celebrate Christ's arrival in our world!

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

**Offering envelopes for 2023** have been placed in your church mailbox. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them or have any questions, contact the Church Office. Also, if you use online giving and do not need the envelopes, please let Tracy know and she will make sure that you don't receive the envelopes.

## SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—9:15 AM
- Youth Group—Thursday, December 22, 7:00 PM.

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

**Yearbook update forms** have been placed in your church mailbox. Please fill out the form and return it to the Church Office **by Sunday, January 8**. 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 and on the table in the Gathering Area.

**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: [dl\\_jr@cox.net](mailto:dl_jr@cox.net). First rehearsal is January 29, 2:30 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. Also, past members please check your 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 at 284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

**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

**Central Kansas Master Chorale**—*Christmas with the Chorale*—today, 3:00 PM at Hesston Mennonite Church. For more information visit: [centralkansasmasterchorale.org](http://centralkansasmasterchorale.org).