

Upcoming Worship Services

December 11—3rd Sunday of Advent—*Restoration is Near: Tell*—Pastor Laura

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



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

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Advent 2: Restoration is Near

First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS



December 4, 2022

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Gathering

Welcome

Carol Entz, worship leader

Meditation music

For You, O God, My Soul VT 41

Ben's Band

Candle lighting

Carol Entz and Funk Family

Worship Leader: John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

People: Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.

(light candle)

Candle Lighters: As we prepare for Jesus' arrival,
we light this candle as a sign of peace.

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

O Come, O Come Immanuel (v.2)

Congregation acapella

Listening

Worship song

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT 218

Ben's Band

Words for the children

A Shepherd Remembers

Ken Frey

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

Prayer for the offering

Western District

Carol Entz, worship leader

Scripture reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Carol Entz

Sermon

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Pastor Luke Unruh

Prayers of the church

Larry Entz

Sending

Sending song

Psalm 40: I Patiently Waited For You

Ben's Band

Announcements and benediction

Carol Entz, worship leader

Postlude

We Come

Ben's Band

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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, Joey Menninga, Ryan Koehn and Melody Enns are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Ben's Band. Property Committee: Kevin Hamm. Visuals: Carol Goering and 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!



Bethel College Steel Drum Ensemble concert—Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM, directed by Brad Shores, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*—Wednesday, December 7, 11:00 AM, with chamber orchestra and soloists, Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores provided.

Christmas Gala Jazz concert—Friday, December 9, 8:00 PM, directed by Joel Boettger, in Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

37th annual Lighting of the Green on the Bethel College campus—Sunday, December 11, 8:00 PM.

Free resource: Learning about generosity with MCC! Make talking about generosity with your children easy by using this free resource. The printable worksheets help kids explore the basics of generosity at an elementary school level. The resource contains downloadable worksheets, activity ideas, a story about how generosity makes a difference, make-your-own bookmark craft and alternative Christmas gift ideas. Click here to sign up: [MCC generosity resource](#).

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

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.

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 cleokoop@gmail.com or call 316-282-0797.

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 11 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 November 27—142.

Offering for Local Missions from November 20 and 27—\$11,585; online Local Missions—\$4,900.

Have you seen our beautiful new children's spaces? Over the last couple of years, we've remodeled the nursery and the main floor Sunday school rooms for our youngest children. *You're invited to help us celebrate these spaces with a reception after church today.*

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.

The knitting4peace group will meet Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 PM, the Fellowship Hall. Come tie a comforter or work on your own project.

Special Congregational Meeting—We are calling a congregational meeting to be held on December 11 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

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. Once enough interest is garnered, there will be an informational meeting (TBD) for those who would like to participate.

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.

SR. HIGH YOUTH



- Sunday School—9:15 AM
- Youth Group—Next Wednesday, December 7, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Youth Room. Luke will lead a discussion where cocoa, coffee, chai, cider, et. will be available to sip on!

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

The next quarter Sunday School materials are here. You can find the material 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. 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 November and 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 nonperishable 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!

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

The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers will be today, 3:00 PM, at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus, Newton. The prelude will begin at 2:45 PM, featuring Vada Snider, Flute; and Karen Loucks, Piano. The program will include the Prelude; Treble Clef Chorus; Hearts 4 Him—Men's Ensemble; Josue Coy Dick, violin solo; and the Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble. A freewill offering will be taken for the scholarship fund that will be awarded to high school seniors who are pursuing a music major.

WDC Volunteer building manager transition: WDC extends thanks to John Good, who is stepping down from his volunteer role as building manager at the 2500 Place in North Newton, KS, which houses WDC's offices, conference rooms, Resource Library and other tenants. John's skillful, cheerful and generous service to WDC over these past 10 years has been deeply appreciated, and we wish him well in the future! WDC seeks a new volunteer to offer several hours per week to manage maintenance and repairs at the 2500 Place. If you know of someone who is interested in supporting WDC in this way, please contact the office at 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowd.org.