

Upcoming Worship Services

May 21—Pastor Laura preaching—*We Are Witnesses*

May 28—Pastor Luke preaching—Pentecost

June 4—VBS worship on Bethel College lawn at 10 AM



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

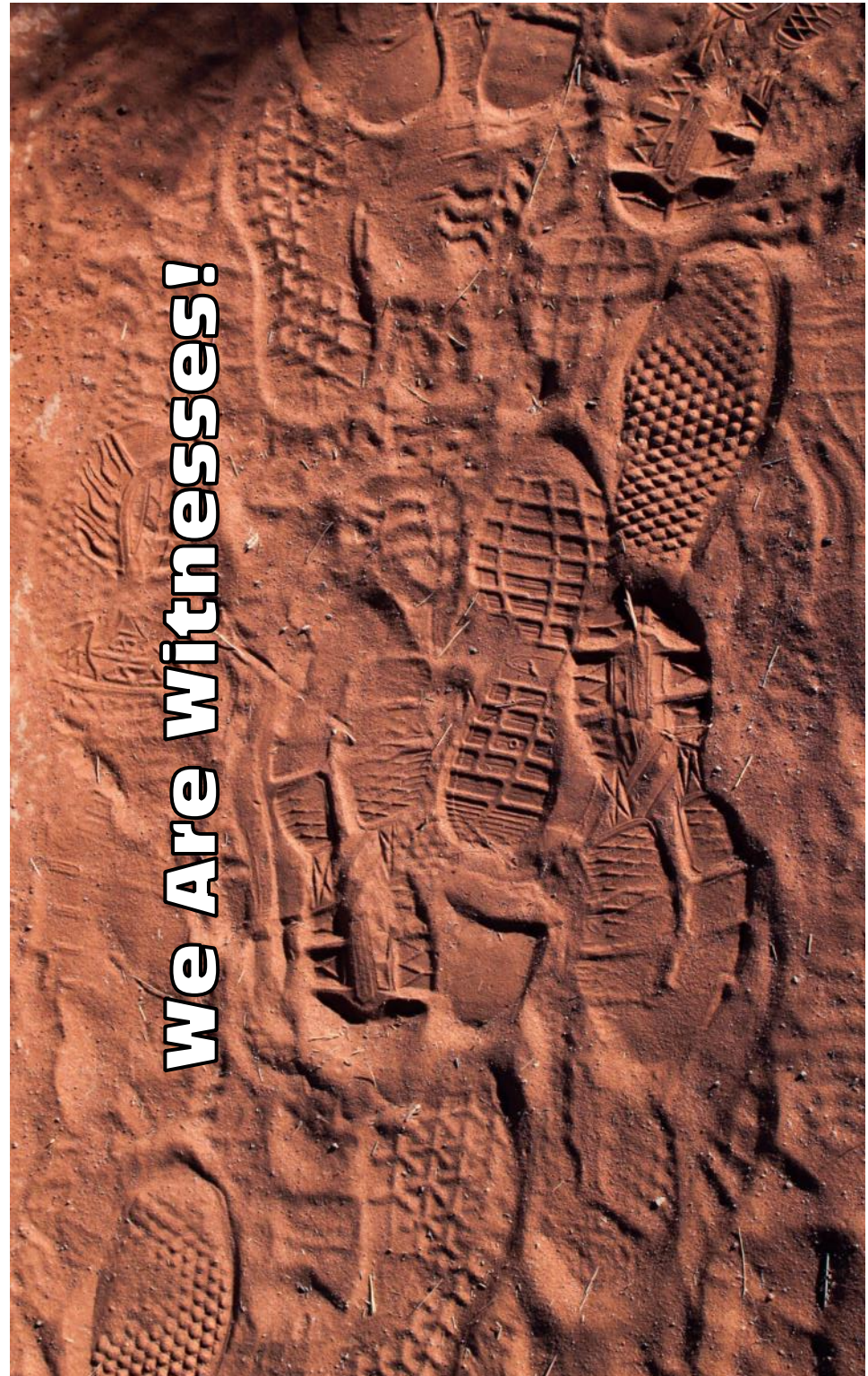
Luke Unruh, Pastor—620-386-4596; lukeu@firstmennonitenewton.org

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We Are Witnesses!



First Mennonite Church Newton, KS May 14, 2023

Gathering

Welcome

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Meditation music

How Great Thou Art

Amanda Rempel and Faith Wenger

Call to worship

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Listening

Worship songs

Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah VT 95

God Is Here Among Us VT 62

Words for the children

John Goerzen

Special music

Jesus Loves Me

Amanda Rempel and Faith Wenger

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

Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

Dave Wiebe

Scripture reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44

Dave Wiebe

Sermon

Hidden Gifts

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Response song

One Is the Body VT 386

Prayer of the church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending song

Go in Grace and Make Disciples VT 766

Announcements and benediction

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Postlude

Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Amanda Rempel and Faith Wenger

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!



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 Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Property Committee: Alan Entz. Visuals: Cindy Unruh.

Announcements

Camp Mennoscah has begun to raise money through the M&M Project. Our list of Fire Keepers—givers who have promised to add \$1000 to this fund by the end of the calendar yet - is growing. Remember, money raised for the M&M Project, will be matched by, dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000 by a generous donor. We know you will want to be in on this opportunity to continue our Mission at Camp. Now is the time to sign up—your family, your Sunday School class, your small group, yourself—to be a Fire Keeper! Some may want to make the commitment and write the check immediately. That allows us to use the funds coming in for projects that need attention now, like making sure the AC is working in the Retreat Center for the people who will rent that facility this summer. Others may wish to make the promise, then pay later. That is OK as well—you can give monthly or in whatever way works for you and your group. Your promise now for funds to come helps us plan how to budget our spending. Of course, your churches are invited to put together a fundraising event this year that would specifically benefit the M&M Project. Talk to Tammy for ideas! For information, check out the Camp Mennoscah website, or contact Tammy 316-207-3472 or tammy.d.unruh@campmennoscah.org.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Annual Dinner and Meeting will be Thursday, May 25, 6:00 PM, at First Mennonite Church, McPherson. The cost of the meal is \$20.00. Please RSVP to Barb BJ Reeves at bj.reeves@live.com or call/text 620-543-6863 by May 21. Come celebrate the success of the MCC Sale!

Hesston College Theatre Camp will run Sunday through Saturday, June 11 to 17, for students ages 11 to 18, with registration options for a commuter or full residential experience. The week-long immersive theatre program will culminate in a performance of “Freaky Friday” at 2:00 PM, Saturday, June 17. Registration is open through June 4 at hesston.edu/theatrecamp

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Each year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, known locally as NAMI Kansas, brings together hundreds of people to raise mental health awareness and funds through NAMI Walks Kansas. This year's walk will be at Topeka West High School on Saturday, May 20, 10:00 AM. Funds raised support NAMI Kansas' free local mental health programs and services. NAMI Kansas is part of the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for millions of Americans affected by mental illness. **Lee and Deb Penner** are part of the Mid-Kansas Family Support Group which meets once a month at our church. Join our team by registering online at www.namiwalks.org/kansas. Our team name is Mid-Kansas Walkers 23, and Deb is the team captain. Please consider a donation to this vital organization. There are two ways to donate: Go online and donate securely with your credit card. Or, if you prefer to send a check, make it payable to NAMI Kansas, and give it to Deb by May 18 so she can take it with her to the walk. Half of all proceeds go to our local affiliate. Learn more about NAMI at www.nami.org. For questions, call Deb at 316-288-0354.

The offering for May 21 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: first-mennonitenewton.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 May 7—122; online viewers—130.

Your prayers have strengthened us, your words have comforted us, and your love has sustained us. We extend our deepest thanks to you for your many acts of kindness. We appreciate you more than words can express. ~Jo Frye and family

Caregiving and Membership Commission has sent a letter of membership transfer on behalf of Abby (Schrag) Koch to Shalom Mennonite Church. We offer our blessings and best wishes to Abby and husband, Evan, as they continue their faith journey at Shalom. They will be welcomed into membership at Shalom on May 21.

Are you missing a dish or container from your kitchen?? Please check in the church kitchen on the counter...there are a number of dishes that have been left at the church who are wanting to go home...come look to see if they are yours. Thank you.



VBS “Changemakers Lab” Registration is OPEN! Follow the QR code to register your child/ren. Please do a separate registration for each child. VBS runs May 30-June 2, 5:30-7:30PM, at Bethel College Mennonite Church, with a light supper provided for kids and volunteers. We can’t wait to discover with your kids how God inspires us to bring change to the world!

Come see a Play, Friday, June 2 at VBS! From 6-7:30 PM, on June 2 at BCMC, ALL are invited to a performance of Selah’s Song, a play about a young girl in Ukraine who inspires her community with a song of Peace. This play is suitable for all ages and we hope you can join! Presented by Theatre of the Beat, a touring company based in Toronto.



The Nurture Commission has put together a survey about Wednesday Community Nights. We would like for the congregation to provide responses for future insight into what the congregation would like to see. You may fill out the survey online at: <https://forms.gle/Vu8WTzmb7XptfC2d9>, fill out a paper copy that is on the table in the Gathering Area, or follow the QR code to fill out the survey. Responses are due by May 31.

Summer Enrichment Activities for Kids (and Families) or SEAK will again be sponsored by Peace Connections this summer, June 6 - July 28. Free meals are provided by local businesses, including Carlos Kitchen and Catering, Breadbasket, Panda Kitchen, and Prairy Market and Deli. We will be participating on Wednesdays with water play activities for the children who come. It's a lot of fun playing with kids, getting wet, and meeting the children and parents who come! If you have completed Safe Sanctuary training, please sign up in the Gathering Area for the Wednesdays you can help, or talk to Bev Regier.

Believe it or not, it is time to sign up for summer camp at Camp Mennoscah. As we have in the past, the Nurture Commission will provide a \$100 scholarship to each camper from FMC and Casa Betania. You must sign up on the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area to receive a camp scholarship from FMC. The \$100 scholarship will be paid directly to camp. To sign up for camp, go to www.campmennoscah.org and click on "Register Online"! If you have any questions about the camp scholarship, please contact Sara Rickard, sararickard@gmail.com. If you would like to give to the camp scholarship fund, please make your check payable to FMC, designated to "Camp Mennoscah Scholarships."

If you are graduating from high school or college this May, or know of someone from our congregation that will be graduating, please email or call the church office to let us know. We would like to include the names in an upcoming bulletin announcement.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is May 24-30. If you are able to help by volunteering or with meals, contact Lee Penner at 284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876

Community Announcements

A head cook(s) is needed for PreJunior II, June 25-29. The head cook is in charge of leading kitchen staff in the preparation of meals and snacks that keep campers energetic, smiling, and ready to enjoy the full camp days. Camp Mennoscah can provide a menu, if wanted, and will order groceries and get kitchen staff. Head cooks and nurses receive either a stipend or a camper discount up to full camp fees. Contact us at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290.

The next Work and Play Day is May 20! Bring a water bottle and meet at the maintenance shed at 8:30 AM. Camp will provide lunch. If you let us know you are coming, we can be better prepared for lunch. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 (landline) or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for details.

Youth ages 12 to 17 are invited to be a Junior Volunteer at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton or Schowalter Villa in Hesston June 1 through July 28. Junior Volunteers help facilitate activities with residents in health care and/or assisted living, including playing games, reading, going on walks and more. An application is required and must be submitted by May 10. Spaces are limited. Proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination series required. For application, contact 620-327-4821 or shelley@bluestemks.org.

Volunteers needed at Presbyterian Manor—we are looking for enthusiastic and friendly people who desire to make a change. If you have a special talent, want extra practice playing an instrument, enjoy playing games, or just want to visit, please contact Sarah Schmitt at 316-283-5400. (for more information, see flyer on bulletin board in Gathering Area)

Nurse needed for July 9-14, Junior High II Camp. As a nurse, you are a vital part of camp life. Your work to keep everyone healthy and well means campers and staff are ready to play and learn during their time at camp. Nurses must be a registered nurse (RN). Nurses receive either a stipend or a camper discount up to full camp fees. Contact us at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290.

Save the date—Western District Conference Annual Assembly, August 11-13, 2023 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. This annual event is for all ages. Come for intergenerational fun faith formation, music, worship, work of the broader church, good food, time with old and new friends, and more! The topic is holy listening.

Mennonite Church USA is seeking Menno Snapshots blogs on the topic, "I choose to be Mennonite because..." Bloggers are encouraged to reflect on how they came to Anabaptism, what attracted them to our Mennonite theology and practices, and how this has impacted their lives. This is an ideal opportunity for the recently baptized and/or those who may have joined from other faith traditions. Suggested word count is 500-900 words. Youth are also encouraged to participate (no word count requirements). Read the blog guidelines and submit your blog here by May 22: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/blog-guidelines/>

Custodial-housekeeping help is needed at Camp Mennoscah. This is a 10 hours per week position and is paid hourly. The work times are flexible, but must fit within the group and retreat scheduling, which varies from week to week. The position requires an application, references, and background check. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for details.

Camp Mennoscah is looking for people to provide a "main course" for approximately 12 people during the week of May 29-June 2. Camp will provide the extras for the meal and staff do the meal prep as a team building exercise. If you would like to provide the full meal, wonderful! During this week, summer staff do training for Youth Development, the Staff Handbook, Reducing the Risk of Abuse, and more. This week prepares the staff to create great camp experiences for a summer of campers. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for details.