

Upcoming Worship Services

August 27—Celebrating *The Peace Table* Storybook Bible

September 2-3—Camp Mennoscah weekend (no Sunday School or worship service here at the church)



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 (firstmennonitewton.org), on our Facebook page, YouTube, or at our Vimeo site. Recordings of the service will be available afterwards as well. Today, Ryan Koehn, Eric Murphy, and Alex Goering are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Chorister: Daryl Unruh. Property Committee: Rod Wedel. Visuals: Carol Goering.



How're We Doing, Stewards?

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

PO Box 291, 429 E. First Street, Newton, KS 67114-0291

Phone: 316-283-0273

E-mail: office@firstmennonitewton.org

Website: www.firstmennonitewton.org

Pastoral Team

Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitewton.org

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

Administrative Assistant

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



First Mennonite Church Newton, KS August 20, 2023

Gathering

Welcome

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Blessing MCC School Kits

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Meditation music

Madre de la Tierra
Amanda Entz, pianist

Call to worship

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Listening

Worship songs

At the Dawn of Your Creation VT 179
This Is God's Wondrous World VT 180

Words for the children

Sheralyn Goering

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

Sharing from Western District Conference Assembly

Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

Chris Weaver

Scripture reading

Psalm 8
Chris Weaver

Sermon

How're We Doing, Stewards?
Pastor Luke Unruh

Response song

Touch the Earth Lightly VT 145

Prayer of the church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending song

Creation Is a Song VT 181

Announcements and benediction

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth
Amanda Entz, organist

Save the Date!

FMC has reserved Camp Mennoscah for **September 2-3**. Save the date and plan to join us at camp for worship, food, fellowship, and fun!

Check your church mailboxes for more information and how to register.

Please make checks out to First Mennonite Church with Camp Mennoscah weekend in the memo line and drop them off at the church office with your registration form. If you need transportation to camp, please indicate this on your registration form. Also, let us know on your registration sheet if you have special food needs.

~The Celebration Committee

Announcements

The offering for August 27 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 available for infants & toddlers every Sunday during Sunday school & 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: August 13—158.

Local Missions Update: Due to a number of larger expenditures in July, we ended the month with a deficit. For the year, we need \$53,000 to get us in the black. Whatever you can do to defray this deficit will be appreciated. ~Betty Pauls, Treasurer

Solar Panel Update: To date we have received \$31,775 in contributions for the solar panels. Thank you.

The Allies group, which supports people with various sexual and gender identities and their families and friends, will be meeting Sunday, August 20, 3:00 PM, at FMC in the main floor southwest corner room, #224. For more information, contact Wendy Funk Schrag at pwschrag@cox.net.

A Safe Sanctuaries training is being offered via zoom on Wednesday, August 23, at 7:00 PM. If you are due for a refresher or are interested in receiving training for the first time, please contact Sara Rickard to receive the zoom link required to attend. The training consists of a 40 minute video, followed by Q&A, on how our church can provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for children and vulnerable adults. The training, along with a background check, is required of anyone hoping to work with youth in our congregation.

August Intergenerational Sunday School! We are super excited about our line-up of activities for this year, and hope all ages join us for:

- August 27: Flying with John Goerzen

THANK YOU for contributing items to our MCC school kits project! We will be packing the school kits during Sunday School on August 20. Come join the fun! In order to have at least 50 (!!) complete school kits, we could use more of the following items: 70 sheet spiral notebooks, rulers (inch and cm markings), black or blue ballpoint pens, and kit bags (instructions for sewing are at mcc.org/get-involved/kits/bag). Place your items in the boxes in the gathering area by Saturday morning, August 19. Thanks again!

Work Day at the Muse Apartment Grounds. Come to the Muse Apartments on Saturday, August 26, anytime between 8:00 AM and Noon to help clear brush and improve flower beds. Bring water and work gloves. Lunch will be served. This work day is a joint effort involving several neighborhood organizations including New Creation and First Mennonite. A sign up sheet is on the information table in the gathering area. Come to work and enjoy connecting with others who care about our neighborhood!

You received a copy of **First Mennonite Church's Safe Sanctuary Policy**, in an email on Thursday, which the Safe Sanctuaries Committee reviews and updates on a regular basis. (Paper copies are available in the gathering area). The vision of policy is to help the church **"strive to create a safe haven that encourages respect, equality, and kinship in Christ, which is free of abuse for all."** We want to encourage all of us to strive to create this type of safe haven in our church community.

We know we are all looking forward to our fun labor weekend plans at Camp Mennoscah. In preparation for the event, we encourage you to review the Safe Sanctuaries Policy, but here are three "take-aways" from the policy that will help us provide a healthy environment:

- Our Camp Mennoscah weekend is an event in which parents are expected to be responsible for their children and any guests they bring, but we encourage all adults to be aware of the youth around us. Making sure that interactions remain visible and interruptible helps to ensure a safe environment.
- We encourage time in cabins to be in family groups with responsible adults and advise against a kids only cabin.
- If you invite youth as guests, remember to ask their parents for emergency contact information and any allergy alerts as you are picking them up.

With God's guidance and loving parental intuition, we will have such a wonderful and blessed time together!

Community Announcements

Newton Et Cetera Shop August Volunteer Orientation—Are you looking at giving back to the community, to the region, or the world? Then volunteering at Newton Et Cetera Shop is where you need to be! August 24, 6:30-7:30 PM. Enter through the back door.

Historian and pastor John Sharp will join us at Newton Public Library for a special discussion of *The White Mosque: A Memoir*, at noon on September 8 in the Bessmer Room. This is part of our regular Nonfiction Book Club series, but anyone is welcome to attend. Sharp is a recently-retired historian who taught at Hesston College, and a former director of the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee and Archives. In 2016, he led a tour group, which included the author Sofia Samatar, that followed in the footsteps of 19th-century Mennonites who traveled from Russia into Central Asia, where their charismatic leader predicted Christ would return. Samatar was fascinated not only by the hardships of the Mennonites' journey, but by its aftermath: the establishment of a small Christian village in a Muslim region that is now part of Uzbekistan – named Ak Metchet, or The White Mosque, after the whitewashed church the Mennonites built there. *The White Mosque* is the memoir Samatar wrote following her tour experience. It is a historical tapestry of border-crossing travelers, students, wanderers, martyrs and invaders, as well as a record of the strange shifts, encounters and accidents that combine

to create an identity. Sharp will share his deep knowledge of this "Mennonite Great Trek to Central Asia," answer questions and help facilitate discussion of the book. Copies of *The White Mosque* are available for borrowing at Newton Public Library. Ask at the public service desk or call 316-283-2890.

This year's registration form and brochure for the Western District Women in Mission Women's & Girls Retreat September 9-10, at Camp Mennoscah, is available to download, print and send in at <https://www.westerndistrictwomeninmission.org/events>. We hope you can join us! This year's theme is *Women Talking, Listening, and Creating*, with our scripture theme being 2 Peter 1:12-21. We'll be diving into some fun activities around storytelling, listening, story-catching, and story-keeping in a variety of formats. Registration is due by September 5. For questions, e-mail westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.

You are invited to the MDS Region 3 Annual Meeting September 15 and 16 in Boulder, Colorado. Virtual attendance is available. Throughout the weekend you will have opportunities to meet/greet some of the MDS binational staff and learn about MDS activities. You can register online. The registration fee of \$20 for individuals and \$30 for couples to cover meal costs will be collected on-site when you register at the table. We are excited to have Kevin King, MDS Executive Director; Paul Johnson, Rocky Mountain Unit Chair; and Matt Troyer-Miller, Region 3 Operations Coordinator speak at this event. If you have questions contact Stephen Hochstetler at 919-825-0354 or email shochstetler@mds.org.

Save the date! Camp Mennoscah will host a kick off event to celebrate our 75th Anniversary on September 23! There will be a day of fun activities down by the river, so mark your calendars now! Watch Camp Mennoscah's website - www.campmennoscah.org - for more details as the date approaches!

Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats is open. The retreats are scheduled for November 3-5 and November 10-12. All retreat activities will happen at the Main Camp facilities with cropping and crafts in the dining hall and lodging in the bunkhouses. (The Retreat Center will be undergoing HVAC renovations.) Single rooms are not available. Contact us at 620-297-3290 with questions or issues. We'll see you in the fall!

SAVE THE DATE—Plan to join us at the 2023 Bluestem Gala for an evening of amazing food, entertainment and memories, all to support the Bluestem Communities mission. The 2023 Bluestem Gala will be Thursday, November 2. An invitation will be sent to you later this fall with more details. Your support of this annual event will benefit the three benevolent funds for Bluestem PACE, Kidron Bethel Village and Schowalter Villa.

Hope Mennonite Church is delighted to invite you to an evening of fun and inspiring music Sunday, August 27, 6:30 PM. You will be entertained by the lead vocalists of Everyday Lights, Paul Austin and Jennifer (Hope) Chlumsky from Salina, KS. They combine a variety of musical styles including folk, bluegrass, jazz, country, and traditional hymns. Many of their songs are original. As you listen to the concert, a dessert and snack bar with sweet and salty snacks will be available. No tickets are necessary but a free-will donation will be gladly accepted with the proceeds going to Camp Mennoscah. Hope Mennonite Church – 868 N Maize Rd, Wichita, KS