

Upcoming Worship Services

September 17—Becoming a People of God: Feuding Brothers—Pastor Laura

September 24—Becoming a People of God: The Favored Child—Pastor Luke

Happy Birthday!

Jan Claassen—September 12

Randy Doty—September 12

Bev Regier—September 13

Dennis Good—September 15

Stefanie Knopp—September 16

Dale Schrag—September 16

Alesha Miller—September 16



**Sunday,
September 10, 2023**

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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Administrative Assistant

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First Mennonite Church Newton, KS September 10, 2023

Gathering

Welcome

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Meditation music

The God of Abraham Praise
Amanda Rempel

Call to worship

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Listening

Worship songs

Praise with Joy the World's Creator VT 428
Will You Come and Follow Me VT 540

Children's time

Keith Knopp

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

Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

Dave Wiebe

Scripture reading

Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7
Melanie Koop and Mary Janzen

Sermon

The Promised Child
Pastor Luke Unruh

Response song

Great Is Thy Faithfulness VT 419

Prayer of the church

Pastor Luke

Sending

Sending song

God of the Bible VT 420

Announcements and benediction

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Postlude

If You But Trust in God to Guide
Amanda Rempel

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, Tim Regier, Brian Kennell, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Chorister: Addie Kauffman. Property Committee: Phil Gaertner. Visuals: Cindy Unruh.

Prayer and Praise Notes

September 10, 2023

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6

Give thanks for the gift of God's creation and that we had the opportunity to worship outside last Sunday at Camp Mennoscah. We are grateful for Camp Mennoscah and all the other Mennonite camps around the country who provide a peaceful, nourishing and fun environment for all who come. Pray for the camp directors, staff and boards as they finish up a busy season and are already planning for the future.

Give thanks for new friendships that were created and existing friendships that were nurtured this past week. Pray that God will continue to draw us together as one family in Christ. Forgive us if we have been selfish, focusing on our own needs rather than the needs of others.

Pray for those of us who need healing. We are grateful that you hear our prayers both spoken and unspoken. Make us mindful that there are some who may be suffering in silence. Give us courage to ask for help and open our hearts and minds to see these needs.

Pray that God would empower us to love and respect those who are different from us. Grant us kindness and wisdom in addressing difficult situations and conversations.

Pray for God's healing hand over us even in our darkest hours. Pray for those who suffer from mental health issues, anxiety, depression or addictions. Give thanks for God's presence in good times and bad. Calm our hearts. Clear our minds. Give us peace.

Pray for the people of Ukraine who continue to live in the midst of unwanted war. Pray that God would somehow make a channel of peace to break through the violence and end the senseless deaths of so many innocent people.

Pray for those who are experiencing extreme weather events. Be near them as they continue to deal with the aftermath of storms and floods. Pray for rain in our area to relieve the drought.

Help us to remember to count our many blessings each day and give thanks.

From WDC: Pray for God's guidance for elected leaders of WDC (Executive Board, Gifts Discernment Committee, Church Planting Commission, Ministerial Leadership Commission, resource Commission, Stewardship Commission) and other WDC committees and task forces as they begin a new program year following the Annual Assembly.

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the members of the Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America (MTAL) as they compile their devotional book for 2024-2025. Pray that God's spirit will guide the team of volunteer editors and designers as they work with submissions from more than 300 women.

Announcements

The offering for September 17 will be for Local Missions. 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 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 total attendance during Camp Mennoscah weekend—130.

Address update—John and Jan Sommer, 1200 E 7th Street; Apt. 208; Newton, KS. They no longer have a home phone number, just cell phone numbers.

Zola Esau (95) passed away on August 31. Zola occasionally attended Bible Study and worship service here at FMC. Zola's funeral service was Saturday, September 9, 11:00 AM, at Emmaus Mennonite Church in rural Whitewater. We extend our condolences to Zola's family and friends.

Thank you to all who participated in the activities this past weekend. We hope that you all had a rewarding time in God's great outdoors. There were 86 people for Saturday night and 130 people for Sunday. Even though the temperatures were hot, some people were able to cool off by taking advantage of the swimming pool. Thank you to all who willingly planned the children's events, Saturday and Sunday programs and prepared and cleaned up after the meals. ~2023 Celebration Committee

Thank you to the 2023 Celebration Committee for all the work that went in to planning our Camp Mennoscah weekend! It was a great weekend and we thank you!

Buddy-up for Scripture Reading! Worship Commission would like to encourage people of all ages, from different generations, to consider pairing up to read scripture for us in Sunday morning worship. Youth, team up with a sponsor, children, team up with a Sunday school teacher, friends or colleagues that cross generational lines, team up with each other! Grab a buddy and sign up for a date to read scripture on the sign up sheet in the back. If you would like to read, but prefer us to match you with a partner, sign up too!

Stay 'N Play—starting Tuesday, September 19, 9:30-11:30 AM, bring your little ones ages 0-5, for a time to socialize and play. Your child can explore the toys in a free-play, unstructured environment while making friends with other youngsters. It's the perfect time to meet other parents and caregivers. We will meet each week on Tuesdays, here at FMC. Please use the south doors to enter the church. Coffee and snacks provided. Contact Dorian Funk if you have any questions. 316-284-7683

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, September 15.

We would like to encourage anyone who “sees a need” to help beautify our church or the church grounds, to form a small group of individuals to fix the need. If your group is needing some ideas of what needs to be done, please contact someone from the Property Commission, and they will be able to give your group some suggestions.

Save the date—Saturday, September 23 we will have a Property workday. Look for more information in the next bulletin.

The next quarter Sunday School materials are here. You can find the material on the table in the Gathering Area.

Room Reservation Reminder: As activities increase in our congregation, the Church Office would like to offer a friendly reminder to reserve your meeting location with our secretary, Tracy, in the church office prior to your meeting. If you forget to reserve a room, check the church calendar in the Gathering Area to see what is already reserved before setting up in a particular room. Thank you!

Do you have trouble hearing in the sanctuary? Thanks to a generous donation, we have installed a new hearing assist system. There are eight units that can be picked up and used during the service along with earbuds. If you have hearing aids that are compatible with t-loop, we also have the capability put the sound into your hearing aids. If you would like to use a hearing assist unit, stop by the sound booth before the service.

If you haven't signed up for *Realm* yet, our church software, you can still do that. Please contact the Church Office and a link will be emailed to you.

Community Announcements

75th Anniversary and Annual Meeting of Camp Mennoscah has changed dates to Sunday, September 24. Activities for all ages will begin at 1:00 PM, with a meal at 5:00 PM. The Annual Meeting will be at 6:00 PM, followed by a Talent Show at 7:00 PM. Watch the Camp Mennoscah Facebook page and Website at www.campmennoscah.org for details.

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.

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.

Bethel College's annual online journal, *Mennonite Life*, can be accessed at ml.bethelks.edu and there is a new item, “Elias Crosses the Molotschna,” a short story by Darrell Wiens. Also articles and reviews by Brad Born, Abigail Carl-Klassen, Daniel Shenk Cruz, Cheryl Denise, Josué Coy Dick, Nathan Garber, Rachel Waltner Goossen, Brad Gregory, Willmar Harder, Sheri Hostetler, Melanie Springer Mock, Hannah Neufeld, Kimberly Schmidt, Joe Smucker, Johnny Wideman and Ben Woodward-Breckbill.

Register now for the fall 2023 Bluestem U semester courses. Bluestem U is lifelong learning partnership program between Bluestem Communities, Bethel College and Hesston College for those age 55 and better. Courses are taught by former or current Bethel College or Hesston College instructors or local experts. The fall 2023 courses are: “Music through the ages” taught by Ken Rodgers, Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. September 12—October 17 at the Schowalter Villa Chapel. *Oops. We got here again! Communication and conflict* taught by Kevin Wilder, Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, September 14—October 12 at Schowalter Villa's Mullet Place Theater. Each course is \$50. Register at bluestemu.org.

Warkentin House Summer Sunday Concert series-Kilometer 81-Sunday, October 1, 4:00-6:00 PM. Warkentin House Museum, 211 E. 1st Street, Newton. There will be food trucks and self guided tours. Limited seating, please bring lawn chairs or blankets. Free admission but donations will be accepted.