

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### **Sunday, October 29**—*Moses Confronts Pharaoh*—Pastor Laura

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship service  
4:00 PM Casa Betania worship service

### **Tuesday, October 31**

9:30 AM Stay "N Play

### **Wednesday, November 1**—Community Night

10:00 AM Staff Meeting  
5:45 PM Meal served by Living Stones Sunday school class: Pizza, Salad, Cookies  
6:45 PM Choir—Sanctuary  
6:45 PM Activities for all ages—Assemble picnic tables & benches  
7:30 PM Men's Bible Study—Warkentin Room

### **Friday, November 3**

5:00 PM Sanctuary reserved

### **Saturday, November 4**

Sanctuary reserved all day

### **Sunday, November 5**—*Crossing the Red Sea*—Pastor Luke

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship service  
4:00 PM Casa Betania service

### **Upcoming Worship Services**

November 12—Fall Congregational Meeting/Potluck



## ***Becoming a People of God: Moses Confronts Pharaoh***

### **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)

\*Pastor Laura and Pastor Luke are in the church office Monday-Thursday.

### **Administrative Assistant**

Tracy Kerr—316-283-0273; [office@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)



# First Mennonite Church Newton, KS October 29, 2023

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## Gathering

### Welcome

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

### Meditation music

*For all the Saints*

Amanda Rempel, pianist

### Call to worship

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

## Listening

### Worship songs

*We Sing to You, O God* VT 80

*Help Us to Help Each Other* VT 722

### Children's time

Sheralyn Goering

### Child Dedication for:

Amarii Hiebert

Christopher "Kit" Koop

Isaac Miller

Jonah Miller

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

### Prayer for the offering—Western District

Wendy Schrag

### Scripture reading

Adaptation of Exodus 7:1-12:42 from *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*

Chris Weaver and Michael Garcia

### Sermon

*Becoming a People of God: Moses Confronts Pharaoh*

Pastor Laura Goerzen

### Response Song

*How Can We Be Silent* VT 790

### Community Connection

Emily Wilkenson representing Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA)

### Prayer of the church

Pastor Laura

## Sending

### Sending song

*Go, My Children* VT 830 (v. 1 & 3)

### Announcements and benediction

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

### Postlude

*Foundation*

Amanda Rempel, organist

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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](http://firstmennonitenewton.org)), on our Facebook page, YouTube, or at our Vimeo site. Recordings of the service will be available afterwards as well. Today, Sarah Koehn, Ryan Koehn, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Rempel. Visuals: Carol Goering. Property Committee: Mason Unruh*

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## Announcements

**The 2023-24 Prairie Window Concert Series** continues with Scott Mulvahill on Sunday, November 5, at 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and delicious food from Crust & Crumb in a prairie garden setting. [Purchase tickets online](#) at [dyckarboretum.org](http://dyckarboretum.org) or call [620-327-8127](tel:620-327-8127) to reserve your seats.

**Tabor Mennonite Church Men** are holding their annual Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on November 2 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, at Tabor Mennonite Church (891 Chisholm Trail Rd, Newton, KS). Come bring a friend and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship.

**Everence will hold an informative Medicaid and long-term care workshop** on Monday, November 6, starting at 6:30 PM. Topics will include, what benefits are provided by Medicaid and who is eligible, how the Division of Assets process works, when long-term care insurance is a good fit, and how long-term care insurance can protect your heirs. The in-person workshop will take place at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, KS. Information will be presented by guest speaker, Cynthia A. Wiens, attorney from Adrian & Pankratz, P.A. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).

**Living that Matters for Men: A half-day retreat.** Men, what kind of man do you want to be and how can you live a life that matters? In this half-day retreat, men will examine scriptures we've been given, explore differing expressions of masculinity, and reconsider our purpose in life. This retreat will be led by Steve Thomas, director of Mennonite Men and author of *Living that Matters* (Herald Press, 2023), at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, on Saturday, November 11. See more information or register at [www.mennonitemen.org/](http://www.mennonitemen.org/).

**Invitation for suggestions for WDC Executive Board appointments:** The Western District Conference Bylaws allow the Executive Board to appoint up to 3 members to the Board in addition to the six elected board members, in order to bring desired balance or expertise to the Executive Board. At their September 30 meeting, the Executive Board agreed to appoint 3 individuals to the board. The Board invites suggestions of names for this. If you are interested or would like to suggest someone for consideration by the Board, please submit your suggestions to WDC at [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or 316-283-6300 by October 30. For a description of Executive Board responsibilities and current members, see <https://mennowdc.org/executive-board-duties-members/>

**GriefShare offers a safe, welcoming support group** to help you discover relief, comfort, and peace of mind in loss. Manhattan Mennonite Church will host an online GriefShare group beginning November 1, 6:30-8:00 PM, and continuing every Wednesday night through January 31. This group meets intentionally through the holidays because grief can be especially difficult in these seasons. A zoom link and a workbook will be available to those who register. More information here: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/175924>

**We need your help!** On Saturday, November 18, Buhler Mennonite Church & IdeaTek need your help to package 50,000 meals. Our plan is to keep the meals local—providing food for our local neighbors. What a great way to give of your time during the Thanksgiving season to help those who struggle to put food on the table. There is a job for all ages 7 to 147 years of age. You can work one shift or both shifts. Job orientation is provided. This will be held at the Sand Hills Event Center 4601 N. Plum in Hutchinson and there are two shifts available. 1st Shift (Arrive 8:45 AM for the 9:00-11:00 AM). 2nd Shift (Arrive 10:45 AM for 11:00 AM-1:00 PM). Sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0545AEAD2EA1F58-44960089-50000](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0545AEAD2EA1F58-44960089-50000) or call 620-543-2733, email: [bmcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:bmcpastor@gmail.com).

**The offering for November 5** will be for Mennonite Central Committee. 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/Casa Betania** combined worship attendance for October 22—69.

**In Sympathy**—Robert Murphy (87), Eric Murphy's father, passed away on October 18. His memorial service will be Saturday, November 25, 11:00 AM, at the First Church of God in Newton. We extend our condolences to Eric and Judy and the rest of their family.

**FMC enjoys eating together!!** Sharing meals and fellowship around tables is something that we all enjoy. We are grateful for the adult classes that lovingly prepare a meal for our Wednesday enjoyment. Along with the prep for weekly meals comes clean-up. The clean-up uses linens. Our linens need to make a quick turn-around since we use them weekly. Please return your washed linens to the kitchen drawers promptly so that the drawers are stocked for the following Wednesday meal prep and clean-up. Thanks for your cooperation

**This coming Wednesday, November 1,** we will be building some picnic tables and park benches for our neighbors at Muse Apartments! The lumber will be pre-cut and ready for assembly in Fellowship Hall after the meal. There will be something for all ages to do from sanding edges to aligning and screwing the pieces together. Please bring a cordless impact driver or drill if you have one and a tape measure. Ear plugs will be provided (it will be noisy!) or you can bring your own hearing protection. ~Outreach Mission and Peace Commission

**Next Sunday is Remembrance Sunday:** If you would like to have a loved one who has passed away named and remembered on November 5, please contact the church office, [office@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org) no later than Wednesday, November 1.

**The Fall Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 12. We will have a carry-in meal following the Worship service. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall around 12:30 PM or as soon as possible after we finish eating. During the meeting we will hear various reports and take action on the 2024 budget and ballot for commissions, committees, and board positions. ~Ryan Koehn, Church Moderator

● **Don't want to cook? Want time to connect and serve alongside others who follow Jesus? Join us for Wednesday Community Nights!**

- Meal at 5:45-6:45 PM—served by Living Stones Sunday school class  
Pizza, Salad, and Cookies
  - Service projects for all ages at 6:30 PM
  - **November 1:** Assemble picnic tables and benches for Muse Apartments
  - **November 8:** Assemble hygiene kits for MCC
- \*Alternative projects will be available for those with physical limitations.
- Childcare for children ages 2-4 available from 6:30-7:30 PM

**Hygiene kits for MCC:** During our Wednesday Community night on Nov. 8, we will be assembling hygiene kits for MCC. Now is the time to start collecting items. You are welcome to donate full kits, alongside plenty of extra dark colored hand towels. MCC has indicated that dark colored hand towels are a particular need. Place donations in the box in the gathering area. New items only, please.

- 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (in original wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approx. 40 cm x 65 cm (16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb; 15-20 cm (6-8 in)

**The Caregiving and Membership Commission invites you** to a 3-time intergenerational series on Mental Health during Sunday School on November 5, 12, and 19. The first two will be led by Patrick Flaming, Director of Access Services at Prairie View, and the third will be led by Lee and Deb Penner, representatives from the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). We will discuss a variety of topics. Rolls and coffee will be provided! Hope to see everyone there!

**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!

**Check out the new Historical Committee** display case in the Gathering Area all about CHRISTMAS AT FMC in the early 20th Century. Enjoy the mini version of what our sanctuary used to look like in 1903, and some vintage candle clips and ornaments (on loan from Kauffman Museum). Thank you to those of you who have shared FMC Christmas memories so far! We could use MORE. We will be collecting memories all year for our Christmas display 2024. Just contact Andrea Regier (see directory).

**THE CHURCH BOARD WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE FOLLOWING:** At the October Church Board meeting the Board approved the following statement:

“The Church Board supports a process of exploring our Anabaptist and First Mennonite Church roots, discussing who we are as a congregation and discerning who God calls us to be in relationship to LGBTQ+ inclusion.”

The next decision was to work with outside consultants regarding the logistics of this discussion. Jon Friesen, member of Hesston Mennonite Church, will be the consultant to work with a planning group in formatting the congregational discussion sessions. The last decision made was to form a Planning Group made up of any member or participant at FMC who would like to be involved in this planning. All scriptural interpretations are welcome. Our foundational truth remains that we are all believers and want to follow God's will for our church. If you have an interest in being part of this Planning Group please contact Janice Good, contact information is in the church directory, or contact the church office and your name will be sent to Janice. We are asking for this step of forming the Planning Group to be completed by November 1.

The Church Board would like to express thanks and appreciation for the prayers that have been offered as we have started this process. We ask for prayers to continue as the second phase begins. ~Janice Good, Church Board Chair

### Community Announcements

**Volunteers are needed immediately** to work (M-F) alongside the facilities director on general maintenance tasks. Working on these regular maintenance tasks will allow more time for planning and preparation for the Retreat Center HVAC project. The project is running behind and we need to make up time! Call or text Jordan at 316-613-1848. Calls/texts will be answered between 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. Volunteer hours will also be 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, or a portion of that time. Please bring a water bottle and your lunch

**Warkentin House Hymn Sing and Faspa:** Join us today at 4:00 PM, for a hymn sing and faspa. Reservations are required, suggested donation \$10. Hymnals will be provided. Faspa will include zwieback, meat, cheese, jam, coffee and tea. To reserve your spot, email Merle Schlabaugh at [mschlab@bethelks.edu](mailto:mschlab@bethelks.edu). More information is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

**M&M Project Update: SO CLOSE!** As of October 16, we have raised more than \$90,000 for the Mission and Maintenance Project at Camp Mennoscah! Thank you all who have supported this effort with your prayers and your gifts. It shouldn't be long before we reach our goal of \$100,000, matching our generous giver who started this challenge back in the Spring.

**Et Cetera Shop Christmas Set up Day:** Join our staff Sunday, November 5th as we set up for our Christmas Open on Monday, November 6th. We are asking for as many volunteers as possible as we have numerous items to put out! We will begin at 11 am that morning and continue until we are finished. Lunch will be provided! If you can help, give us a call (316-283-9461) or email James at [generalmanager@newtonetceterashop.com](mailto:generalmanager@newtonetceterashop.com) and let us know!