

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 12—*In The Wilderness*

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship service
- 12 Noon Carry in meal and Congregational Meeting
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania worship service

Tuesday, November 14

- 7:00 PM Church Board

Wednesday, November 15

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 5:30 PM Youth Group Turkey Dinner
Menu: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Salad, Corn, Rolls, and Pumpkin Dessert
- 6:45 PM Choir—Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study—Warkentin Room

Thursday, November 16

- 6:30 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission—Warkentin Room

Sunday, November 19—Steve Thomas from Mennonite Men

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

Upcoming Worship Services

- November 23-December 3—Pastor Laura will be out of the office.
- November 26—*Crossing Into the Promised Land*—Pastor Luke
- December 3—First Sunday of Advent



Becoming a People of God: In The Wilderness

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

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

Administrative Assistant

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



First Mennonite Church Newton, KS November 12, 2023

Gathering

Welcome

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Meditation music

Morning Has Broken

Amanda Entz, organist

Call to worship

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Listening

Worship songs

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VT 606

Come Away from Rush and Hurry VT 9

Children's time

Keith Knopp

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

Celebrating Bibles for 6th-9th graders

Pastor Luke Unruh

Welcoming Jeff Kauffman into Membership

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

Dave Wiebe

Scripture reading

Exodus 16: 16:1-7, 9-20, 31-35

Xavier and Michael Garcia

Sermon

Becoming a People of God: In The Wilderness

Pastor Laura

Response song

Fill Us with Your Feast VT 309

Prayer of the church

Pastor Luke

Sending

Sending song

Be Still and Know, 2x, VT 37

Announcements and benediction

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

Postlude

Spanish Dance No. 5 (Bolero)

Amanda Entz and Matthew Graber

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 and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Entz, Matthew Graber; Chorister: Wendy Schrag. Visuals: Cindy Unruh. Property Committee: Mason Unruh

All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas on Saturday, December 2, at Goerz House, Bethel College. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your home-baked cookies, zwiebach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are always great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies such as peanut clusters, peanut butter balls, peanut brittle or fudge. Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 1, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, or Saturday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Thank you for your support of Bethel College.

MCC Comforter update – thank you to all the hardworking MCC comforter makers who make beautiful, high-quality gifts to share with our partners around the world! The MCC guidelines for comforters were recently updated after receiving feedback from partners around the world. For complete MCC comforter information, including the updated guidelines, check out the [Comforters page of our website](https://mcc.org/get-involved/kits/comforters) (mcc.org/get-involved/kits/comforters). Please reach out to the Workroom Supervisor, Kate Mast (katemast@mcc.org), with any comforter questions!

M&M Project Update: WE DID IT!! We did it, friends! Working together, we have raised more than \$100,000 for the Mission and Maintenance Project at Camp Mennoscah! Thank you all who have supported this effort with your prayers and your gifts! We've been able to match the generous gift that started this challenge back in the Spring! **So, what's next?** That's a good question! One thing is for sure: We don't want to stop the ball now that it is rolling! Camp is still in need of money for maintenance. We need to make sure we have the facilities working well so we can continue to be a place where people of all ages come to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God. We still need maintenance to do the mission. Please consider giving to Camp Mennoscah and/or the M&M Project on **Giving Tuesday**—this year on November 28—or as part of your end-of-the-year giving. It's not that we aren't thankful for all you've done—but there is a lot to be done at Camp, and we already know that God has touched your heart and called you to be part of Camp's mission. Let's not just finish the M&M Project strong—let's finish the year strong!

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 or 316-283-6300 by November 13. For a description of Executive Board responsibilities and current members, see <https://mennowdc.org/executive-board-duties-members/>

Eastern Mennonite Seminary is offering a three day leadership training through **Shalom Academy** with the theme: *Pursuing Community in a Divisive World*, Psalm 34:14 "Seek peace, and pursue it". This training offers a place to learn and reflect on the practices that move congregations past divisiveness and toward peace, both within their walls and in their larger communities. Keynote speakers are Melissa Florer-Bixler and Adam Russell Taylor. This will take place Monday, January 8 – Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at EMU. Limited virtual options are available. For more information and to register visit: <https://emu.edu/seminary/slt/>

Announcements

The offering for November 19 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 October 29—187; Sunday School—97.

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held today. 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

FMC enjoys eating together! Sharing meals & 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 & clean-up. Thanks for your cooperation.

Special Offering: Our brothers and sisters from Casa Betania are organizing a special offering for friends and family members who have been affected by hurricane Otis in Acapulco, Mexico. If you would like to contribute to this effort, you can make checks out to Casa Betania and place them in the offering baskets, Linda Shelly's mailbox, or mail them to the church office at PO Box 291, Newton, KS 67114.

Youth Group Turkey Dinner, this Wednesday, November 15, 5:30-7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: roast turkey, mashed potatoes and turkey gravy, cranberry salad, corn, homemade rolls, and pumpkin dessert. There will be some alternative foods for those with food sensitivities. Carry-out meals will also be available while the serving line is open. Proceeds will go mainly to Youth Group's summer mission trip.

The Caregiving and Membership Commission invites you to a 3 Sunday intergenerational series on Mental Health during Sunday School that started on November 5, and will continue on November 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). Barbara Gibson with Railway Clubhouse will be a speaker as well. 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!

Harvest of Love—Throughout November and December, the Salvation Army invites you to join in their 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!

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).

Community Announcements

KIPCOR Film Series presents *Eroding History*, today at 2:00 PM— Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. The film follows the story of two Black communities on Deal Island, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, as they face climate disaster and a history of environmental racism. Audience talkback with Dr. Jonathan Frye, professor of natural science at McPherson College, follows the screening; a freewill offering will be taken to support KIPCOR and the film series.

Everence will hold its popular Medicare workshop at its office in North Newton on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 PM. Topics will include, when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare covers, plus an explanation of Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D. Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare. The in-person workshop will be held at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton. Those interested in attending should contact the Everence office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

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 or call 620-543-2733, email: bmcpastor@gmail.com.

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.

The 2023-24 Prairie Window Concert Series continues with [Martha Scanlan & Jon Neufeld](#) on Sunday, November 19, 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music & delicious food from Crust & Crumb in a prairie garden setting. [Purchase tickets online](#) at dyckarboretum.org or call [620-327-8127](tel:620-327-8127) to reserve your seat

Get busy giving on Giving Tuesday at an Evening of Service at MCC! November 28 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at MCC in North Newton, KS. Bring *new dark colored* hand towels with you to pack hygiene kits (the more towels you bring, the more kits we can pack!). MCC partner Offender Victim Ministries will be here with supplies to write holiday greetings to prisoners, we'll have comforters to tie and delicious snacks to enjoy. What a great way to give on Giving Tuesday!

Driving through Kansas on your way south this winter? Are you heading to South Texas? If so, MCC Central States in North Newton, KS is looking for your help! We need to transport 25 boxes of kits to a partner in McAllen, TX. Please contact Kate Mast at katemast@mcc.org with any questions or interest. Thanks!

All area churches are invited to attend this year's PRAIRIE LIGHTS event (formerly called Luminary Walk) at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Prairie Lights will be from 5:30 to 8:00 PM, on November 24, 25 and 26, and on December 1, 2, and 3. Admission to the event is \$5 for Adults and FREE for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the Arboretum office or online at <https://dyckarboretum.org/prairie-lights>. Traditional outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by thousands of twinkle lights, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. Music, education and storytelling are scheduled each night from 6:15 to 8:00 pm in the Prairie Pavilion "snow globe". The Hesston scout troop will provide hot drinks for a free will donation.