

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 19—Steve Thomas from Mennonite Men

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

Wednesday, November 22

10:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:30 PM Men's Bible Study—Warkentin Room

Thursday, November 23

Church Office closed—Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24

Church Office closed

Saturday, November 25

9:00 AM Decorate the church for Christmas
FH and Kitchen reserved

Sunday, November 26—*Crossing Into the Promised Land*—Pastor Luke

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.
December 3—First Sunday of Advent
December 10—Second Sunday of Advent



*Abiding in Love
for God's Shalom*

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 19, 2023

Gathering

Welcome

Dana Neff, worship leader

Meditation music

We Gather Together

Nora Miller, pianist

Call to worship

Dana Neff, worship leader

Listening

Worship songs

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship VT 25

Jesus Calls Us VT 30

Children's time

John Goerzen

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

Prayer for the offering—Local Mission

Dana Neff

Scripture reading

John 15:1-5, 8-12, 16-17

Chad Frey and Dave Goering

Sermon

Abiding in Love for God's Shalom

Steve Thomas

Response song

O Blessed Spring VT 522

Prayer of the church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending song

Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us VT 718

Announcements and benediction

Dana Neff, worship leader

Postlude

Now Thank We all Our God /Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Nora Miller, pianist

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, Tim Regier, Alex Goering, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Nora Miller. Chorister: Daryl Unruh. Visuals: Cindy Unruh. Property Committee: Rod Wedel

Announcements

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!

Tabor College Night of Christmas Worship—Tuesday, November 28, 7:00 PM. This concert will feature our Praise & Worship bands as they sing contemporary Christian worship songs as they focus on the birth of Christ. The concert will be in the Richert Auditorium of the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts on the campus.

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. Key-note 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/>

Tabor College will have a *Messiah* performance on Sunday, December 4, 4:00 PM. This concert is a wonderful worshipful time focusing on Handel's wonderful oratorio, *Messiah*. It will include the orchestra with combined choirs and alumni. This is a wonderful way to welcome the Christmas season by proclaiming the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The concert will be in the Richert Auditorium of the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts on the campus of Tabor College (311 East B Street, Hillsboro, KS 67063). The concert is free with free-will offerings taken to support the Tabor College Music Department.

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory: An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: *new* infant onesies and sleepers (6-12 month sizes); *new* bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); *new* hand towels (dark colored). Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: men's shirts (sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color) and men's underwear (sizes 2XL, 3XL -- any color). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.

The offering for November 26 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 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 November 12—138; Sunday School—112.

Local Mission offering from November 5 and 12—\$6,072; online Local Mission—\$4,651

The fall dried floral arrangement this morning is made by Rebecca Schrag and presented by Frances Schrag's family in honor of her 90th birthday on November 20.

Congratulations to Megan Voth and Connor Mickens who were married on Saturday, November 18. May God grant them many years together. Megan is the daughter of Steve and Wynette Voth.

Yearbook update—

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, all bulletin announcements for next Sunday's bulletin need to be turned in to the church office by this Tuesday, November 21 at noon.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

Christmas is coming! Please join us as we decorate the FMC sanctuary and Gathering Area for Christmas, on Saturday, November 25, 9:00 AM. Help us create a festive and expectant spirit in our space. All ages are welcome. Thank you!

If you are interested in some old folding metal chairs, help yourself to some. They are along the north wall in Fellowship Hall behind the caution tape.

PLANNING GROUP NOTES: The Church Board has formed a Planning Group to format and develop a process for congregational discussions regarding LGBTQIA+ inclusion at FMC. We will be sharing on a regular basis reports of how their work is progressing through bulletin announcements. A focus statement, adopted by the Church Board is the foundation for the process. "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 LGBTQIA+ inclusion."

Foundational to this process is the belief that we are all believers in Christ and wish to follow His will for FMC. The goal is to listen well and with care for one another. The Planning Group has already met twice with the intent of meeting until the second week of December, taking a break for the holiday season, then resuming their work in early January. The timeline for beginning the congregational steps will be a first step in January followed by at least two more opportunities in February and March. A summary of those meetings will be then we shared with the Church Board with a report back to the congregation. Please know these are our beginning plans. It is Planning Group's goal to be in communication with the church about what is happening and to give opportunity in several ways for the congregational to listen and be heard. The Church Board has contracted with Jon Friesen, member of Hesston Mennonite Church and lay leader for their process of discussion on this question, to lead the Planning Group and church wide sessions. The Planning Group members are: Jerry Regier, Betty Pauls, Liliith Jackson, Dave Wiebe, Pastor Luke, Cindy Combs, Shannon Bartel, Tyler Johnson, Laura Sharp, Joan Entz, Stephanie Weaver, Sam Claassen, Barb Claassen, Addie Kauffman, Jeff Kauffman, Michelle Regier, Erin Graber, Ken Regier, Janice Good. We ask for your continuing prayers for FMC, this process, and Holy Spirit's leading.

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

The 2023-24 Prairie Window Concert Series continues with [Martha Scanlan & Jon Neufeld](#) today, 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!

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.

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.

Antiracism Analysis Training facilitated by Roots of Justice—January 12-14, 2024 [Friday, January 12 (6:00—9:00 PM), Saturday, January 13 (9:00 AM—5:00 PM), & Sunday, January 14 (9:00 AM—5:00 PM) **Location:** Newton Recreation Commission, 415 N Poplar St., Newton **Register:** <https://forms.gle/a3nJLczvgvx625HQ8> The cost is \$300 participant if paid before December 1, 2023; \$350/participant if paid on or after December 1, 2023 (limited scholarships available; newtoncrj@gmail.com) Pay online at: https://www.convergepay.com/hosted-payments/ssl_txn_auth_token=MJAoe1eaTcmLwn7djou4%2BAAAAX9VkfSD The goal of the training is to: be exposed to an analysis of racism and build a common understanding of racism; work together as a team to develop team relationships; deepen the philosophical foundations for antiracism work. For more information contact: **Newton Community for Racial Justice** at newtoncrj@gmail.com

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](#) (mcc.org/get-involved/kits/comforters). Please reach out to the Workroom Supervisor, Kate Mast (katemast@mcc.org), with any comforter questions!