

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 18

- 9:15 AM Combined Adult Sunday School exploring Biblical Constellations surrounding our modern LGBTQIA+ questions
- 10:30 AM Pastor Laura preaching

Tuesday, February 20

- 7:00 PM Outreach, Mission and Peace Commission—office meeting room

Wednesday, February 21

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 5:30 PM Community Night Supper—Baked Ziti, Salad, Bread, Dessert
- 6:30 PM Activity for all—Looking at Mystery Artifacts from the Past and Cookie decorating with Andrea Regier
- 6:30 PM Choir
- 6:45 PM Youth Group
- 7:00 PM Warkentin Room reserved

Thursday, February 22

- 7:00 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission—Warkentin Room

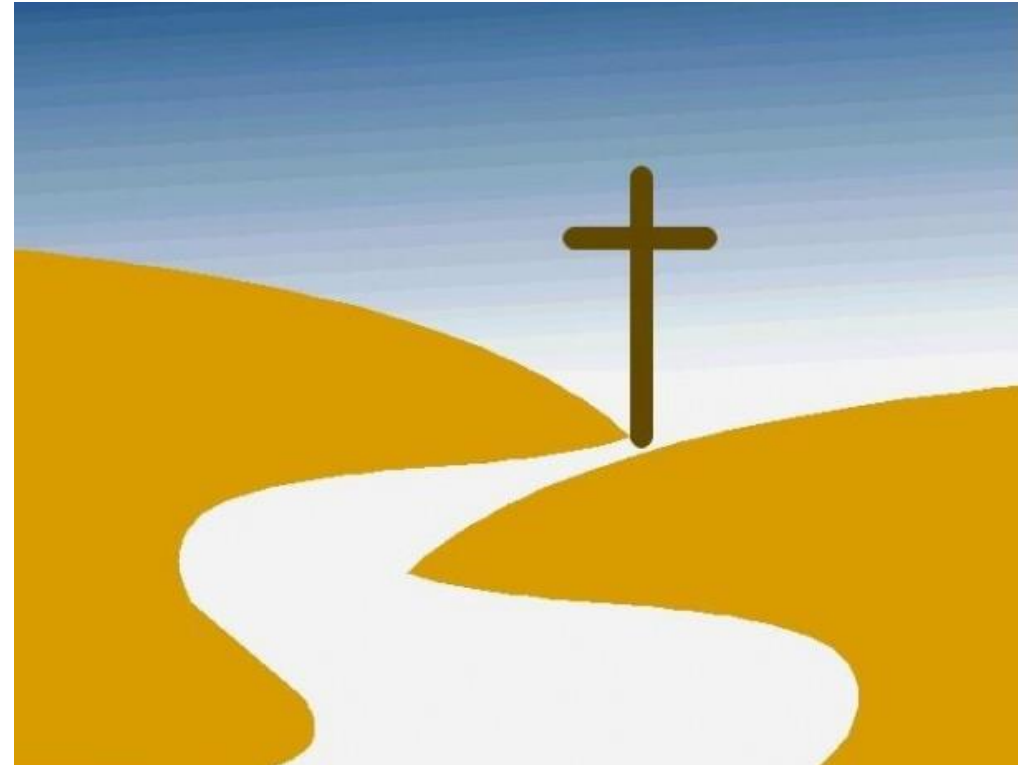
Saturday, February 24

- 9:00 AM-noon Comforter work

Sunday, February 25

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Luke preaching
- 6:00—8:00 PM 2A Table Discussion Opportunity—Fellowship Hall

Lent 1: Repent and Believe



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
February 18, 2024**

First Mennonite Church Newton, KS February 18, 2024

Choir

Sing A Joyful Song

Gathering

Welcome

John Good, worship leader

Meditation Music

Minuet & Vivace from The Musical Clocks

Amanda Entz, organist

Call to Worship

John Good, worship leader

Listening

Worship Songs

God Is Here Among Us VT 62 v. 1-3 in English

We Are Often Tossed and Driven VT 311

Children's Time

Dana Neff

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

Prayer for the Offering—Local Mission

John Good

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15

John Good

Choir

You Are the Light

Sermon

Repent and Believe

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Choir

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending Song

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling VT 544

Announcements and Benediction

John Good, worship leader

Postlude

Marching to Zion

Amanda Entz, organist

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, Kent Erb, Ryan Koehn, and Alex Goering are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Entz. Chorister: Daryl Unruh Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Brent Voran

Volunteer Opportunity—Peace Connections and Harvey County Circle of Hope are looking for Volunteer Allies to match with individuals or families who are on the journey out of poverty. If YOU would like to provide intentional friendship to someone as they work toward their goals and write hope into their future story, please join us on February 23, March 22, and April 26 from 2:00-4:00 PM, to learn more. This is a great opportunity to build resources and grow connections, as well as increase economic stability in our community. The Volunteer Ally listens and encourages, without judgment, to Circle Leaders working to make positive changes in their life, and a focus on future goals during their 18-month match! Check out more information at www.peaceconnections.org/volunteer or 316-284-0000.

Registration is now open for the annual Bluestem PACE Race 5K run/walk on Saturday, April 6, in McPherson. Registration by March 20 is \$30 and includes a race shirt. Complete registration online at bluestempace.org/events. Bluestem PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), is a nonprofit that is part of Bluestem Communities and is dedicated to helping seniors with complex medical needs live well at home by providing comprehensive care from one source.

Bethel College invites you to their *Bethel College Hartzler Lecture Series* with this year's presenters César García, [Mennonite World Conference](#) General Secretary, and Sandra Báez, Pastor and Executive Assistant to the General Secretary. This is open to the public on Sunday, March 17, 7:00 PM, in the Administration Building Chapel and on Monday, March 18, 11:00 AM in Krehbiel Auditorium. All are welcome! Local Church leaders are also invited to a luncheon with César and Sandra on Thursday, March 21 at 12:00 PM, at the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) on College Ave, North Newton, KS. Church leaders, please fill out this registration form if you plan to attend: <https://forms.gle/Xrg5xidGwsveG1519> (alt. location is the Bethel College Mennonite Church [BCMC] Fellowship Hall, downstairs)

Registration for 2024 Summer Youth Camps is open! Staff is still adjusting to the big Retreat Center project and some details are sure to have been missed--but that will not stop you from registering for a great week of camp. The theme for the summer is Linked By Love and looks at the many ways we experience God's love through relationships. Register online!

Interested in working with MCC, or know someone who is? MCC is hiring a Community Engagement Coordinator! The Community Engagement Coordinator, in North Newton, KS connects with local churches, individuals, and partners to educate on MCC material resources, programs, and events. Apply at the following link: [Community Engagement Coordinator](#) or find the job and other openings at mcc.org/careers.

Spring Cleaning at Camp Mennoscah sponsored by Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Come for part or all of the time. Women, men, kids, youth groups, Sunday school groups are all invited. If children younger than high school attend, they need to be supervised by their parents (no child care or children's activities will be provided). Dress warm, bring a full water bottle, \$5 to cover the cost of lunch, and the following cleaning supplies if you have them: rakes, long handled brooms for cobweb reaching. Other cleaning supplies will be provided. Space is capped at this event to manage the jobs, so don't delay in registering. Register by March 18 by e-mailing westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.

Summer Youth Camps take many hands to make them run. Nurses, head cooks, kitchen staff and maintenance volunteers are needed for every week of camp. The summer camps range from 3 to 6 days and begin June 9. Contact us at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290 if you are interested.

Announcements

The offering for February 25 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.

Local Mission offering from February 4 and 11—\$2,727.

A note about the prelude this morning: This set of seven pieces was written in 1792 by Franz Josef Haydn for a famous clock in Vienna. They were played automatically on a small flute organ, operated by the clock mechanism.

Congratulations to Casson and Kacie Schmidt on the birth of their daughter Kyla Ray, born on February 2, she was 6lb and 12 oz and she is 20.5 inches long. The rose on the pulpit is in honor of Kyla. We wish God's richest blessing on this new life and we surround this family with our love.

Need a listening ear? As we begin our table discussions around FMC's response to LGBTQIA+ inclusion, we recognize the delicacy and weight that this conversation holds. As an additional resource, the pastors and the Caregiving and Membership Commission have identified four individuals who have agreed to make themselves available for those who might want to talk through their thoughts and feelings related this process. These individuals are Clarence Rempel, June Thomsen, Daniel Regier, and Jyl Ewy. [Due to personal conflicts, Jyl Ewy is unavailable from Feb 5-16.] Pastors Laura and Luke continue to be available for listening as well. All are welcome to reach out to any of the above individuals to arrange for a private and confidential visit.

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

SR. HIGH YOUTH



Mission Night—Wednesday, February 21 at 6:45 PM
Youth Group starts at 6:45 PM, in the youth room.

PLANNING GROUP OPPORTUNITIES: The Planning Group invites any who are interested to attend the table discussion opportunities and give input into the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons at FMC. Each table discussion opportunity will consist of four focused questions for listening, sharing, and hearing our stories around the tables in Fellowship Hall. Each session will have two opportunities to attend:

**SECOND TABLE DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY:
WHO IS GOD CALLING FMC TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

2A: Sunday, February 25, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm, childcare will be available

OR

2B: Sunday, March 3, Fellowship Hall, 9:15-11:30 am

Please note: No adult SS classes or worship services will be held.

Children's SS classes and childcare following will be offered.

The questions for each session will be shared the week prior to the discussion opportunities. Written responses to the questions will also be available. A survey opportunity is planned at the second discussion times. The survey will be available if you can not attend either of the second session discussions. Everyone is encouraged to attend the discussion opportunities, participate in the written responses, and the survey. This is your opportunity to share, listen, and be in prayer for the Holy Spirit's leading as we move forward on this journey.

How did First Mennonite Church get its name? What is wheat marquetry? To get the answers, view the Historical Committee's new exhibit. It gives a glimpse into the progression of our church members meeting together in Europe, a private home, a rental facility, an owned wood frame building and then an owned brick building. The presentation is located in the corner display cabinets at the west end of the Gathering Area.

2024 Youth Group Auction—Mark your calendars for bi-annual youth auction on Wednesday, April 3. This all church event is where the youth offer their skills and items to be auctioned along with others donated by the church family. We will have a live auctioneer and meal prior to the sale. Watch for future announcements over the next month in the bulletin and your mailboxes. Proceeds will go to help pay for our summer mission trip to Appalachia.

Scholarship Fund update. On behalf of the college students and their families, the Scholarship Committee says "Thank you" to those who contributed to the Scholarship Fund during the recent Sunday morning offering. Young adults at FMC continue to pursue higher education at a Mennonite Christian school. For the 2024 Spring semester, \$3,625 was paid out for eight (8) scholarships at two (2) schools. The young adults are blessed by a congregation who believes in and supports them. The students and their families plus the Scholarship Committee appreciate the past and current generosity of the congregation.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is February 28-March 5. If you are able to help by volunteering or with meals, contact Lee Penner at 284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876

The Funeral committee provides a light meal to families and those who attend a memorial service. We are looking for willing bakers or those who would buy or provide cookies for these meals. (we are trying cookies for this year) Please sign up on the sheet in the court area if you are willing to bake or provide 3-4 dozen cookies for these meals in service to our families. We would like to have a good number of bakers so no one has to bake for every meal. Thank you for your help in providing this service to our families.

Community Announcements

Two volunteers are needed daily to help with Retreat Center HVAC work from Monday to Friday for the next 12 weeks. Construction skills are not a requirement. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290, text 316-293-7313 or email olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org. Board members may also contact you. Sign up today!

Harvey County Circle of Hope has three events coming up. You are welcome and encouraged to attend: **Circle of Hope Graduation**—Tuesday, February 20, at First United Methodist Church, with dinner at 5:30 PM and graduation at 6:30 PM. **7th Annual Soup Supper and Dessert Auction**—February 29, at Newton Nazarene Church 1000 N. Main, dinner at 5:30 PM and auction at 6:15 PM, changing lives one pie at a time. **Bridges Out of Poverty Training**—a free educational opportunity open to the public addressing the root causes of poverty and teaching support for families as they build resources, and increasing understanding while reducing barriers. Training does not obligate you to volunteer. Friday's at 2:00 PM on February 23, March 22, and April 26. Call Peace Connections at 316-284-0000.

Global Voices Tour, MCC and the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative bring you Climate Action for Peace! Join us to hear MCC partners Caroline Pugini from Zimbabwe and Victor Odinda from Cambodia share about how their work supports people in adapting to the challenges of climate change. You have several opportunities to engage with our guests! They will share at: Showalter Villa (in the chapel), February 24 at 10:30 AM, Shalom Mennonite Church, February 25 at 9:30 AM, Bethel College convocation, February 26 at 11:00 AM, and at Kidron Bethel Village (in Kidron Hall) in North Newton on February 26 at 2:00 PM. Learn more at <https://mcc.org/events/global-voices-tour-climate-action-peace>.

MCC Central States annual meeting, Saturday, March 2, 10:00 AM. You are invited to join the meeting in-person or virtually to hear MCC U.S. Executive Director Ann Graber Hershberger share an MCC update. Please email centralstates@mcc.org if you would like the Zoom link to join virtually. Otherwise, join us at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30 St in North Newton, Kansas.

Mark your calendar now for the 16th annual MCC Comforter Blitz, March 4-6 just outside of Yoder, Kansas. If you can tie a knot, you can make a difference! Curious to find out more? Please check mcc.org/comforter-blitz or the Kansas MCC Comforter Blitz page on Facebook. The blitz takes place on Monday, March 4 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Tuesday, March 5 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM; and Wednesday, March 6 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the 3605 East Longview Rd. Haven, KS. Questions? Please contact brociamueller@mcc.org.

Mennonite Education Agency has released its *2024 Lent at Home* worship guide and calendar, available for download in English and Spanish at the MEA website: <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/lent-at-home/>.