

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, February 4

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship service—*Church as Body*—Pastor Laura
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania service
- 6:00 PM 1A Table Discussion Opportunity—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 6

- 7:00 PM Nurture Commission by Zoom
- 7:00 PM Knitting4peace—FH

Wednesday, February 7

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 5:30 PM Community Night Supper
- 6:30 PM Activities for all—Packing infant care kits
- 6:30 PM Choir
- 6:45 PM Youth Group
- 7:00 PM Warkentin Room reserved

Saturday, February 10

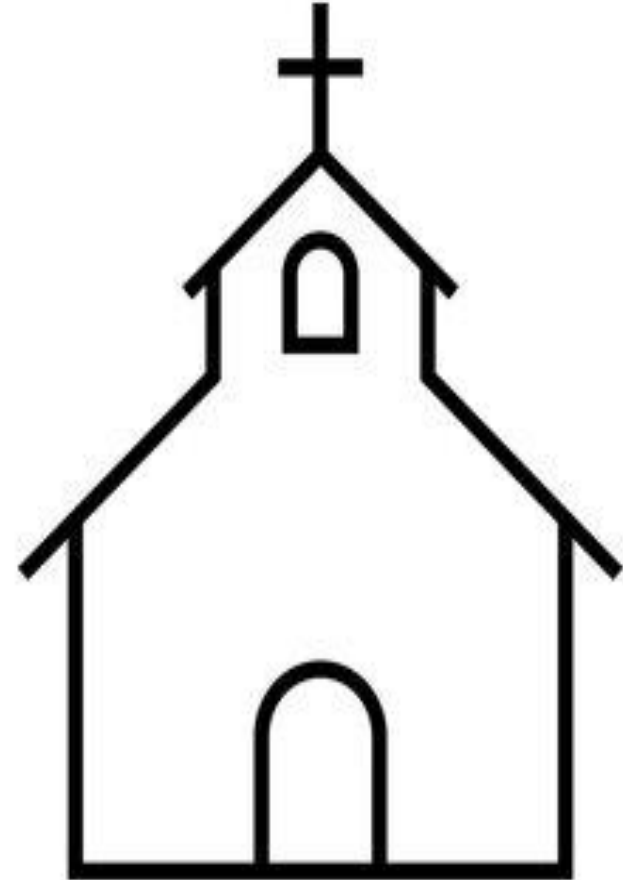
- 8:30-11:30 AM Commission/Committee Retreat—Waters Edge, Hesston

Sunday, February 11

- 9:15-11:30 AM 1B Table Discussion Opportunity—Fellowship Hall
- 9:15-11:30 AM Children's Sunday school followed by childcare
No adult Sunday school or worship service

Sunday, February 18

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



Church as Body

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 4, 2024

Gathering

Welcome

Dana Neff, worship leader

Meditation Music

House of Peace
Ben's Band

Call to Worship

Dana Neff, worship leader

Listening

Worship Song

One Beautiful Day

Children's Time

Keith Knopp

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

Prayer for the Offering—Mennonite Central Committee

Dana Neff

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
Dana Neff

Sermon

Church as Body
Pastor Laura Goerzen

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending Song

Jesus, Be the Center VT 584

Announcements and Benediction

Dana Neff, worship leader

Postlude

On the Wings of an Eagle
Ben's Band

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, Isaac Koehn, Ryan Goertzen Regier, Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Ben's Band. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Rod Wedel.

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.

WANTED—Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's, Campers, Tractors, Modern Farm Equipment, etc. for the KS MCC Sale. Items you no longer need can help Feed and Cloth Thousands in desperate living conditions. ALL donations are Tax Deductible. Call Jerry Toews for info: 620-367-8257. Help make a difference. ~KS MCC Sale Committee

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.

The phone system for Camp Mennoscah is changing. The 3014 number will no longer be a camp phone number. The main camp number of 620-297-3290 is the best number to use. The new system will not go in until after the Retreat Center HVAC project is complete. While offices are in the temporary spaces, there will be more limited access to staff by phone. Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Camp Mennoscah staff hours will be changing and offices have moved from the Retreat Center. These changes are happening with the start of the Retreat Center HVAC Project. There may be delays as the offices and staff are resettled in their new (temporary) locations. Some staff will be working off-site, which changes the frequency of certain office tasks. Thank you for your understanding!

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)

Announcements

The offering for February 11 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.

FMC worship attendance for January 28—168; Sunday school—136.

Local Mission offering from January 21 and 28—\$5,395.

Pastor Luke will be out of the office this week, February 4-9. He will be in south Texas for the MCC Borderlands Learning Tour.

FMC's Peace Pod (knitting4peace) will meet Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Come join us and help tie a comforter for MCC or bring your own project to work on.

Community Nights Start this Wednesday, February 7—Join us for a tasty meal at 5:30 PM and activities for all ages from 6:30-7:30 PM. The meal this week will be provided by Life Sharing Sunday school class. Menu: Shepherds Pie, Green Salad, Bread and Ice Cream Bars. Dates for Spring Community Nights are: February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 6 and 20. There will be no Community Night on March 13 due to Spring Break. Save the dates! More information will be coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE PLEASE! ALL COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS: Please plan to attend a retreat on Saturday morning, February 10, 8:30 -11:30 AM, at the Garden level room, in the Waters Edge building at Schowalter Villa in Hesston. More details will be shared soon. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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.

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:

FIRST TABLE DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY: WHO IS FMC CURRENTLY?

1A: Sunday, February 4, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm, childcare will be available

OR

1B: Sunday, February 11, Fellowship Hall, 9:15-11:30 am

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

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

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. A survey opportunity will be offered to all the week following the last table discussions. Everyone is encouraged to attend the discussion opportunities and complete the survey at the end. This is your opportunity to share, listen, and be in prayer for the Holy Spirit's leading as we move forward on this journey.

To help us facilitate these meeting times, we would like to know when you plan to attend each table discussion. Please fill out this survey to indicate your plans. There is also a place to let the planning group know if you will need childcare when you attend. <https://forms.office.com/r/9ttYsV7HVD> Please fill out the attendance survey as soon as possible.



SR. HIGH YOUTH



Youth Group—Wednesday, February 7, at 6:45 PM

Youth group worship night starts at 6:45 PM, in the youth room.

Bring your creativity along to help us envision Micah 6:8.

Community Night Kick-Off: Help us pack infant care kits! Outreach Commission thinks we can do more than fill the manger with sleepers and onesies; we think FMC can pack a car-load of complete infant care kits! Below are the items needed for the infant care kits. Please bring your items to church and place them in or around the manger in the Gathering area no later than Tuesday, February 6.

All requested items should fit infants **6-12 months**

- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)

Community Announcements

The first rehearsal for the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus scheduled for today, February 4. Contact Mike Lamb, KMMC Steering Committee President at 316-253-1542 or four-sheep@cox.net if you have any questions.

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!

Saturday Library Book Sale & Open House: Stop by the Conference Resource Library on Saturday, February 10, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Browse the book sale, check out what's new for individuals, families, children and more for home and congregational use. Enjoy a hot drink and stories with Bethel College Students.

Western District Conference invites you to a come-and-go Open House on Saturday, February 10, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, at the WDC office, 2517 North Main Street, North Newton, KS. This is in addition to the WDC Library Open House and Book Sale already announced. Check out what's new in the Resource Library, browse the used-book sale, enjoy refreshments, chat with staff, and celebrate WDC's newly renovated office spaces!

Hope for the Future—Registration is now open for Hope for the Future, MC USA's annual gathering that brings together Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders connected to Mennonite Church USA from across the nation. This will be February 9-11 in Dallas, Texas. To learn more, go to: www.mennoniteusa.org/news/2024-hope-for-the-future-details/

KIPCOR Film Series presents *Eroding History*—Sunday, February 11, 2:00 PM, in Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. 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.

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.