

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 31—Easter Sunday

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Laura Goerzen
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Tuesday, April 2

- 7:00 PM Nurture Commission by Zoom

Wednesday, April 3

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 6:00 PM Youth Group supper and auction—FH

Sunday, April 7—Holy Humor Sunday

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Luke Unruh
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Upcoming worship service:

- April 14—The 12 Scriptures of FMC—Pastor Laura



Easter Sunday

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 March 31, 2024



Gathering

Choir

Alleluia, Jesus is Risen

Welcome

Pastor Luke Unruh

Meditation Music

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Melody Bontrager, pianist

Call to Worship

Pastor Luke Unruh

Listening

Worship Songs

Low in the Grave He Lay VT 333
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today VT 346

Children's Time

Chris Weaver

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18
Pastor Luke

Choir

This Joyful Eastertide

Flowering the Cross

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

Sermon

Christ Among Us Calling Our Name
Pastor Laura Goerzen

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending Song

Hallelujah! Thine the Glory

Prayer for the Offering—Camp Mennoscah

Pastor Luke

Announcements and Benediction

Pastor Luke

Postlude

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Melody Bontrager, 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, Ryan Koehn, Sarah Koehn and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musician: Melody Bontrager. Choir Conductor: Barb Claassen. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Brent Voran.

MCC invites you to take the challenge: A month of climate actions for peace! Sign up to get your free calendar with a different climate action you can take each day in April. From learning to praying to advocating, this month of activities will help you take action to address climate change. Join the challenge as an individual, family, church or small group. Sign up today for A Month of Climate Actions for Peace at mcc.org/month-climate-action-peace!

MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) home repair program is seeking summer staff in Kimball, West Virginia or Elkhorn City, Kentucky. These three-month positions for Job Site Coordinators and Meals Coordinators will allow you to explore new cultures, develop skills, build friendships and live out your faith. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but the roles are not limited to young adults. An hourly wage plus room and board are provided. For more information and to apply, visit mcc.org/swap-summer-meals or mcc.org/swap-summer-job-site. Or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at (606) 634-4418 or AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org.

Women & Girls Save the Date! Edimental Gardening for Every Growing Space, featuring Renata Goossen will be sponsored by Western District Women in Mission at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton KS on Friday, April 19. The schedule is: 5:00-6:00 PM. Browse and purchase plants from Renata's Plant Bus. Bring a salad to share for supper to start at 6:00 PM. The evening program, 6:30-7:30 PM, will feature music by Prairie Highway and Renata speaking on her topic of edimental gardening, plants that are both edible and ornamental. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details about the evening schedule and our other WDWI activities.

MCC Sale Children's Auction—Consider donating new, in-the-package, items to this year's auction! Talk with the youth in your church to see what items they would like to bid on, but you can never go wrong with Hot Wheels, Barbie, board games, Lego sets, art kits, and sports equipment. Items may be given to your MCC Liaison for delivery to Sale.

Nurses needed for the weeks of First Camp, June 20-22; Junior High 2, July 7-12; and Junior 2, July 14-19. Nurses must be an RN and can receive a stipend or a parent discount. Contact us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org if you are interested. You are needed to make summer youth camps healthy and successful!

Kitchen staff are also needed for almost every week of camp! Parents can receive a discount up to full camp fees. No great skill is needed. The head cook will direct you in what needs to be done to make yummy meals for campers and staff. Contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290.

Announcements

The offering for April 7 will be for Mennonite Mission Network. 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 March 24—138; Sunday School—115.

The quilted wall hanging at the front of the sanctuary was made by LaVerna Schierling. Thank you for sharing your talent with us, LaVerna.

As we plan the creation care Sunday School class, the Outreach Commission invites stories from those who have installed solar panels on their homes. Please contact David Wiebe, Chris Weaver, Bev Regier or Michael Garcia with your stories. Thank you!

FMC's peace pod (knitting4peace) will meet Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 PM in New Life's Sunday School room to tie a comforter for MCC. Come join us and help tie or bring your own project to work on.

College scholarship money is available – If you (or a family member) will be attending (or are considering) a Mennonite college or university for either undergraduate study or graduate study during the 2024-2025 school year, you are invited to apply for scholarship funds from FMC. ***By no later than Sunday, April 21, 2024***, submit the completed application to either Jyl Ewy or Ron Dietzel. For each school year, an FMC application must be completed. Some Mennonite colleges provide matching funds so your monies would be doubled when enrolled in one of those schools. Eligibility criteria for the FMC funds are provided on the application. The form is available in the Gathering Area at FMC; or, by contacting Ron Dietzel or Jyl Ewy.

Visuals for Lent—The visuals used in the sanctuary hold a significance for the Lenten time leading up to Easter. There are different size footprints (symbolizing our different ages/place in our Christian lives) leading up to the front of the sanctuary. This path of footprints symbolizes the idea that discipleship leads to the cross. The plain burlap cloth reminds us of the sackcloth and ashes an ancient custom of showing humility before God. The black cloth is representative of the meditative/somber atmosphere of Lent. We are encouraged to repent and take one more step (growth in our Christian life) towards the cross.

THE PLANNING GROUP is now in the process of compiling all the information from the table discussions and survey. We had great participation in both opportunities! Thank you for your willingness to be a part of these ways to listen and understand different viewpoints and stories plus share your beliefs. We will be communicating our next steps as soon as this part is completed. Your continued prayers for discernment of God's leading are appreciated.

The MCC Run for Relief will be in Hutchinson on April 13, 2024. We will again be participating in this run and are raising money for MCC. If you would be interested in sponsoring us through a financial donation to Mennonite Central Committee (100% of your donation will go directly to MCC), we would be most grateful. Your donation of any amount will go toward the important work of MCC relief and development work around the world. Visit mcc.org to learn more. Both cash and check are accepted. Feel free to put your donation in our mailbox at church, or mail it to us at 515 E. 3rd, Newton KS 67114, by April 12. Please make checks payable to *Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale*. We have been so blessed by your donations in previous years and would once again love to raise \$1,000+ for MCC. Thank you for your support and for your prayers for those around the world who benefit from the work of MCC.

~Woody and Nora Miller

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Pies and Zwieback—we have been assigned to make pies for the Relief Sale that will take place on April 12-13, at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. They have requested 35 pies from FMC. Information is on the table in the Gathering Area along with the pie pans. We have also been assigned to make 30 dozen Zwieback. Both the pies and Zwieback need to be delivered to the sale on Saturday morning, April 13 at 9:00 AM.

VBS 2024! Vacation Bible School is scheduled to be at Shalom Mennonite Church on May 28-31, from 5:20 to 7:30 PM. There will be a joint church service with participating churches on the Bethel College Green on Sunday, June 2, at 10:00 AM, with a potluck to follow. Supper will be served each evening from 5:20-5:45 PM, for children and Leaders/helpers. The curriculum is titled, "Seekers in Sneakers". Registration forms will be available soon!

FMC CHILDREN'S OFFERING 2024—Each spring the Nurture Commission is responsible for discerning the Children's Offering, and this year we have elected to assist with the work of Mennonite Mission Network in the Chaco province of Argentina involving the Toba Qom Indigenous people. The work includes introducing bilingual (Toba Qom and Spanish) educational material and teachers into area schools and providing Bible classes, games, and snacks for children every Saturday as well as youth-centric programs on special days such as Children's Day (a Kansas equivalent might be Vacation Bible School). A special project is currently underway to dub the Jesus Film in the Toba Qom language, which will be viewed by many children as well as adults. Offerings to this exciting and impactful ministry, which has aspects relatable to all ages, helps to develop and enhance the programs available to the children.

Creation Care Adult Sunday School Option: April 14 through May 5. Join Outreach Commission for an intergenerational adult Sunday school option in which we explore topics of hope and gracious sustainability in the midst of climate change.

Scholarships for Camp Mennoscah Youth Summer Camps! With the help of the congregation, the FMC Nurture Commission offers a \$100 scholarship to youth from FMC and Casa Betania who plan to attend camp this summer. To request a scholarship for your child/children, please fill out the google form you receive via email or sign up on the forms posted in the Gathering Area. If you are interested in contributing to the scholarship fund, please write a check to FMC with 'Camp Mennoscah Scholarship Fund' in the memo line. For more information, please talk to Sara Rickard.

Community Announcements

New Hope Shelter dedication and ribbon cutting—Sunday, April 7, 3:00 PM, 308 S. Meriden, Newton. Come celebrate with us in our new home that will continue to serve those in need for many years to come. After helping people for 19 years, in a few different spots, we finally have our forever home. Following some brief remarks, tours will be given and light refreshments will be served. Please park in the lots north of the property and bring lawn chairs.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus—Please join KMMC at one or both of our concerts this year: The first is April 7, at Bethel College at 4:00 PM. The second is April 21, Tabor College at 4:00 PM. This year we are including the Newton Children's Community Choir, the Flannelbacks and the Menno Brass.

The Bethel College Community for Justice and Peace (BC CJP) is hosting a demonstration on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 PM in front of the Bethel College Administration Building to call for peace in the Middle East, particularly concerning the war in Gaza. You are all invited to join. If you are interested in learning more about this event or BC CJP, subscribe to our free publication at <https://bccipsurvival.substack.com>.

Senior recital by Bethel College student **Eli Regier**, alto saxophone, Friday, April 5 at 7:00 PM, at Bethel College Administration Building chapel.

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton is critically low on inventory for Relief Kits. **YOU CAN HELP by bringing supplies to the MCC Sale.** There will be carts in the Meadowlark (Quilt Building) to collect your supplies. These are the **needed supplies** to complete kits: new infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes); bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); laundry bar soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); shampoo (20 oz min) and spiral notebooks (70 sheets).

All interested singers are invited to participate in Bethel College's annual Masterworks concert on April 28, featuring Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Scores are available now and rehearsals begin Tuesday, April 2. Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/Auu4FaYBcaLwKDuf6> so that your contact information is available for digital rehearsal materials, etc., or come to the first rehearsal April 2, 6:00 PM, in the Choir Room in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.

KIPCOR Film Series presents *Estamos Unidos*, Sunday, April 7, at 2:00 PM, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. The film by Alvaro M. Morales follows a migrant caravan's journey from Honduras to Mexico City in 2019. A talkback follows the screening; a freewill offering will be taken to support KIPCOR and the film series.