

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 29

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—*Mary and Anna*—Pastor Luke
1:00 PM FH/Kitchen reserved
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Monday, December 30

4:00 PM FH/Kitchen reserved

Wednesday, January 1

Church Office Closed—Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 5

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—Epiphany and Communion Sunday
Mary: Following the Light Through Fear—Pastor Laura
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Expecting Emmanuel



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
December 29, 2024

Mary and Anna: Faith in Community

.....

Gathering

Welcome

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

Meditation Music

Jyl Ewy

Call to Worship

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

Lighting the Christ Candle

Casson, Kacie, and Kyla Schmidt

Listening

Christmas Carol Requests

Children's Time

Dana Neff

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

Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission

Wendy Schrag

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:21-38

Wendy Schrag

Meditation

Mary and Anna: Faith in Community

Pastor Luke Unruh

Response Song

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly VT 243

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

Oh, How Joyfully VT 254

Verses 1-3 in English

Announcements and Benediction

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

Postlude

Jyl Ewy

.....

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, Isaac Koehn, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musician: Jyl Ewy Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Alan Entz.

*Bulletin artwork by Lauren Wright Pittman licensed for the season of Advent/Christmastide

Mennonite Mission Network invites you to join a Just Peace Pilgrimage this spring. Embark on one of these life-changing learning experiences:

United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage — Explore the history, significance, and ongoing implications of the civil rights movement in the United States. Unique opportunity – Young adults are invited to join Glen Guyton, MC USA executive director, for an enlightening journey. To foster dialog and understanding you are invited to join this pilgrimage with a partner of a different race.

Christ at the Borders (Calais, France) — Thousands of people migrate to Calais in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United Kingdom to find a better life. Meet those walking alongside the vulnerable who search for a peaceful home and the travelers themselves.

Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (Yakima, Washington)—Led by Sarah Augustine. Become better acquainted with Indigenous Peoples, their connection to the land upon which we live, and the consequences of settler colonial history.

For more information and to sign up, visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace or contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is hosting a [75th Anniversary Annual Celebration](#) in Wichita, Kansas this February. Part of the celebration, we will be hosting a volleyball tournament and cornhole tournament! The tournaments will be held Saturday February 15, at Ridgepoint church in Wichita, KS. The cornhole tournament will start at 1pm and the volleyball tournament will go from 5pm-8pm. We are looking for local teams or individuals to join the fun! There will be prizes for both tournaments. For the volleyball tournament there will also be free t-shirts and a light dinner. We are inviting anyone to register to play. If you are interested in registering a team or as an individual, please let Kaelan Swartley know by January 27 by calling 717-929-4172.

Can a Book of Stories Bring Peace to Palestine and Israel? Western District Conference (MC USA) Israel-Palestine Task Force invites you to join us for a book discussion group on February 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM, held on Zoom. We will be reading *Apeiogon* by Colum McCann. An apeirogon is a polygon with an observably infinite number of sides. McCann is an award winning author who writes a book of tiny chapters, each one a breath, a feeling, a story. The book is based on the real life experiences of two friends, an Israeli who opposes the occupation and a Palestinian who studies the Holocaust. They meet in a parent grief support group, as both have tragically lost their daughters. Their raw stories and their ardent peace work buoy the heart as the book takes us on a journey through love, loss, reflection, and hope. As you read the book, note the artful connections between the stories and the theme of ending the occupation in Palestine. What stories of peace do you tell? We will take time in our discussion to reflect on the book's stories and our own. To register, email wdc@mennowdc.org, and a Zoom link will be sent out.

Announcements

The offering for January 5 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: firstmennonitewton.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 Missions Update: As of December 19, we need approximately \$54,000 to end the year in the black. Prayerfully consider what you can do to help us end the year in the black. **Please have your offering donations turned in to the church office by Monday, December 30, at 8:00 AM.**

FMC worship attendance for December 22—133.

Rolls needed for Communion Sunday, January 5. If you would like to provide 3-4 dozen home-baked rolls for our communion celebration on Sunday, January 5, please contact Pastor Laura. Thank you!

As we wrap up 2024, the Nurture Commission wants to extend a big THANK YOU to our nursery and childcare volunteers! THANK YOU THANK YOU. We anticipate needing 2 or 3 new nursery volunteers beginning in May 2025. If you are interested, please contact Amy Funk or the church office.

Kathleen Andres	Pamela Garcia	Alesha Miller	Marsha Schmidt
Barb Claassen	Erin Graber	Peter Miller	Laura Sharp
Michelle Claassen	Carol Goering	Ruby Moore	Nick Sharp
Shirley Dietzel	Keith Knopp	Amy Regier	Stephanie Weaver
Carol Entz	Linda Koch	Bev Regier	
Amy Funk	Mike Linscheid	Chuck Regier	
Dorian Funk	Liz Linscheid	Sara Rickard	

The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, because of New Years Day.

Cooperative games are now available for check out in the library! We just added 100+ new resources, including games (ages 2 - adult), board books, picture books, junior books, fiction, and non-fiction. Browse the library catalog under the Resources tab on the church website or here: www.librarycat.org/lib/FirstMennonite

Harvest of Love challenge. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we have already gathered over 175# of food! Here's the challenge: Up through the end of December, let's try to make the total over 300#! (We will even add the weight your monetary donations!!!)

The Caregiving Commission is hosting an intergenerational Sunday School class starting in January. This will be a six-week book study, January 19 through February 23. The Bible as Story has been described as a “user-friendly introduction to biblical studies”. We are pleased that John Sharp, former pastor, retired Hesston College professor, and co-author of the book, has agreed to guide us through the book, discussing:

- The biblical story
- How we study the Bible
- How we interpret the Bible

This year we have heard a renewed interest in how we approach the Bible and interpret it for our lives. We hope this resource will help us meaningfully engage the text, and give us a common basis as we listen to each others' diverse perspectives. Caregiving Commission is purchasing books for this study. There will be book sign-up sheets in the gathering area, or you may contact Dan Regier or Laura Sharp. Deadline for book sign-up is January 5.

Yearbook update forms have been placed in your church mailbox. Please fill out the form and return it to the Church Office **by January 5**. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. **If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form.** Extra forms are also available in the Church Office and on the table in the Gathering Area. **Also, if you don't have a church mailbox and would like one, please let the church office know you would.**

Offering envelopes for 2025 have been placed in your church mailbox. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them or have any questions, contact the Church Office. Also, if you use online giving and do not need the envelopes, please let Tracy know and she will make sure that you don't receive the envelopes. If you have already told the Church Office that you don't need them, there is no need to call again this year.

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

Community Announcements

We had an error in the 2025 Summer Youth Camp Schedule sent out last week. A corrected version is attached and the website should be updated. Thank you for letting us know! There has been a change in age groups for the camps. There are two Junior Camps for those going into grades 6, 7 and 8 in the fall of 2025. There is one Junior High Camp for grades 8 and 9. Other age groups remain the same. Registration will open in February 2025. The theme for the 2025 summer is Another Way, looking at how Jesus invites us to re-imagine who we are and to live in another way.

The WDC Office & Resource Library will be closed Wednesday, January 1. Happy Holidays from WDC Staff!

Kauffman Museum seeks a Visitor Services & Education Coordinator to work with school groups, college students, senior volunteers and the general public. This is a half-time position. Kauffman Museum is a Bethel College affiliate in North Newton. View the full job description, application & contact info—KauffmanMuseum.org/vsc

Mark your calendars for Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival on Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. Hosted by the Hesston College Music Department, this event will also celebrate the release of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. The Hymn Festival coincides with the 500th anniversary of the first Anabaptist adult baptisms that took place in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525. More information to follow in area bulletins and at hesston.edu/music.

Those planning to make quilts for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale note that quilts need to be turned in for the auction by February 14, 2025. This is three weeks earlier than previous years. Quilts can be brought to the North Newton MCC Resource Center. The KMRS Quilt Committee appreciates all the work that goes into your contributions!

Not-here-for-Christmas hoodies! Camp Mennoscah will be selling hoodies available early 2025 by order only. An online order form will be available soon.

WDC Staff position opening: Western District Conference seeks a half-time Program Director for WDC's Kids Meet Christ (KMC) worship and faith formation initiative, beginning February 1, 2025. This program is made possible through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative, designed to help congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and prayer practices. The KMC Program Director will serve as a member of the WDC staff, collaborating with other staff and the Resource Commission to implement the KMC initiative over the 5-year grant period. For position description and application form, see <https://mennowdc.org/employment/>. Interested applicants please submit application form and letter of interest to the Conference Minister at heidirk@mennowdc.org.