

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 8

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service-Second Sunday of Advent-Tamar & Rahab-Pastor Laura
- 11:30 AM Young Adult lunch—Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service
- 4:00 PM FH reserved

Tuesday, December 10

- 6:00 PM Worship Commission
- 7:00 PM Church Board

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 6:00 PM Christmas Eve play practice—sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Choir

Saturday, December 14

- 10:30 AM Fern Koehn memorial service

Sunday, December 15

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service-Third Sunday of Advent—Ruth—Pastor Luke
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Upcoming worship service:

- Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent—Mary—Pastor Laura
- 7:00 PM Longest Night Service—Sanctuary

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 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

.....

Gathering

Welcome

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Meditation Music

Comfort, comfort ye, my people
Amanda Rempel, organist

Call to Worship

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Ella Regier

Listening

Songs for Worship

O Come, O Come, Immanuel, v. 1, 3, 6-7 VT 210
Bless'd Be the God of Israel VT 223

Children's Time

Nick Sharp

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

Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission
Chris Weaver

Scripture Reading

Joshua 2:1-9, 12-15
Chris Weaver

Sermon

Tamar and Rahab: Faith on the Margins
Pastor Laura Goerzen

Response Song

There Is a Line of Women VT 546

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

Go, My Children VT 830

Announcements and Benediction

Chris Weaver, worship leader

Postlude

Toccata on Hyfrydol
Amanda Rempel, 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, Joey Menninga, Brian Kennell, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musician: Amanda Rempel. Chorister: Wendy Schrag. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Brent Voran.

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

Save the date—Roots of Justice, on behalf of Newton Community for Racial Justice, will take place on Thursday, February 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Friday, February 14 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and Saturday, February 15 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Early bird registration is until January 3—\$300 per participant. Regular registration (after January 3) will be \$350. Stay tuned for the registration link and more details.

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 *Apeirogon* 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 December 15 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 November 24—134; Sunday School—114.

FMC is hosting a young adult lunch today following the worship service. These are for all persons 18-25ish to join in eating and fellowship together. If you would like to help provide food or coordinate a meal, there is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Luke.

In sympathy—Fern Koehn (94) passed away on Saturday, November 23. Her memorial service will be here at FMC on Saturday, December 14 at 10:30 AM. We extend our condolences to Fern's family and friends.

Local Mission Update: Currently we need \$45,800 to be in the black. If we add the approximate expenses of December we will need approximately \$75,800 by December 31. This means that we need to receive contributions of \$12,634 each Sunday for the next six Sundays. ~Financial Stewardship Committee

FMC Christmas Eve play practice will take place Wednesdays: December 11 and 18, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, in the sanctuary. The play this year will be "The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey" By Susan Wojciechowski.

Lost and found—Please check the coat rack in the Gathering Area. There are a few coats that have been hanging on the coat rack for several months. In a couple of weeks, whatever is left hanging, will be taken to the Et Cetera Shop.

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

Save the date—Join us for FMC's Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24, at 7:00 PM. The candle light service will include *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* dramatized by an inter-generational cast and music performed by the children

Harvest of Love—Throughout 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!

Community Announcements

Bethel College—today is the 39th annual Lighting of the Green at 8:00 PM, on the Bethel College campus. All are welcome!

The Annual Christmas Brass Concert will be held at the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, today at 7:00 PM. Come join a Great evening of Brass Music with the McPherson Brass and the Goessel Elbiata Singers as well as enjoying audience participation in singing of familiar Christmas Carols. A free will offering with support the ministries of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. 1304 K KS-15, Goessel, KS.

Hesston College Performing Arts invites the community to a unique music and theater experience, "'Twas the Night After Christmas," today at 7:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. A special effort between Hesston College's theatre and music departments creates an enchanting production, but unlike traditional performances, "'Twas the Night After Christmas" is a devised theatre piece, uniquely crafted entirely by current Hesston College theatre students and the director of theatre. Admission is free, and attendees of all ages are welcome to join in an evening of reflection, artistry and collaboration.

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, KS. View the full job description, application and contact info at 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!

Reserve your tasty verenike casserole meal! The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zweiback, and fruit crisp. Camp feeds your soul and this favorite youth camp meal will feed your belly! Meals will be available for pick up or eat in on Saturday, December 14, at Faith Mennonite Church between 5:30-6:30 PM. Call 620-297-3290 with questions. Get ready for the last busy days before Christmas with a meal you didn't have to prepare!

Prairie Window Concert—join Dyck Arboretum December 15, 4:00 PM, to hear musical guest, Rachel Baiman. Crust & Crumb will again serve delicious food during intermission. For tickets visit dyckarboretum.org/events.

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.