

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, January 12

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

### Tuesday, January 14

7:00 PM Warkentin Room reserved  
7:00 PM Church Board

### Wednesday, January 15

11:00 AM Service for Anna Marie Harder  
7:00 PM Warkentin Rm. Reserved, Men's Bible Study

### Saturday, January 18

8:30-11:30 AM Commission and Committee Retreat—Kidron Bethel

### Sunday, January 19

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service—*Anabaptist at 500: Renewal Through Story*—Pastor Laura  
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

### Upcoming worship service:

Sunday, January 26—*Anabaptist at 500: Renewal Through Repentance*—Pastor Luke  
Sunday, February 2—*Anabaptist at 500: Renewal Through Trust and Yieldedness*—  
Pastor Laura

# 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](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)

Website: [www.firstmennonitenewton.org](http://www.firstmennonitenewton.org)

### Pastoral Team

Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; [laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org)

Luke Unruh, Pastor—620-386-4596; [lukeu@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)



First Mennonite Church  
Newton, KS  
January 12, 2025

# Mary: Following the Light Through Fear

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## Gathering

### Welcome

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

### Gathering Music

*For You, O God, My Soul* VT 41  
Ben's Band

### Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles

## Listening

### Song for worship

*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* VT 275

### Children's Time

Sheralyn Goering

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

### Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission  
Dave Wiebe

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12  
Dave Wiebe

### Meditation

*Mary: Following the Light Through Fear*  
Pastor Laura Goerzen

### Hymn of Preparation

*Wait Alone in Stillness*

### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Luke Unruh

### Celebrating Communion

## Sending

### Announcements and Benediction

Dave Wiebe, worship leader

### Postlude

*Go, Tell It On The Mountain* VT 252  
Ben's Band

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

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*We will be live-streaming our worship beginning at 10:30 AM. You may view it on our webpage ([firstmennonitenewton.org](http://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: Ben's Band. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Phil Gaertner.*

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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](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org), and a Zoom link will be sent out.

**Bethel College's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration**, Monday, January 20 at 7:00 PM at Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center, with local pastor (retired) and community leader Larry Lee.

**Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event**—"At Home on the Range," Saturday, January 25 at 12noon—4:00 PM, in museum parking lot and grounds. Featuring food trucks, exhibits and activities indoors and out, and much more. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or [kauffmanmuseum.org](http://kauffmanmuseum.org)

**New Bluestem U lifelong learning courses** for winter and spring 2025 are now open for registration. Courses are available for individuals age 55 and better. This semester's offerings include STEAM, theatre, astronomy, bird watching and a free author's series. See more information and registration at [bluestemu.org](http://bluestemu.org). Bluestem U is a lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities in partnership with Bethel College and Hesston College.

**Save the Date!** The 2025 WDC Annual Assembly will be August 8-9, 2025 at Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS. This means the Assembly [Resolutions](#) due date is April 10, 2025. Along with others around the globe, next year at Assembly we plan to celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism. Please add this to your calendar and plan to join us!

**Register now for the 500 Years of Anabaptism & Swiss Alps Tour, May 21-31, 2025.** Sites: The Swiss Alps, Swiss Mennonite sites, & the 500 Year Celebration in Zurich on May 29. Preview the tour at [www.tourwithweldon.com](http://www.tourwithweldon.com). For information & registration details contact Weldon Martens at [weldon.martens@gmail.com](mailto:weldon.martens@gmail.com) or 402-202-9276.

**Camp Mennoscah Hoodies available for ordering!** Click here to order online (<https://forms.gle/QmPwMxrxD8ii9tRH6>) or contact [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org). The camp sign logo will be on the chest. Youth sizes are \$40. Adult sizes S - XL are \$40 and sizes 2XL - 4XL are \$45. Colors can be found in the ordering form. Youth colors do not match adult colors exactly due to color availability. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 with questions. Ordering closes January 20. We need a minimum of 15 hoodies ordered to proceed. Available ONLY through this online order.

**The application for 2025 Summer Staff is open.** Staff positions are needed for nature, office, music, lifeguards, crafts and grounds/maintenance. Further information available on the Camp Mennoscah webpage under Programs/Summer Youth Camps or contact 620-297-3290.

## Announcements

**The offering for January 19** 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](http://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 Missions Update**—In December we received over \$72,200 in contributions. However, due to some last minute expenses, we ended with a deficit of \$7,045.69. Thank you all for your generosity. May God bless you. ~The Financial Stewardship Committee

**Prayer Notes:** Thank you to Cindy Unruh and Cora Voran for their years of lovingly writing prayer notes for FMC's bulletins! You have touched and inspired our prayers! Moving forward, prayer notes will be listed upon submission to the church office. If you would like a prayer note in the bulletin, please submit it to the church office by Wednesday for printing in the following Sunday's bulletin.

**The flowers at the front of the church** are from Dewayne Pauls funeral service that was here last Wednesday.

### For Your Prayers

In sympathy—Anna Marie Harder (82) passed away on Saturday, January 4 surrounded by family. Anna Marie's funeral service will be on Wednesday, January 15, here at FMC followed by a lunch. We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

In sympathy—Dewayne Pauls (87) passed away on Thursday, January 2. His funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 8, here at FMC. We offer our condolences to Betty, Lori, Donnie, Sherri and the rest of the family.

WDC—Pray for congregations that are hosting visits from listening teams during the coming months as part of the WDC Listening Process, that they would be blessed through sharing and conversation together about how God is at work in their community and how WDC can support their congregational ministry.

MMN—Mennonite Mission Network praises God for the 29 SOOP volunteers serving in Arizona and Florida this month. Pray that these SOOPers will be a blessing to vulnerable populations, as they serve between two weeks and four months.

**A support group for survivors** of sexual abuse will meet with the guidance of a professional therapist on Tuesday, Jan. 14. If you have experienced sexual abuse, you are welcome to attend.

**Annual Commission Committee Retreat** is planned for this Saturday, January 18, from 8:30 to 11:30 AM, at Kidron Bethel Village. Breakfast will be provided and the Church Board will meet briefly at the conclusion of the retreat.

**HARVEST OF LOVE**—You did it! Thank you for helping meet the Harvest of Love challenge of over 300# in food donations to the Salvation Army Harvest of Love. It will go a long ways to helping many people with food inadequacies. We gave 303 pounds (even without the weight of your monetary donations!) Thanks again from the Caregiving & Membership Commission.

**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	

**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](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/FirstMennonite)

**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.

**Thank you to our Property Committee guys and to all of the extra volunteers that came to the church on Monday to help clear snow in our parking lots and sidewalks. All the work you did was much appreciated!**

## Community Announcements

**Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program**, "A Mennonite Sojourn in Central Asia, 1880-1935," with historian John Sharp, today at 3:00 PM at Kauffman Museum auditorium (corner of Main & 27 streets, North Newton)

**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](http://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](http://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!

**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.

**Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)** is hosting a [75<sup>th</sup> 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 1:00 PM, and the volleyball tournament will go from 5:00-8:00 PM. 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