

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, February 16

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service— Guest Speaker from MDS, Kevin King
- 2:00 PM FH reserved
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

### Wednesday, February 19

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 6:30 PM Youth Group—FH
- 7:00 PM Warkentin Rm. Reserved, Men's Bible Study

### Thursday, February 20

- 6:30 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission

### Saturday, February 22

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast—FH

### Sunday, February 23

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Back to the Gospel of Mark—Pastor Luke
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

### Upcoming worship service:

- Sunday, March 2—Wendy Schrag
- 9:00 AM—Sunday School—Western District Listening Process



*at* FIVE  
HUNDRED

First Mennonite Church  
Newton, KS  
February 16, 2025

### 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

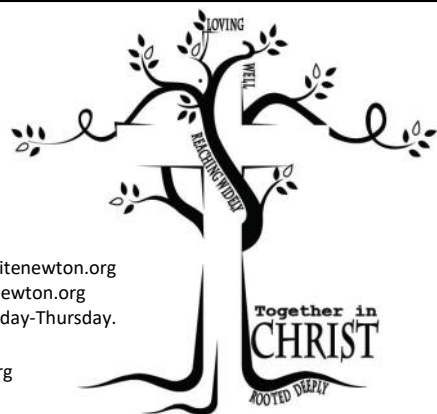
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; [laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org)

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)



# Now That's Good News

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## Gathering

### Welcome

John Goerzen, worship leader

### FMC Choir

*Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart*

### Call to Worship

John Goerzen, worship leader

## Listening

### Song for worship

*Praise with Joy the World's Creator* VT 428

*God of the Bible* VT 420

### Report from MDS trip to Mississippi

Larry and Carol Entz, Brent and Cora Voran, and Marvin and Linda Ewert

### Children's Time

Andrea Regier

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

### Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission

John Goerzen

### Scripture Reading

Luke 4:16-20

John Goerzen

### FMC Choir

*Here's One*

### Sermon

*Now That's Good News*

Kevin King

### Response Song

*For The Healing of The Nations* VT 705

### Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

## Sending

### Sending Song

*Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying* VT 682

### Announcements and Benediction

John Goerzen

### Postlude

*Psalm 1*

FMC Choir

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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, Ryan Koehn, Alex Goering, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Entz and Jyl Ewy; chorister; Greg Bontrager. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Brent Voran*

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**The Mennonite Central Committee Central States** board will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 1, 2:00-3:30 PM, at MCC Central States in North Newton, KS. All are welcome to attend.

**Come join the fun at 17th annual MCC Comforter Blitz** on March 3, 4 and 5 at the Journey Facilities Building behind Charis Community Church, (3605 E. Long View Rd, Haven, KS) near Yoder, KS. Monday—9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Tuesday—9:00 AM-9:00 PM, and Wednesday— 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. Note the hours are extended on Tuesday. No sewing skills are required! Lunch is available by donation each day, or you may bring your own sack lunch. Snacks are welcome to share during the workday. This event is hosted by Kansas Friends of MCC. Find out more at [mcc.org/comforter-blitz](http://mcc.org/comforter-blitz) or call 316-283-2720 or email [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org).

**Camp Mennoscah - The Spring Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat is March 14-16.** Online registration is open! All activities will take place at Main Camp in the dining hall and bunk-houses.

**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.

**Coming in March!** Hesston College Theatre to present "Urinetown" March 5 through 9 This three-time Tony award winning musical is set in a Gotham-like city facing a severe water shortage due to a 20-year drought. The government has imposed a ban on private toilets, forcing citizens to pay a corrupt corporation for access to public restrooms. While this may sound like super serious stuff, Urinetown uses satire, comical characters and even makes fun of the musical genre itself to tell the story of a hero who, fed up with the whole stinking system, plans a revolution to restore freedom to the people. Filled with excellent music, dancing and hilarious dialogue, come spend an evening with us in Urinetown. Tickets can be purchased now at the Hesston College Bookstore or by calling 620-327-8104.

**Save the Date!** Western District Women in Mission invites women & girls to our annual potluck salad supper on Monday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at the Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton. The theme is "For the Beauty of the Earth" presented by WDWM executive committee member and Kansas City floral designer, Becca Schrag. Bring a salad to share and a small vessel to make a floral design in - a tea cup, bowl, or small vase. This is a free event with an offering taken to help cover expenses. RSVP not required but appreciated by emailing [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto:westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com).

**Exciting Summer Internship Opportunities with MCC!** Mennonite Central Committee is offering exciting **2025 summer internship opportunities** designed to provide hands-on experience while making a meaningful impact. Over the course of 10–12 weeks, interns will gain valuable skills, explore their interests, & contribute to meaningful projects in areas like human resources, historical exhibit development, immigration, climate communications, global service learning, & the sewing room. This is a unique opportunity to grow professionally while engaging in work that matters. Learn more and apply today!

## Announcements

**The offering for February 23** will be for Local Missions. 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.

**FMC worship attendance** for February 9—139; Sunday School—114.

**Kevin King** graduated from Eastern Mennonite College (now University) in 1981 with a degree in International Agriculture Development. He also earned an MBA in International Economic Development in 1987 from Eastern College, St. Davids, Pennsylvania. Kevin worked overseas with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Brazil and Jamaica. Then he moved back to Pennsylvania and was Export Relief Manager until 2004 working in international disaster relief and development traveling in nearly every continent. In 2004, Kevin accepted the position as Executive Director of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and currently resides in Harrisonburg, Virginia with his wife, Karen. He has witnessed the outpouring of love and compassion through tens of thousands of volunteers putting their faith into action responding to disasters in the U.S. Kevin and his wife are the parents of two grown children and a four-year-old grandson. They attend Zion Mennonite Church in Broadway, Virginia.

**The next Men's Breakfast** is Saturday February 22 at 8:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be ready at 8:00 AM, and full breakfasts will be ready by 8:30 AM. The main menu as always is bacon, eggs, bacon, pancakes/french toast, and bacon. Come join us for great conversation and food. You are welcome to join in on the cooking or contribute some eggs, bacon or other food. You are also welcome to come and just eat. Dads are encouraged to bring their kids. Contact Mason Unruh or Brian Kennell if you have any questions.

**Western District Conference Listening Process: On March 2**, three representatives from Western District Conference - Delon Martens, Dawn Yoder Harms and Berni Kaufman - will visit First Mennonite Church to facilitate a listening session with our congregation as part of WDC's conference-wide Listening Process. **All adults and high school youth are invited to participate in the listening session at 9:00-10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** FMC member Wendy Funk Schrag, Secretary of the WDC Executive Board and member of the WDC Listening Process Planning Team, will also bring the message

during worship. The purpose of the Listening Process is to empower the vitality of WDC congregations by hearing their stories, offering ongoing relationship, and supporting their witness and mission. The listening session at 9:00 a.m. on March 2 will include times of conversation in response to these questions from WDC about our ministries and hopes for the future:

1. *What activities or ministries are most important for your congregation now in fully carrying out God's work?*
2. *What do you hope for the future for your church and what resources from WDC would be helpful for that?*

Responses from our discussion will be gathered, and then shared back with the congregation. At the conclusion of the listening process a summary of themes will be compiled by WDC to share with WDC constituency and used to guide ongoing resourcing for congregations.

**The MCC Run for Relief** will be in Hutchinson on April 12, 2025. We will again be participating in this run and are raising money for MCC. This year, in addition to soliciting your financial and prayer support, **we would also like to invite you to join us in the MCC Run/Walk for Relief. You can find information at this link—<https://kansas.mccsale.org/run-for-relief/>**. 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 [www.mcc.org](http://www.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 11. Please make checks payable to *Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale*. 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*

#### For Your Prayers

**We pray for Brielle Sharp's** continued recovery from flu/pneumonia.

**We pray for Carolyn Miller and family** as they face the on-going implications of Kevin's loss.

**WDC**—Pray for WDC youth and leaders who will participate in the *Know Jesus* conference next weekend at Hesston College, as they learn about their Anabaptist roots and grow in their relationship with Jesus through worship, service and activities together.

**MMN**—Join Mennonite Mission Network in praising God for the 70 years of ministry of the Fellowship of Mennonite Churches in Taiwan. Pray for the continuing outreach of the church's agencies in Hualien: the Mennonite Christian Hospital; the New Dawn Educare Center, which serves people with special challenges; and the Good Shepherd Center for abused women, those sold into prostitution, and children from dysfunctional families.

#### Community Announcements

**The 2024-25 Prairie Window Concert Series** welcomes back for the third time Alisa Amador on Sunday, February 23, 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and delicious food from Crust & Crumb in a prairie garden setting. Purchase tickets online at [dyckarboretum.org](http://dyckarboretum.org) or call 620-327-8127 to reserve your seats. The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains is a 29-acre public garden and arboretum, located in Hesston, Kansas and operates under the auspices of Hesston College. Its mission is to cultivate transformative relationships between people and the land.

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

**Join in a transformative journey with Mennonite Mission Network**—We invite you to partake in one of our enriching and educational Just Peace Pilgrimages:

- Christ at the Borders (Calais, France) — Journey to Calais, where thousands of people seek refuge in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United Kingdom to find a better life. Meet those walking alongside the vulnerable, and the travelers themselves, profound examples of the human spirit's resilience.
- Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (Yakima, Washington) — Under the guidance of Sarah Augustine, co-founder and Executive Director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, delve into the rich heritage and ongoing struggles of America's Indigenous Peoples. This pilgrimage will enlighten you on their deep connection to the land, and the historical impacts of settler colonialism, fostering a path toward reconciliation and understanding.
- Youth Venture: Anabaptism at 500 (Zurich, Switzerland) — Specifically for young adults aged 18-30, this expedition celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptism movement. Explore key historical sites in Germany and Switzerland, immersing yourself in the legacy of the 16th-century Anabaptists. Engage with the vibrant, diverse global Mennonite community during the Mennonite World Conference's Anabaptism at 500 events, including the Young Anabaptist (YABS) Global Youth Summit.

To learn more about these Just Peace Pilgrimages, visit: Just Peace Pilgrimages: [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](http://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace); Youth Venture: [MennoniteMission.net/YV](http://MennoniteMission.net/YV). For any inquiries or to register, contact Stephanie Weaver at [StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net).