

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 16

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—Chris Weaver—*House of Prayer or Den of Thieves?*
Mark 11:1-25
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Wednesday, March 19—Spring Break (No activities)

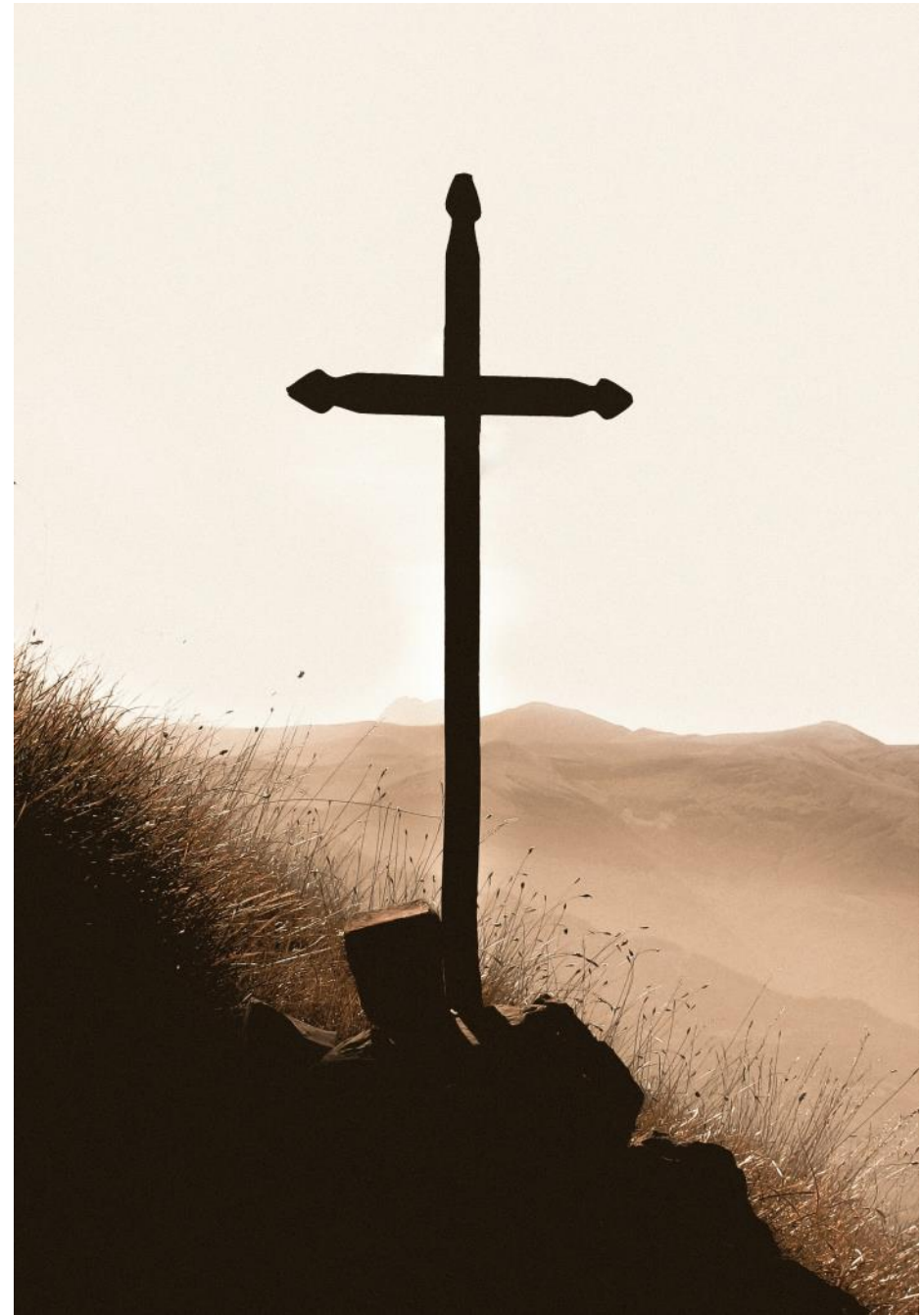
- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Warkentin Room Reserved, Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 23

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Luke—*Conflict in Jerusalem* —Mark 11:27-12:44
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Upcoming worship service:

- Sunday, March 30—Pastor Luke—*The Beginning of the End*; Mark 13:1-37



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



Mark Part 2: Journey to the Cross

House of Prayer or Den of Thieves

March 16, 2025

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Gathering

Welcome

Ken Regier, worship leader

Gathering Music

Donna Stucky

Call to Worship

Ken Regier, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

Come, We That Love VT 31
Jesus Christ Is Waiting VT 287

Children's Time

Dana Neff

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

Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission
Ken Regier

Scripture Reading

Mark 11:1-25
Ken Regier

Sermon

House of Prayer or Den of Thieves
Chris Weaver

Response Song

Mountain of God VT 11

Prayer of the Church

Ken Regier

Sending

Sending Song

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna! VT 313

Announcements and Benediction

Ken Regier

Postlude

Donna Stucky

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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), 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: Chorister: Daryl Unruh. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Rod Wedel

Announcements

Mennonite Mission Network has spaces still available for our transformative *Just Peace Pilgrimages* this summer and fall. **Racial Justice Pilgrimage | South Africa** — This pilgrimage will explore the long history and legacy of settler colonialism and apartheid, and will focus on the social constructs created around race, land dispossession and how they so thoroughly defined, and continue to define, South African society. **Racial Justice Pilgrimage | Underground Railroad** — Explore the role of faith and faith communities that helped enslaved people escape their bonds. This chapter of the Racial Justice pilgrimage series delves deeper into the struggle for freedom, exploring the ways — both literal and figurative — people took in search of their emancipation. **Schedule your own pilgrimage** — If you, your church, Sunday school class, or other group are interested in exploring what God is doing to bring about justice and peace in the world, contact us. We will work with your group to find a Just Peace Pilgrimage that works for you! For more information on the Just Peace Pilgrimages, to sign up, or to inquire about scheduling a trip for you and your group, visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace or contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net.

Important Training Opportunity! Youth Mental Health First Aid Training at Eden Mennonite Church (401 18th Ave, Moundridge, KS), March 22, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM. This event will provide information about and offer training to respond to youth experiencing a mental health crisis. Registration cost of \$25 includes the training, materials, snack, and lunch. Training provided by Prairie View.

Men & Boys Retreat is April 4-6, 2025, at Camp Mennoscah! Claim a place to sleep in the cabins, bunkhouses, or sleep in your own tent under the stars. Meals can be purchased for Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday lunch. Online registration will be available by March 15; registration can also be completed at camp. Contact Kevin at 316-322-5515 for more information.

Lent-at-Home: Christ Collides, a free downloadable Lenten devotional from Mennonite Education Agency—Download it for free in English or en español at www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/lent-at-home/

The offering for March 23 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 March 9—132; Sunday school—118.

Pastors out of the office: Pastor Laura will be traveling March 13-March 20. Pastor Luke will be traveling March 13-March 19. In an emergency, both can be reached via cell phone.

Come and See—take a look at the display on the Communion table. There is a gathering of symbols from the book of Mark. Come to the front of the church and see how many of the symbols and colors you can recognize from the stories in the gospel of Mark.

The MCC Run for Relief will be in Hutchinson on April 12. We will again be participating in this run & are raising money for MCC. This year, in addition to soliciting your financial & 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 & development work around the world. (Visit www.mcc.org to learn more.) Both cash & check are accepted. Feel free to put your donation in our mailbox at church, or mail it to us at , by April 11. Please make checks payable to *Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale*. Thank you for your support & for your prayers for those around the world who benefit from the work of MCC. ~Woody and Nora Miller

Nurture Commission's current offering project, Infant Care Kits for MCC, will be ending March 31. There is still time for all ages to provide needed items for this ministry. Please see the Giving Tree on the east end of the Gathering Area for items still needed to complete kits. For the youth (and young at heart) who have already donated, a heartfelt thank you for your generosity!

Join us for Wednesday Community Nights!

Come for:

Supper at 5:30pm

Children's singing at 6:30pm

Activities for all ages 6:45pm

March 19: Spring Break (NO Wednesday evening activities)

March 26: Building benches for MCC with Outreach Commission

April 2: Pysanky eggs with Janet Regier

April 9: Sharing about Sharps' assignment in Columbia

Youth Group Verenike Casserole Fundraiser—As a fundraiser for our mission trip this year, the youth group will be hosting a verenike casserole supper on Wednesday, April 9, 5:30-7:00 PM. The menu will include verenike casserole, sausage, green beans, zweibach, cherry moos. Vegetarian/gluten free/dairy free/sugar free options are available. Please invite your friends and family for this spring fundraiser!

Ken Frey has temporary moved to Kansas Christian Home Skilled Nursing Care for continued therapy from his surgery. Visitors and cards are welcome.

Calling all (amateur) photographers! We are updating the Creation Care Photo Wall in the Gathering Area. This year, the theme will be BIRDS - as in "Consider the ravens, they neither sow nor reap..." from Luke 12:24. If you have a photo of a bird that you are proud of, send a high quality jpeg file to andrea.and.ben@gmail.com. Andrea will print them all in the same style & size. Deadline to submit photos is Thursday, March 20!

My Coins Count—This year, coins will support food programs around the world. Bring coins (and bills!) to church Sunday mornings until the MCC sale. Starting today, we will have the coin tower in the Gathering Area for anyone who would like to drop your coins in the tower. Let's see how full we can get the tower filled!

For Your Prayers

We pray for Linda Gaertner and family, as her father James Parker, passed away on Saturday, March 8. We extend our condolences to Linda, Phil, Evelyn and Hannah.

We pray for Janice Good as she continues her recovery from surgery.

WDC—During this season of Lent, pray for pastors in WDC as they encourage, teach and help guide congregations to walk faithfully in the way of Jesus.

MMN—Caleb and Stephanie Schrock-Hurst are preparing for ministry in Taiwan, where they will renew relationships between the Mennonite Christian Hospital, in Hualien, and North American churches. Pray for them as they learn the Chinese language and finish raising the necessary funding. The Schrock-Hursts are jointly appointed through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Community Announcements

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. For information & registration details contact Weldon Martens at weldon.martens@gmail.com or 402-202-9276.

The 2024-25 Prairie Window Concert Series concludes with Darrell Scott today, March 16, at 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](https://www.dyckarboretum.org) or call [620-327-8127](tel:620-327-8127) to reserve your seats.



The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale is right around the corner on April 11 and 12. There are lots of ways to volunteer during the week-end. Many of the sign-up sheets are now conveniently located on line. To check out the opportunities (and hopefully sign up) you can go to KANSAS.MCCSALE.ORG/VOLUNTEER or click on the QR Code. The sooner you sign up, the better chance you have in getting your preferred job and time slot. It takes many volunteers for a successful Sale!

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!

CANNER JOB OPENING—Do you know a hands-on person looking for a unique opportunity? MCC is seeking two Canner Operators for its mobile meat canner beginning the Fall 2025 Canning season. The Canner operates from October through April by traveling to 30 different locations in the U.S. preserving hundreds of thousands of cans of beef, turkey, chicken and pork for communities in need across the globe. Canner responsibilities including operating steam and pressure vessels, coordinating volunteers, maintaining and communicating USDA regulations, and the maintenance of all machinery in the canning process. MCC is accepting applications until March 3rd by completing an online form by contacting marilynpeters@mcc.org, or by calling 1-888-563-4676.

Save the Date for the Kids Meet Christ Launch Events! Western District Conference invites you to celebrate and learn more about the new grant-funded worship initiative Kids Meet Christ on Saturday, May 3, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS both in-person or virtually or **Saturday, May 17 in Dallas, TX** (exact time/location TBD). Come join the conversation about reimagining worship to fully engage children. In-person participants will be the first to receive a kit of ready-to-use materials for children in worship! This is for anyone! (worship leaders, pastors, Sunday school teachers, anyone who is passionate about children). These events will both be bilingual in English and Spanish.