

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service— Palm Sunday—Pastor Laura—*Denied and Abandoned*

Mark 14:27-15:15

11:45 AM Following the worship service we will have a potluck meal then the Spring Congregational Meeting—FH

4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Wednesday, April 16

10:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Youth Group

Thursday, April 17

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service and communion—7:00 PM

Sunday, April 20—Easter

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service—Easter Sunday—*Easter Cantata* directed by Greg Bontrager

Upcoming worship service:

Sunday, April 27—Worship Service—Holy Humor Sunday—Pastor Luke

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

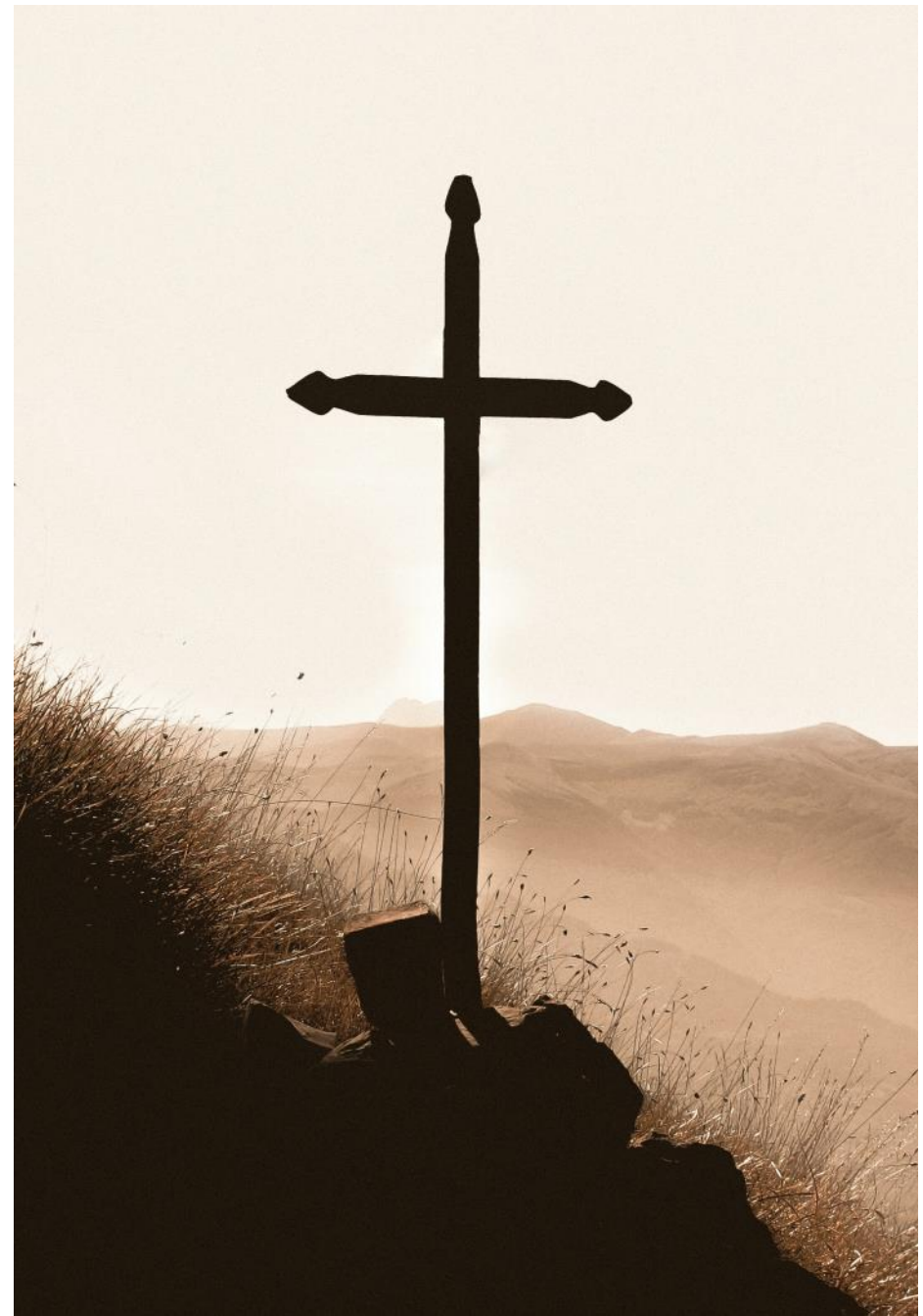
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org

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; Lent 6:
Denied and Abandoned**

Denied and Abandoned

April 13, 2025

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Gathering

Welcome

Casson Schmidt, worship leader

Dedication of Pray Ground

Pastor Laura, Pastor Luke, and Alesha Miller representing
Worship Commission

Meditation Music

Melody Bontrager

Call to Worship

Casson Schmidt, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

Jesus Calls Us VT 30

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty VT 316

Children's Time

Keith Knopp

Palm Parade

Jesus Is Coming VT 312

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

Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission
Casson Schmidt

Scripture Reading

Mark 14:27-31, 66-72,
Casson Schimdt

Sermon

Denied and Abandoned
Pastor Laura Goerzen

Response Song

Seeking Warmth from Charcoal Blazing VT 344

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

Move in Our Midst VT 827

Announcements and Benediction

Casson Schmidt

Postlude

Melody Bontrager

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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, Joey Menninga, Isaac Koehn, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Chorister: Wendy Schrag, Melody Bontrager. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Phil Gaertner

John Thiesen, “Re-membering the 1870s Migration,” is today at 3:00 PM at the Kauffman Museum auditorium. This Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program is in connection to the current special exhibit, “Unlocking the Past: Immigrant Artifacts & the Stories They Tell.” Thiesen is co-director of libraries and archivist at the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College.

Public Witness: Saturday, April 26, 11:30 am the WDC Israel-Palestine Task Force with [Mennonite Action](#) are hosting a "God's Love Knows No Borders" gathering at the Harvey County Courthouse, 800 N Main St, Newton, KS. Please join us at 10:30 am at Military Park, 200 E Broadway, if at all possible, to prepare for the event. For more information, please email robertleeatchison@gmail.com.

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.

Youth ages 12 to 17 are invited to become a Junior Volunteer at Schowalter Villa (Hesston) or Kidron Bethel Village (North Newton) for the summer. The Bluestem Communities Junior Volunteer program runs from June 2 to July 25. Participants will interact with residents in a variety of ways, including activities, games, exercise, conversation and more. It's a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational connections and to enrich the lives of all involved! Applications are required and must be submitted by May 9. For an application or questions, contact Bluestem Communities Volunteer Coordinator Sheri Esau at SheriE@bluestemks.org.

Music and Quilt Auction at The Hub on May 2! Support Camp Mennoscah on May 2 with purchases at The Hub. 10% of all sales on May 2 will be donated to Camp Mennoscah. Musical groups will play from approx. 6:00-8:30 PM & include K81, Queen Jack Jericho, Brett and Caleb Klingenberg, & The Schrag Siblings. A Camp Mennoscah tee shirt quilt will also be sold through a silent auction. A picture of the quilt can be seen at www.campmennoscah.org. Contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for a bidding from a distance option. (The Hub, 100 S Christian, Moundridge, KS, <https://www.thehubbrickoven.com>)

Music and office summer staffers are needed! If you know of someone who you think might be great for these positions, please tap them on the shoulder. Olivia would love to talk to them, even if they are only available for part of the summer. Contact us at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 316-293-7313 (call or text). Summer staffers must be 18 or older and are usually college or near-college age folks.

Camp Mennoscah is looking for kitchen helpers and other volunteers to make great camp experiences. **Parents can receive a camper discount up to full camp fees as a kitchen volunteer.** Contact Olivia at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 316-293-7313. Summer youth camps cannot happen without you!

Announcements

The offering for April 20, 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 April 6—143; Sunday school—100.

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held today, April 13. We will have a carry-in meal following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall around 12:30 PM or as soon as possible after we finish eating. During the meeting we will hear various reports and will take action to approve the financial audit report, 2024 financial report, a new term for Pastor Luke, & a proposal from the Long-Term Facility Planning Committee.
~Ryan Koehn, Church Moderator

A carry-in meal is planned today, prior to the Spring Congregational Meeting. Please bring a dish or two to share. The food should be fully cooked. Bring your food to the church kitchen before Sunday school. You are invited to bring your own tableware as well. Cold drinks will be provided.

We are very grateful for the good turnout and wonderful support we received from our church family and friends during the Verenike Casserole Fundraiser this past week. We received a total of a little over \$5,100. Thank you for making it possible for us to do another service trip this summer.
~First Mennonite/Casa Betania Youth Group

Gospel in Glass—Windows Reflect Salvation, Discipleship. Worshipers at FMC are surrounded with art-glass windows which are rich in biblical symbolism. The Historical Committee’s new exhibit explains what the symbols represent. View the display to learn how the west side focuses on what God does for his people; and how the east side shows what God asks in response. The presentation is located in the corner display cabinets at the west end of the Gathering Area. The source of the photos in this display is an article featured in the “Mission & Memory” magazine. Free copies of this publication are available by making a request to Ron Dietzel or Andrea Enns Regier.

Flowering the cross: At First Mennonite we will cover our large cross with fresh flowers as part of our Easter morning worship service on April 20. Remember to bring fresh flowers from your yard or pasture on Easter Sunday. If you forget, or don’t have anything blooming in your yard, don’t worry! There will be flowers provided for those who need them.

For Your Prayers

WDC—Pray for WDC staff as they gather tomorrow for a retreat for fellowship, planning, prayer and discernment together.

MMN—Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for those participating in a 12-day Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage to Calais, France, where they are visiting organizations that work with migrants who are trying to cross the English Channel. Pray for the participants as they get first-hand experience with Mission Network partner ministries at Maria Skobtsova House, in Calais, and Peaceful Borders, in the United Kingdom.

Take a moment to enjoy our new Creation Care photo wall near the Gathering Area based on Luke 12:22-24. Thanks to all our FMC contributors!

You are invited to join us for an upcoming concert of the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. The 120-member chorus includes members from our church. The concert will include traditional hymns & contemporary selections performed in four-part harmony. The concert at Tabor will include students in the Chamber Voices student ensemble with students in the Open Road & Woven choirs joining us at Bethel College. The concerts are free with an offering benefiting the global mission support work of Mennonite Central Committee. **2025 Concert Schedule: Today at Bethel College, Memorial Hall, North Newton, KS. April 13, 2025, 4:00 PM.**

Easter Sunday is a week from today—Nurture Commission is planning a special Sunday school time for our children, ending with an outdoor Easter egg hunt. You can help us in two ways: If you have extra plastic Easter eggs that you'd like to donate, please bring them to the Gathering Area by next Sunday. We'd like this to be a special time where we can invite children to join us from the community or who have connections to those in our congregation. So if you know of a child up through grade 5 whom you would like us to invite, please give us names and addresses, either to Sara Rickard or to the church office.

A meeting for survivors of sexual abuse led by a trained therapist will take place Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 PM. If you are a survivor & have questions, contact Dana Neff at 316-284-2001.

Pysanky Easter egg decorating! Have you ever wanted to try your hand at pysanky - a traditional Ukrainian method of decorating eggs for Easter? Janet Regier is offering an afternoon pysanky class in Fellowship Hall on Good Friday (April 18), 2:00-4:30 pm. **Class size is limited, so please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area to save your spot.** This activity is best suited to junior high age through adult. Participants provide their own chicken eggs and a taper candle; all other supplies are provided.

Homeless Shelter—Our next week to serve New Hope Homeless Shelter is April 23-29. If you are able to help by volunteering or with meals, contact Lee Penner at 284-2154 or Ruby Moore at 620-837-4876.

Theology of the Body/Holy Sexuality—In response to requests for a further in depth look at Scripture texts and themes regarding a traditional theology of the body and human sexuality, a 4 week study series is being planned for Wednesdays 7-8:15 pm beginning April 23 in Room 224. While a detailed outline will give structure to our approach, time will also be allowed for conversation and community discernment of helpful and hopeful ways forward as we work to connect Scriptural guidance to 21st century realities. If this sounds like something that could be helpful for you, please put it on your calendar and make plans to attend. For more information, please contact Sam or Barb Claassen

Each year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, known locally as NAMI Kansas, brings together hundreds of people to raise mental health awareness and funds through NAMI-Walks Kansas. This year's event will be on Saturday, April 26 at 10 a.m. at the West Ridge Mall in Topeka. Funds raised support NAMI Kansas' free local mental health programs and services. Lee and Deb Penner are part of the Mid-Kansas support group which meets once a month at our church. Please consider a donation to this vital organization. If you would prefer to send a check, make it payable to NAMI Kansas, and give it to Deb by April 23. Half of all donations go to our local affiliate. If you have any questions, contact Deb, Team Captain, at 316-288-0354. You may donate securely online at: <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1746>. Half of all donations go to our local affiliate.

College scholarship money is available — If you (or a family member) will be attending (or are considering) a Mennonite college or university for either undergraduate study or graduate study during the 2025-2026 school year, you are invited to apply for scholarship funds from FMC. **By no later than Sunday, April 20, 2025**, submit the completed application to either Jyl Ewy or Ron Dietzel. For each school year, an FMC application must be completed. Some Mennonite colleges provide matching funds so your monies would be doubled when enrolled in one of those schools. Eligibility criteria for the FMC funds are provided on the application. The form is available in the Gathering Area at FMC; or, by contacting Ron Dietzel or Jyl Ewy.

It's time to donate to and apply for Camp Mennoscah Scholarships! Children in grades 3-12 (fall 2025) who attend First Mennonite and Casa Betania are eligible for \$100 scholarships to attend Camp Mennoscah this summer. Parents can apply for the scholarships by filling out the form they receive via email or signing up in the Gathering area. Talk to Sara Rickard if you have questions about the scholarships. Register for camp at campmen-noscah.org. **Congregation members can donate to the scholarship fund by writing checks to FMC with 'Camp Mennoscah Scholarships' in the memo line. Thank you!**

Community Announcements

MMN has a new position open—Regional Director for Latin America. Available for hybrid, in-office (Newton or Elkhart) or remote work. Anyone who may be qualified and interested, can find our job openings through our website at www.mennonitemission.net/employment.