

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday

9:15 AM Sunday School

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

4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Wednesday, April 23—New Hope Shelter Week

7:00 PM Youth Group

Sunday, April 27

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service—Holy Humor Sunday—Pastor Luke

Upcoming worship service:

Sunday, May 4—Tyler Johnson—*Doubting Faithfully*—John 20:24-29

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: Choir Conductor: Greg Bontrager; Organist: Amanda Rempel. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Kevin Hamm



Easter Sunday

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



Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

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Gathering

Welcome

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Meditation Music

Easter Chant

Amanda Rempel

Call to Worship

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Listening

Songs for worship

Morning Has Broken VT 495

Thine Is The Glory VT 355

Children's Time

John Goerzen

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

Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Scripture Reading

Mark 16:1-8

Pastor Laura Goerzen

**Sabbatical Sending for Pastor Laura and
Ministry Commissioning for Chris Weaver**

Ken Regier

Announcements

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Easter Cantata—*Share the Good News! He Is Risen!*

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Hosanna

The Last Supper

Garden of Gethsemane

Easter Joy

Spread the Word

Flowering the Cross

Now the green blade rises

Amanda Rempel

Sending Choral Anthem

Spread the Word

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Cast

Narrator—Luke Unruh

Candle Bearer—Daniel Regier

Peter – Solo—Chris Weaver

James—Eli Regier

John—Paul Schrag

Maid 1 – Solo—Wendy Schrag

Maid 2- Solo – Jennifer Goering

Bystander—Solo -Dan Miller

Pilate – Speaks—Dave Wiebe

Mary Magdalene- Solo—Addie Kaufman

Mary – Solo—Joan Entz

Judas—Ken Regier

Soldier—Alan Entz

Soldier – Theron Goering

The Schowalter Singers will be presenting a spring concert at the Whitestone Mennonite Church, Sunday May 4, at 7:00 PM. You are invited! The choir, directed by Leland Flickinger, is made up of Schowalter residents and community members.

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 27, 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 13—164; Sunday school—106

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: today we will cover our large cross with fresh flowers as part of our Easter morning worship service. 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.

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 campmennoscah.org. **Congregation members can donate to the scholarship fund by writing checks to FMC with 'Camp Mennoscah Scholarships' in the memo line. Thank you!**

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 today, April 20**, 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.

For Your Prayers

Dear friends at FMC, we are full of joy that our grandson, Jacob, was able to go home in late February, after six months in-hospital. The leukemia has been deemed "in remission." Many of you have prayed for him, his family, and us, and we say **thank you**. And we thank God for his great mercy. The family is in process with re-locating to Baltimore from Zambia, as Jacob will require regular monitoring.

~Amanda and Clarence Rempel, Jan and Stan Claassen

WDC—Give thanks for all WDC congregations, as they embody the presence of the risen Christ, and live out resurrection hope through ministries of compassion, peacemaking, and justice.

MMN—On this Easter Sunday, join Mennonite Mission Network's 74 workers and 183 partner organizations throughout the United States and 45 other countries around the world in proclaiming the message of Jesus' resurrection power and love to those we encounter.

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!

Would you like to do something to show your support of our brothers and sisters of Casa Betania? One simple way is by your presence as a visitor in a Casa Betania service. Visitors are always welcome, but there will also be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area to encourage more intentional attendance and support of our sister congregation Casa Betania. If you have questions, or are interested in other ways to be involved, you may talk with Linda Shelly or Chuck Regier. The service is usually in the sanctuary at 4:00, but can vary. To be sure, text or call Linda (316 734 5947). Thank you for giving this your prayerful consideration!

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 .

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

The Allies Group, which supports people with various sexual & gender identities and their families & friends, will be meeting Wednesday, April 23, 6:00 PM, at FMC in Rm 125 in the basement. Use the south door for closest access. Dinner (pizza) will be provided. For information, contact Keith Knopp, keith.knopp@gmail.com, or Chris Weaver, weaverchris270@gmail.com

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 10:00 AM, 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.

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.

Everence will hold its popular Medicare workshop at its office in North Newton on Thursday, April 24, 6:30 PM. Topics will include, when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare covers, plus an explanation of Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D. Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare. The in-person workshop will be held at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton. Those interested in attending should contact the Everence office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

Spring play at Bethel College—Friday, April 25, Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27. *The Bookstore* by Adam Szymkiewicz will be performed on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 PM, and on Sunday at 2:00 PM in *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*. Friday evening performance interpreted for the d/Deaf community. Ticket purchase required (buy on campus weekdays at Thresher Shop; online at <https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/theater/theater-department-presents/>; or at the door).

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.