

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 6

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Laura—*Preparations for the Passion*;
Mark 14:1-11, 17-25
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service
4:00 PM Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus—Tabor College

Tuesday, April 8

- 6:30 PM Kitchen reserved for Youth Group preparations
7:00 PM Church Board—FH

Wednesday, April 9

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Verenike Casserole supper fundraiser for the Youth Group
6:30 PM Children's Singing
6:45 PM Last Church Family night
7:00 PM Warkentin Room Reserved, Men's Bible Study

Sunday, April 13

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—Palm Sunday—Pastor Laura—*The Trials of Jesus and the Disciples*; 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

Upcoming worship service:

- Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday Service—7:00 PM
Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday—*Easter Choral Cantata* directed by Greg Bontrager

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

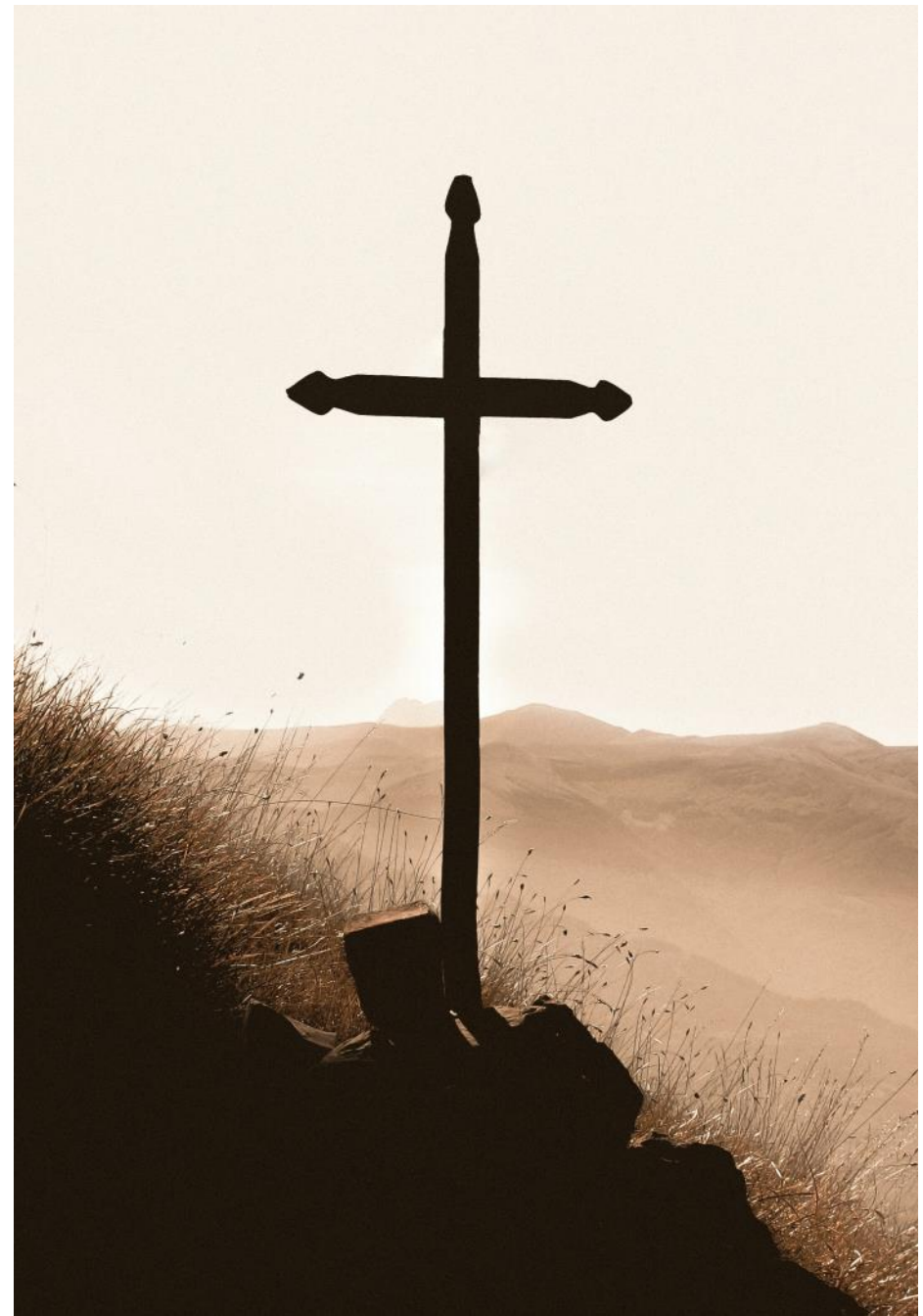
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org

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 3: Preparations for Passion

The Beginning of the End

April 6, 2025

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Gathering

Welcome

Dana Neff, worship leader

Gathering Music

Come and See

Ben's Band

Call to Worship

Dana Neff, worship leader

Listening

Song for worship

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Children's Time

Shannon Bartel

Jennie Wintermote

Prayer for the Offering

Mennonite Mission Network

Dana Neff

Scripture Reading

Mark 14:1-11, 17-25

Dana Neff

Sermon

Preparations for the Passion

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

How Deep The Father's Love for Us

Announcements and Benediction

Dana Neff

Postlude

This Little Light of Mine

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

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 Goertzen Regier, Kent Erb, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Ben's Band. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Phil Gaertner.

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: Tabor College, Richert Auditorium, Hillsboro, KS. Today at 4:00 PM. Bethel College, Memorial Hall, North Newton, KS. April 13, 2025, 4:00 PM.**

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!**

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.

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.

Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) invites women & girls to their annual potluck salad supper on Monday, April 28, 6:00 PM, at the Tabor Mennonite Church. Our theme is "For the Beauty of the Earth." After the potluck & a meditation on God's creation, Rebecca Schrag will lead a floral design workshop with flowers provided by Firebranch Farm & other sources. Each participant will make a small bouquet to take home. RSVP appreciated & required by April 15 at our website link: www.westerndistrictwomeninmission.org/events-1

Please bring:

- * a salad to share (table service will be provided)
- * a small vessel to make a bouquet (a tea cup is ideal)
- * several flowers from your garden if you have them to share
 - * a kitchen or garden shear if you have one

An offering will be taken to help cover expenses.

Announcements

The offering for April 13, 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 30—115; Sunday school—75.

Thank you to my loving church family for your prayers and get well wishes during my recent hip surgery. Recovery is going well. ~Frances Schrag

Congratulations to Riley and Rebekah Kingsley on the birth of their daughter, Ruth Dawn born on Saturday, March 29. Grandparents are Donnie and Lori Kingsley and Great grandma is Betty Pauls.

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, 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 prior to the Spring Congregational Meeting next Sunday. 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.

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!

A meeting for survivors of sexual abuse led by a trained therapist will take place Tuesday, April 8, 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.

Join us for Wednesday Community Nights!

Come for:

Supper at 5:30pm

Youth Group Verenike Supper

verenike casserole, sausage, green beans, zweibach, cherry moos

Children's singing at 6:30pm

Activities for all ages 6:45pm

April 9: Sharing about Sharps' assignment in Columbia

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.

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

WDC—Pray for youth ministry in WDC congregations, as pastors, families, mentors and teachers support young people and nurture their growth.

MMN—Michael Oyer, in his new capacity as Mennonite Mission Network's program director for Service Adventure, has just completed a three-day visit to the unit in Colorado Spring, Colorado. Pray for wisdom for Michael and the unit leaders, Christian and Leigha Stoltzfus. Pray for a year of growing in faith for participants — Elisabeth Daudey, Alea Sagert, Sadie Sherman and Hannah Smith — and for their host congregation, Beth-El Mennonite Church.

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.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale aka "The MCC Sale" is coming up on April 11 and 12. Hopefully you have been busy getting projects ready to sell. If you have items for the sale please bring them to the church by Thursday, April 10. In recent years, Elena and I have coordinated transportation of sale items to Hutchinson. This year we will be traveling that weekend and will not be available. We need someone to coordinate the transportation of pies and other baked goods, woodworking projects including three benches, plants and numerous miscellaneous items to the sale. Most of these items need to be delivered on Friday afternoon. Baked goods can be delivered Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Please contact us at entz.wiebe@gmail.com if you can help in this way.

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 515 E. 3rd, Newton KS 67114, 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

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!

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.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Pies and Zwieback—we have been assigned to make pies and Zwieback for the Relief Sale that will take place on April 11-12 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. Information is on the table in the Gathering Area along with the pie pans and bags for the bread. Both the pies and Zwieback need to be delivered to the sale on Saturday morning, April 12.