

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, July 20

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service—Luke Unruh, preaching
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Tuesday, July 22

Pastor Laura will be back in the office.

Wednesday, July 23

10:00 AM Staff Meeting

Sunday, July 27

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service



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

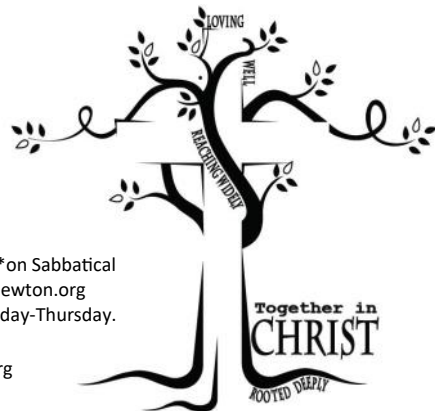
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org *on Sabbatical

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



First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS

Love is the Foundation

July 20, 2025

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Gathering

Welcome

Judy Murphy, worship leader

Meditation Music

Melody Bontrager

Call to Worship

Judy Murphy, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

Could it be that God is Singing VT 42

Rain Down VT 703

Children's Time

Sheralyn Goering

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

Prayer for the Offering

Local Mission

Judy Murphy

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-12

Judy Murphy

Sermon

Love is the Foundation

Pastor Luke Unruh

Response Song

O Healing River VT 706

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

This is my Song VT 710

Announcements and Benediction

Judy Murphy, worship leader

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, Eric Murphy, and Alex Goering are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musician: Melody Bontrager. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Phil Gaertner.

The Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, affiliated with Bethel College, is offering a 2-day training on “Managing Differences Within Faith Communities” on Friday and Saturday, July 25-26, 2025, at KIPCOR’s training facility in North Newton. This course is designed for congregational leaders, pastors, and anyone who would like to explore ways to navigate differences as a faith community in a healthier way. This training is led by Robert Yutzy, KIPCOR Senior Associate for Congregational Ministries, and Keren Kandel, KIPCOR Executive Director. This course will help to better understand the dynamics when there is disagreement and gives opportunities to engage in practical tools that can transform conflict and difference into spiritual and community renewal. Please see the flier in the Gathering Area for more information and the cost of registration.

Special Young Adult Pilgrimage with Glen Guyton—Join Mennonite Church USA executive director Glen Guyton for a unique multiracial pilgrimage through the southern United States with opportunities for shared learning and deep understanding of the racial divides that our society perpetuates. Together, you’ll walk in the footsteps of heroes, confront hard truths, & envision a future of reconciliation and hope. This is for young adults ages 18-30. Dates—October 28-November 2. Cost—\$800. Apply by September 15. Don’t miss this chance to grow, reflect, & make a difference—sign up now.

Mennonite Mission Network - Seth and Stephany Rudeen, members of New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton, KS, hope to leave for Guatemala in August 2025, and they need your financial support to begin their ministry. They are designated to serve at the Q’eqchi’ Bezaleel Mennonite Educational Center, operated by the Q’eqchi’ Mennonite Church near San Pedro Carchá, Guatemala. Mission Network is partnering with Central America Study and Service (CASAS) in Guatemala City, where they will begin with two months of language and cultural study before starting their service. Their diverse roles at Bezaleel will include educational support, practical contributions, and building meaningful relationships with students, staff, and the church community. Go to Mennonite Mission Network’s website to learn more or to make a donation.

The 2025 issue of *Mennonite Life*, Bethel College’s annual online journal, is now live at ml.bethelks.edu, with a theme of anniversaries – 150 for immigration to the Great Plains of North America, 500 for Anabaptism. There are articles and reviews by Susan Fish, Ardie Goering, Don Goertzen, Peter Goerzen, Jeff Gundy, Michele Hersherberger, Melanie Howard, Melanie Springer Mock, Justina Neufeld, Ken Rodgers, Mary Schertz and John D. Thiesen.

Announcements

The offering for July 27, will be for Local Misson. 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 “Children’s Time” 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 July 13—116; Sunday school—107.

Pastor Laura will be returning from her sabbatical this Tuesday, July 22.

LOCAL MISSION UPDATE: The summer months are usually more difficult for us to keep up with our contributions to Local Missions. This year again we have a \$12,640 deficit in Local Missions at the end of June. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help take care of this short fall. ~The Financial Stewardship Committee

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

The Lebid family is getting settled in Jacksonville, Florida. They are making new friendships and connections, and have even found a church that has many Ukrainian and Russian immigrants. Their new mailing address is available at the church office.

Children's Offering Summer Edition is happening now! Everyone is invited to help gather materials for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) School Kits which will be assembled during Sunday School on August 17. See the table in the Gathering Area or visit MCC's website for a packing list, and bring the new school supplies to church to the designated boxes in the Gathering Area. How many can FMC make? Let's find out together!

For Your Prayers

Save the date for Safe Sanctuaries Training! Our church-wide Safe Sanctuaries training is scheduled for Sundays, September 7 and September 14, from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. This training is required for anyone who works directly with children and youth, and we encourage everyone from the congregation, ages high school and up, to attend. The training will be facilitated by Kathy Neufeld Dunn, WDC's Associate Conference Minister. Both sessions will be recorded, so for anyone who cannot attend, there will be opportunities to view and discuss them via zoom on a later date. Please contact Sara Rickard or Pastor Luke with any questions or concerns.

It is Christmas in July! Peace Connections is hosting a donation drive for hygiene items. Much like you would pull a gift request off an angel tree, please stop by the Gathering Area and take a coconut off the palm tree to provide items to families in our community. The tree will be left up until the middle of August. Let's fill the box!

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 also is a sign-up sheet on the announcement board 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 PM, but can vary. To be sure, text or call Linda (316-734-5947). Thank you for giving this your prayerful consideration!

Community Announcements

Standing With Immigrants: What people of faith can do to help the strangers living amongst us. Shalom Mennonite Church will be hosting Sandrine Lisk, Esq., managing attorney of Immigration Law & Advocacy in Wichita, on July 30, 7:00 PM. Come learn how we can support and advocate for immigrants in our community. Bring your questions and share your stories with others who are concerned about the state of immigration in our country in light of Jesus' call to love our neighbors. As a tangible way of supporting immigrants among us, donations will be collected for a scholarship fund supporting immigrant high school graduates and international students. Checks can be made payable to "Wichita African Business & Professional Network".

Online registration is open for the Women's & Girls Retreat September 6-7 at Camp Mennoscah sponsored by Western District Women in Mission. Our speakers this year are Pastor Katherine Goerzen (Tabor Mennonite Church) and Pastor Laura Goerzen (First Mennonite, Newton). Go to westerndistrictwomeninmission.org for a detailed schedule, register and pay online, or print out forms to register and pay by mail. Registration is due August 29. See you there - share the news and bring a friend! Any questions? Email us at westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.

Colorado peaches are coming to MCC! Palisade peaches from western Colorado are available for order and purchase until July 30. Two sizes are available: **9 lb. for \$30 and 18 lb. for \$42.** Orders can be placed by emailing patsydirksen@mcc.org or by calling MCC, 316-283-2720. Payment in the form of cash or check is due by **July 30.** Make checks payable to **Beth-El Mennonite Church** with "peaches" in the memo line. Payment can be mailed to: MCC, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117 or dropped off at the MCC at 121 East 30th, North Newton. Peaches will be ready for pick-up on **Monday, August 18** at the MCC warehouse. Beth-El Mennonite Church sells peaches as a fundraiser for bierocks ingredients that are sold at the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale in October. Thank you for supporting MCC!

Transport of MCC school kits and hygiene kits from Kansas to South Texas needed! MCC is looking for anyone traveling between North Newton and Dallas or (even better) all the way to South Texas between now and mid-August. We have kits in Kansas that need to get to Texas, and we'd love to utilize vehicles that are already going that direction to save resources. If you might be able to help MCC out, please contact Brocia Mueller at brociamueller@mcc.org or call Brocia at 316-836-5054.

Save the Date for the Kids Meet Christ Fall 2025 Workshops—November 15 in Wichita, KS. The Theme will be "Preparing the way for children in worship". Stay tuned for more details!

Peace Connections is hosting a Bridges Out of Poverty Training on August 1, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. This FREE and ENGAGING training will explore the root causes of poverty, increase personal understanding and identify ways to reduce barriers for all members of our community. For more information or to sign up for this training experience, please visit www.peaceconnections.org/events

MCC Peace Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Sept. 21-27, Divide, CO. How can we live out God's call for justice and reconciliation through nonviolence in a world that is built on the myth of redemptive violence? If you are a young adult (age 18-30) concerned about the state of our world and energized to reimagine society built on God's vision of love and justice for all, come join us for a week of experiential learning rooted in theological reflection, peacebuilding practices, and real-world application. Register by August 31 at mcc.org/events/rocky-mountain-peace-camp. Pass this opportunity on to young adults in your life!