

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, November 30—First Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Laura—*Be Amazed*  
4:00 PM Casa Betania Service  
12:00-6:00 PM FH/Kitchen reserved

### Monday, December 1

7:00 PM Peace Pod—FH

### Tuesday, December 2

6:30 PM Nurture Commission—Zoom

### Wednesday, December 3

10:00 AM Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study—Warkentin Room

### Sunday, December 7—Second Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Luke  
4:00 PM Casa Betania service

### Upcoming worship service:

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent—Pastor Laura

#### FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

PO Box 291, 429 E. First Street, Newton, KS 67114-0291

Phone: 316-283-0273

E-mail: [office@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)

Website: [www.firstmennonitenewton.org](http://www.firstmennonitenewton.org)

#### Pastoral Team

Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; [laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto:laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org)

Luke Unruh, Pastor—620-386-4596; [lukeu@firstmennonitenewton.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstmennonitenewton.org)



# First Sunday of Advent

## November 30, 2025

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### Gathering

#### Welcome

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

#### Meditation Music

*\*A Voluntary on a Flight of Angels*  
Amanda Entz

#### Call to Worship

Wendy Schrag, worship leader

### Listening

#### Songs for worship

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* VT 203  
*How Firm a Foundation* VT 592

#### Children's Time

John Goerzen

#### Lighting the Advent Candle with the Children

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

#### Prayer for Offering—Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Wendy Schrag

#### Scripture Reading

Daniel 3:1, 8-30

#### Sermon

*Hope in the Furnace*  
Pastor Laura Goerzen

#### Response Song

*My Soul Proclaims with Wonder* VT 222

#### Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

### Sending

#### Sending Song

*The First Noel, The Angel Did Say* VT 250

#### Announcements and Benediction

Wendy Schrag

#### Postlude

*Christmas Favorites*  
Amanda Entz

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*\*Sometime early in the reign of George 1 of England, Charles Clay built a most ingenious mechanical musical clock which contained bells and a miniature pipe organ. It is evident that this machine created quite a sensation in London and no less a person than Handel wrote & arranged at least one and probably two sets of tunes for it.*

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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](http://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, Isaac Koehn, and Melody Enns are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Amanda Entz. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Kevin Hamm*

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## Announcements

**Calling all bakers and craft makers!** You are invited to make items for **5 Places of Christmas** happening on Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Goerz House on the Bethel College campus. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your homemade cookies, zweibach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are always great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies such as fudge, peanut clusters, peanut butter balls and peanut brittle, as well as other non-chocolate candies. **We are also looking for Christmas craft items to sell. Please bring your items to Goerz House (2512 College Ave., North Newton, KS) on Friday, December 5, between 2:00-5:00 PM or on Saturday, December 6, from 9:30 - 10:00 AM.** Thank you for your support of Bethel College.

**Buhler Mennonite Church** needs your help to package 50,000 meals on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at the Sand Hills Event Center (4601 N Plum St, Hutchinson, KS 67502) through the [Outreach Program](#)! What a great way to give of your time during the Thanksgiving season to help local households who struggle to put food on the table. Please sign up [HERE](#) or contact us at 620.543.2733 or [bmcpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:bmcpcpastor@gmail.com). There is a job for all ages 7 to 147 years of age. You can work one shift or both shifts - 1st Shift (Arrive 8:45am for the 9-11:00am) 2nd Shift (Arrive 10:45am for 11:00am-1pm). Job orientation is provided and no previous experience is needed!

**40th annual Lighting of the Green**—Sunday, December 7, 8:00 PM, on the Bethel College campus.

**Eden Mennonite Church** invites you to our production of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Barbara Robinson. In this hilarious Christmas play, a couple struggling to put on a Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids—probably the most inventively awful kids in history. Admission is free for this funny and heart-warming telling of the Christmas Story on Saturday December 13th at 7:00 PM, (doors open at 6:30 PM) and Sunday December 14th at 2:00 PM (doors open at 1:30 PM) at Eden Mennonite Church; 401 18th Ave. Moundridge.

**The offering for December 7** will be for Western District. 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](http://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 November 23—137; Sunday school—108.

**Local Missions Update:** Looking ahead to year end it appears that we could use at least \$72,000 to complete the year in the black. This means that we need at least \$11,000 per Sunday until year end. Whatever you can do to help us reach our goal will be appreciated.  
~The Financial Stewardship Committee

**Worship Activities for Children.** During the season of Advent, Worship Commission is providing additional materials for children to use during the worship service. Every week there will be a new activity sheet for children to use for following along with worship. Occasional crafts or games will also be available. Be sure to check the tables at the entrances to the Sanctuary for these materials.

**Peace Pod change:** Since the first Tuesday falls on Giving Tuesday, (MCC conflict) the December Peace Pod will meet on Monday, December 1. Mark your calendar for Monday evening instead of Tuesday.

**Buddy-up For Scripture Reading!** Find a friend or family member and sign up to read scripture! All ages and reading abilities welcome! There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Area.

**Happy birthday**—Ivan Goering is turning 80 years old on December 1! His family has requested a card shower for him. You can either mail a card to Ivan, or put one in his church mailbox. Happy birthday, Ivan!!

### For Your Prayers

**Sewing pew bags for FMC children:** Worship Commission would like to begin offering pew bags with quiet activities for children to pick up and take with them into worship services. We'd like to have these bags available starting in the new year. MCC school kit bags would be the perfect size. If you would be willing to sew some bags in the style of MCC school kits for our children to use as pew bags, please contact Pastor Laura or a member of the Worship Commission. We'd like a total of about 25 bags.

**Harvest of Love**—Throughout November and December, the Salvation Army invites you to join in their annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our country. Items always needed are canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal (of any kind), peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, and soups. Boxes are available in the Gathering Area below the tv, next to the church mailboxes, and inside the west entrance to collect nonperishable items. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may write a check to "Harvest of Love" and place it in the offering. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives.

### Community Announcements

**Celebrate the beginning of Advent** at Kauffman Museum, Sunday, November 30, at 3:00 PM, in the museum auditorium, with a Deutsche Weihnachtslieder (German hymn sing) led by Bethel College emeritus faculty William Eash, Merle Schlabaugh and **Karen Schlabaugh** (playing the historic Teschemacher parlor organ). Even if you don't sing, or don't sing German, you are welcome to come and listen!

**The Bethel College Student Alumni Association** invites alumni and friends to join faculty, staff and students on Tuesday, December 2, any time between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, to help decorate the campus by putting up lights. Come to the Luyken Fine Arts Center lobby for instructions. Lights will be turned on at 6:30 PM, with popcorn and hot chocolate to follow, before the Wind Ensemble concert at 7:00 PM.

**Mennonite World Conference, Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Central Committee have highlighted an urgent need:** Jamaican Mennonite Church has been hard hit by Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm that caused widespread destruction in the Caribbean. Mennonite World Conference reported that, "Of the four Jamaica Mennonite Church congregations directly in the path of the storm, Joyland and Abrams lost their roof and have further damage; Ridge had the door blown off; Salter Hill's building collapsed and the roof of the parsonage is destroyed. Church members in these communities lost their roofs and personal possessions." Please remember those affected in prayer, and prayerfully consider making a donation to help our sister churches recover from this devastating storm. **Donations can be made to MC USA online [here](#), noting "JAMAICA" in the note field. OR to MCC [here](#).** MCC is working with local partners to provide food, hygiene items and other emergency supplies to those impacted by Hurricane Melissa.

**Give back on Giving Tuesday at MCC, December 2 from 6:30-8PM!** Bring your kids, grandkids, and friends to MCC (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton) for a fun evening of packing hygiene kits for MCC! Giving Tuesday is a casual, come-and-go, all-ages event. Pack hygiene kits, tie comforters, make a cardboard comforter block craft, & enjoy snacks. Kick off your holiday shopping by picking gifts for your friends & family from the MCC Christmas Giving Guide. Find out more at [mcc.org/giving-Tuesday](https://mcc.org/giving-Tuesday).

**Kidron Bethel Village will host** its annual Holiday Market artisan fair on Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Registration for vendors is now open. 10' x 10' booth space is available for \$25. For more information and a registration form, contact Sheri Esau at [SheriE@bluestem.org](mailto:SheriE@bluestem.org) or 316-836-4821.

**Finance Assistant:** Mennonite Church USA is seeking a Finance Assistant to support a wide range of financial functions for the MC USA Executive Board. Experience and knowledge in accounting are preferred, with a minimum of a two-year Business degree or equivalent experience. Must be able to work as part of a team, multi-task, and prioritize. FTE: 1.0; Location: Newton, KS (preferred), or Elkhart, IN. We are committed to diversity among staff and welcome people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. Please complete an application form from [mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/employment/](https://mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/employment/). For questions, contact [HR@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:HR@MennoniteUSA.org) or call (574)523-3027. **The application deadline is January 5, 2026.**