

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 9

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Eric Litweiler
- 11:45 AM Potluck lunch—FH
- 12:30 PM Fall Congregational Meeting—following the potluck lunch
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service

Tuesday, November 11

- 7:00 PM Church Board

Wednesday, November 12

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 5:45 PM Community Night Meal—Koinonia Sunday school class
Chilli Dogs, Chips, Veggies and Ice Cream Bars
- 6:30 PM Children's singing time
- 6:30 PM Jr/Sr High activities
- 6:45 PM Activities for all—Cards and Care Packages
- 6:45 PM Choir

Thursday, November 13

- 6:30 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission

Sunday, November 16

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

Upcoming worship service:

- Sunday, November 23—Remembrance Sunday



Ninnescah River

*First Mennonite Church
Newton, Kansas
November 9, 2025*

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



God Comes to Us in the Wilderness

November 9, 2025

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Gathering

Welcome

Carol Entz, worship leader

Meditation Music

Melody Bontrager

Call to Worship

Carol Entz, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

I Sing the Mighty Power of God VT 182

When at Creation's Dawn VT 121

Children's Time

Dana Neff

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

On Mission With Christ:

Dorcas Good

Prayer for Offering—Local Mission

Carol Entz

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 8:2-18

Carol Entz

Sermon

God Comes to Us in the Wilderness

Eric Litweiler

Response Song

In Lonely Mountain Ways VT 589

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

You Shall Go Out with Joy VT 847

Announcements and Benediction

Carol Entz, 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, Brian Kennell, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Melody Bontrager; Chorister: Jeff and Addie Kauffman. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Brent Voran

Community Announcements

Invitation to Sing! Community singers are invited to join the Hesston College Choir, **directed by Greg Bontrager**, in performing *Song of Wisdom from the Old Turtle* on Saturday, November 22 at 7:00 PM. Rehearsals: November 10, 17, 20 (with orchestra)-7:00-9:00 PM, and 22 - 3:00-5:00 PM. To participate, please email your name and voice part to receive music. greg.bontrager@hesston.edu

Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum with author Daniel Markovitz (originally from Olpe, Kan.) reading from his novel *The Spoils of Victory*, today at 3:00 PM, at *Kauffman Museum auditorium at Bethel College*. The novel focuses on a largely forgotten aspect of World War II history, the confinement and employment of hundreds of thousands of German POWs throughout the United States from 1943-46. The book will be for sale at the event, with a book signing afterward, as well as a pop-up exhibit of WWII artifacts from the museum collection.

Seth Bontrager, son of Greg & Melody Bontrager, will be going on a Prison tour with Higher Love, an organization that provides worship and music for prison inmates, in late November. He needs your help raising funds for the organization for this year's tour. He participated last year, and it was truly a life changing experience for him. He is excited to be given the chance to join the team again as part of a worship band as they visit inmates in various prisons in Alabama and Florida. Their theology isn't tied to a specific church or denomination. "We find beauty in our variety as we join together as one to share these four truths: you are loved, you have great worth, God is with you, and you are not forgotten!" He would appreciate any help that you can offer by going to the Higher Love website: <https://www.higher-love.org/donate>

Bluestem U, the lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities, will host a free Authors Speaking Series Monday, November 10, at 10:00 AM, in Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village, 3001 Ivy Dr., North Newton, featuring Lauren Friesen with *The Anabaptists: A Comedy in Two Acts* and *Acting Up: An Anthology of Mennonite Playwrights*, and Janice Pauls with *Dandelions are Beautiful*. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations.

Bethel College Organ Recital Series presents Dr. David Pérez, on Tuesday, November 11, at 7:00 PM, in the Administration Building chapel.

Habitat for Humanity of Harvey County invites you to our annual Pork Chop Dinner fundraiser on November 20 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, at Faith Mennonite Church, 2100 N. Anderson Ave, Newton, Kansas. Dine-in and carry-out options are available. This is Harvey County Habitat's largest fundraiser of the year, and we need your generous donations to help ensure we can continue to build a new home for a qualifying family each year. Please reserve your pork chop meal (includes pork chop, potatoes, green beans, dessert, and a drink) by visiting our website at <https://harveycountyhabitat.org/pork-chop-dinner-reservation/>. Thank you for supporting the vision of Habitat for Humanity, where everyone has a decent place to live!

Announcements

The offering for November 16, will be for Local Missions. 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.

Eric Litweiler, representing Camp Mennoscah, will be joining us for Sunday school and the worship service today. Any who would like to chat with Eric about Camp Mennoscah happenings and the plan to finish the Retreat Center are welcome to join him in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday school hour.

Potluck meal prior to the Fall Congregational Meeting today. Please bring several dishes to share with our church family on November 9, before the Congregational Meeting. Bring your fully cooked dishes to the kitchen. Please bring food that **does not contain peanuts or peanut butter**, we have a young person who is highly allergic to peanuts and they pose a serious threat to him. We thank you for taking this warning seriously. **If you need some ideas, deviled eggs are winning side dishes!!**

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held today, November 9. 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 take action on the 2026 budget and ballot for commissions, committees, and board positions. ~Ryan Koehn, Church Moderator



Menno Media's Shine presents the **"Celebrate Jesus!" Advent and Christmas Kit**. This kit is easy-to-use and perfect for families looking to deepen their faith during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Filled with engaging activities for children and their adults, this kit invites everyone to explore the true meaning of Christmas together. Please contact the FMC Church office if you would like a Shine Advent and Christmas kit. To see more about what the kit contains, scan this QR code.

Free Covid Tests are located in the Gathering Area. Please take as many as you need. They expire in January.

Wednesday Community Night Activity Schedule

- **Nov. 12:** Assembling Care Packages for Sharps, Eli Regier, & College Students
- Nov. 19: Youth Group Turkey Dinner

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.

Remembrance Sunday—November 23. If you have a loved one you would like to have named on that Sunday, contact Pastor Laura aurag@firstmennonitenewton.org or the church office office@firstmennonitenewton.org and indicate if you plan to come forward to light a candle for your loved one or would like a pastor to light the candle.

Thank you to everyone who donated food last week for the Food Drive for South Breeze Elementary School. At this time, we will continue to collect food. You can place the non-perishable food items along the east wall and they will be delivered to the school each week.

New Hope Shelter week—Our next week to serve at the Homeless Shelter is November 19-25. If you are able to help by volunteering or with meals,

Splatter paintings displayed in the Sanctuary and Gathering area were created by FMC members at the church retreat at Camp Mennoscah in October. Prayers for courage were said as paint was flung!

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 county. 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!

Come be part of a group of FMCers attending this November 15 Kids Meet Christ event, "Preparing the Way for Children in Worship," at Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita. At the event we will enjoy music from Hopeful Blues, worship together, eat good food, and hear from our keynote presenters on congregational change and engaging children in worship. See bulletin insert for more info. Sign up using the QR code provided on the insert or contact the church office if you would like to attend.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, we will be making cards and assembling care packages for the Sharps, Eli, and our under-grad college students. You are welcome to bring the following items:

Guidelines for Eli and Sharps:

- Cards of care and encouragement
 - Small, processed, pre-packaged treats.
 - Other small, non-food gifts or crafts (no fragrances)
- All items must be able to fit easily in a 13.5in. x 12in. x 3.5in. Box

Special treat requests from Sharps:

Must be sealed/pre-packaged

- peppernuts
- anything pumpkin flavored
- powdered flavored coffee creamer: (French vanilla, white chocolate mocha, pumpkin spice)
- generic nutrigrain bars, miscellaneous flavors
- cheezits
- pepperoni pizza flavored combos

Guidelines for College Students (Sarah Koehn, Camryn Entz, Jacob Goerzen, Evelyn Gaertner, Madelynn Hamm, Neva Dorado, Madi Enns):

- Cards of care and encouragement
 - Pre-packaged treats OR
 - Homemade shelf stable items like peppernuts, snack mix, candy, etc.
 - Other small, non-food gifts or crafts (no fragrances)
 - Gift cards
- (Item size is less critical for this group)

Cards and card-making materials will be available on the 12th. Packages will be shipped or hand-delivered on the 13th. If you are not able to attend Community Night on the 12th, but would like to send items, you may drop them off at the church office or put them in the labeled boxes in the Gathering Area.

Save the Date! Youth Group Turkey Dinner, Wednesday, November 19, 5:30-7:00 PM, in Fellowship Hall. Menu: roast turkey, mashed potatoes and turkey gravy, cranberry salad, corn, homemade rolls, and pumpkin dessert. There will be some alternative foods for those with food sensitivities. Carry-out meals will also be available while the serving line is open. Proceeds will go mainly to Youth Group's summer mission trip.