

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent

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

Wednesday, December 17

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 5:30 PM Kids Christmas practice
- 6:45 PM Choir
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study—Warkentin Room

Thursday, December 18

- 6:00 PM Outreach New and Old Christmas Supper—Dave Wiebe home

Sunday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Luke
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania service
- 6:30 PM Longest Night Service—Sanctuary

Upcoming worship service:

- Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service—7:00 PM
- Sunday, December 28—Pastor Luke

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

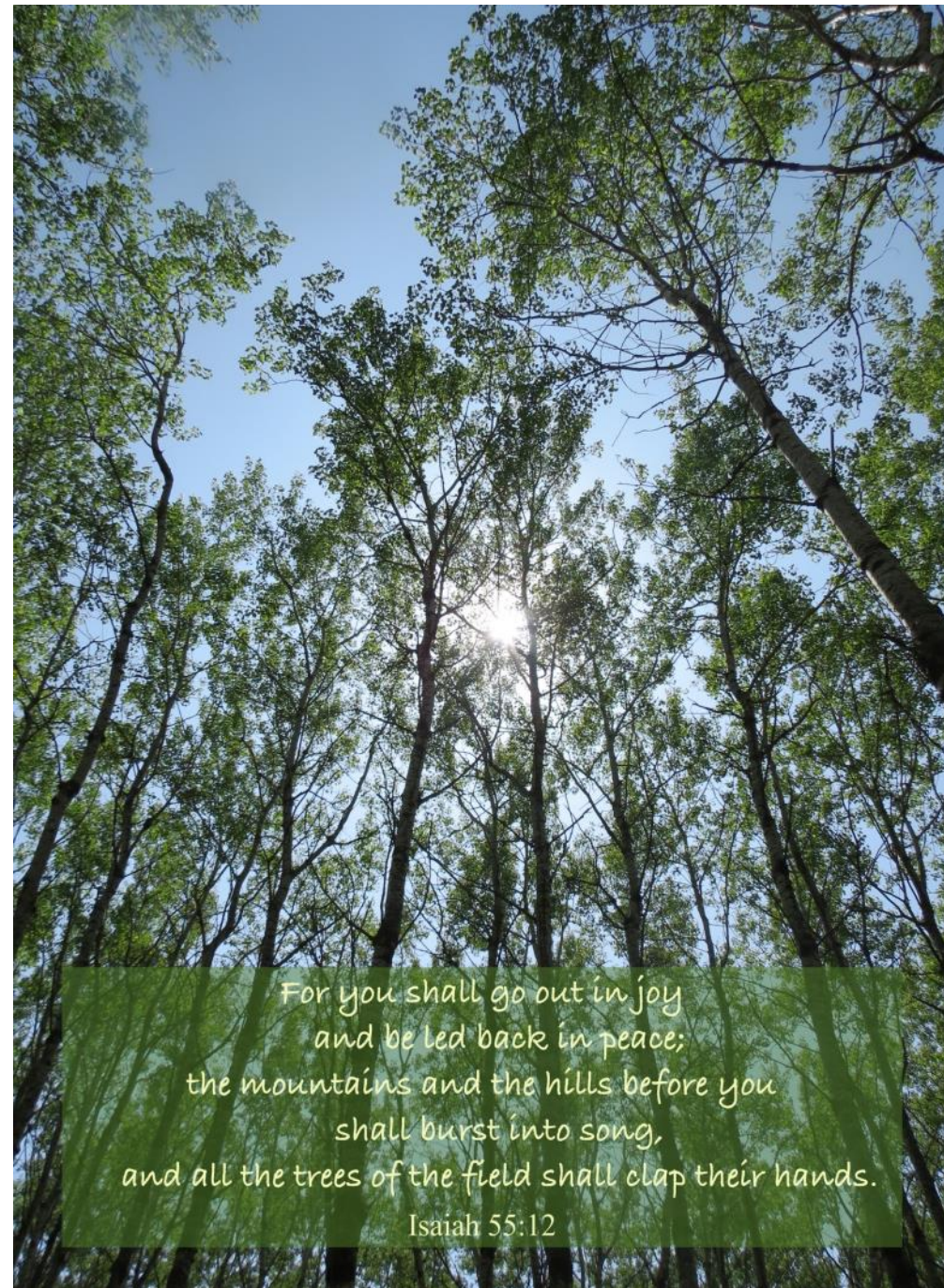
Laura Goerzen, Pastor—620-386-0518; laurag@firstmennonitenewton.org

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



First Mennonite Church

December 14, 2025



Gathering

Welcome

Ken Regier, worship leader

Meditation Music

Silent Night

Nora Miller

Call to Worship

Ken Regier, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

Comfort, Comfort, O My People VT 212

Hark! The Glad Sound! VT 217

Lighting the Advent Candle and Children’s Time

Sara Rickard

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

Prayer for Offering—Local Mission

Ken Regier

On Mission With Christ

Alesha Miller

Special Music

Emma Entz and Jyl Ewy

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-13

Kara Schmidt and Andrea Regier

Sermon

Joy in the Desert

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Song of Response

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear VT 248, all verses

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Luke Unruh

Sending

Sending Song

You Shall Go Out with Joy VT 847

Announcements and Benediction

Ken Regier

Postlude

Low, How a Rose Is Blooming

Nora Miller



We will be live-streaming our worship beginning at 10:30 AM. You may view it on our webpage (firstmennonitenevton.org), on our Facebook page, YouTube, or at our Vimeo site. Recordings of the service will be available afterwards as well. Today Joey Menninga, Kent Erb, and Melody Enns are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Wendy Schrag, Chorister; Nora Miller. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Dorian Funk

Announcements

Bluestem U, the lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities for individuals age 55 & better, is kicking off the new year with three new classes. Courses include: "Life Upon the Wicked Stage: Classics of Western Theatre" taught by Lauren Friesen, "Health, the Human Face of Climate Change" taught by Dwight Krehbiel, & "Biblical Literature (Bib Lit) Crash Course" taught by Kevin Wilder. Courses are \$50 a piece. See bluestemu.org for more information, including dates, times and locations.

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays. There is currently a recently restored 17th-century Bible from the Jake T. Friesen family on display, only through the end of December. The museum is closed Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day and open 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve; Regular hours are 9:30 AM-4:30 PM, weekdays, 1:30-4:30 PM, weekends. The current special exhibit is "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War." Permanent exhibits are "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." The museum store is also open during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items for sale (see <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store>).

Camp Mennoscah is looking for a volunteer to work with the camp website. This would include regularly updating information and potentially a complete overhaul of the website itself. The details of the work would depend on the skills of the volunteer and time they have available. Please contact office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to start the conversation.

Smaller Wish List needs for Camp Mennoscah include kitchen knives, "restaurant style" hot pads (example: <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/choice-10-x-11-terry-cloth-pan-grabber-bakers-pad/160TPH1011WH.html>), replacement ping pong table net with clamps, Rubbermaid storage containers for the kitchen (9 cup and larger), serving spatulas (for cake/brownies) and plastic cutting boards (no smaller than 12"X18", larger is fine). Office-related items include copier paper, postage stamps, and sticky notes. Toilet paper and kitchen/white paper towels are always welcome! Contact office@campmennoscah.org with questions.

MCC Christmas Giving – Choose gifts that honor your loved ones and change lives across the globe. MCC has 20 alternative gift options for you to choose from this Christmas season starting at just \$12. Cards and e-cards are available to accompany your gift. Start here mcc.org/christmas and if you have any questions please contact the MCC Central States office at centralstates@mcc.org or 316-283-2720.

The offering for December 21 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 "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 December 7—148; Sunday school—116.

Local Missions Update: Last Sunday, we received \$9,191 for Local Missions. Thank you for your contributions. However, this means that we will now need around \$17,000 per Sunday for the next three weeks. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help.
~The Financial Stewardship Committee

A gigantic thank you for the care package, with thoughtful cards, goodies, activities, and stuffies. We all felt so loved and cared for! ~Nick, Laura, Jesse, & Brielle Sharp

Volunteers Needed for Nursery and Childcare During Worship! Join our wonderful team of caregivers who support the youngest members of our congregation on Sunday mornings. Most volunteers serve just once a month, and scheduling is flexible. Safe Sanctuaries training is required. For more information, contact

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.

You are invited to look up close at the beautiful weaving on the communion table during this Advent season. Carol Goering is a weaver who creates all types of woven items and is an expert in all kinds of textiles and weaving. The pattern name is "Star of Bethlehem" and uses an overshot technique in weaving of this piece. The blue and gold threads create a star in the "sky" of the weaving. Carol is generously letting us use her weaving as a setting for our Advent visuals. Thank You Carol for sharing your love of weaving and textiles with us!

For Your Prayers

The Gifts Discernment Committee is pleased to announce that Roxy Tomlinson has accepted an invitation to serve on the Nurture Commission for a term of two years, 1-1-2026—12-31-2027, and been approved by the church board on December 9, 2025. Welcome, Roxy!

BOOKS...BOOKS...BOOKS! There is a cart with books from our church library and also from the Western District library sitting in the hallway blocking access to our library! It holds Christmas and Advent books that—wait for it: are available for checking out! No money or license required! The only requirement? You must return them, for a "refund".

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 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, 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. **Thank you to each of you who have made donations already. FMC has collected 294.9 pounds through December 7. We have just three more Sundays for this collection.**

Offering envelopes for 2026 will be in your church mailboxes by the end of December. If you give your offering online and don't need envelopes, and I don't have your name on my list, please let me know this week. **Also, some people may have new offering numbers starting in 2026. I am ordering less offering boxes and that means some changes to the numbers on the envelopes.**

Pictures wanted—Over the next few weeks, if you take any church pictures during the month of December and you would like to share them for the pictorial directory, Please email them to the church office.

Please have your offering for 2025 turned in to the church office by Wednesday, December 31, at 8:00 AM. This also includes the ones that are sent in by mail. Anything received after that will go to your contributions for 2026. Thank you!

An update from the Sharp Family and Eli Regier is posted on the Gathering Area bulletin board.

Community Announcements

MCC needs fabric for comforter tops. They will take any cotton material including scraps at least 3 1/2" wide. Take to MCC, North Newton, or contact Elena Wiebe with questions.

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.

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 & abilities to apply. Please complete an application form from mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/employment/. For questions, contact HR@MennoniteUSA.org or call (574)523-3027. **The application deadline is January 5, 2026.**