

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
4:00 PM Jr. High—FH

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 PM Church Board

Wednesday, December 10

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

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent

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

Upcoming worship service:

Sunday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent—Pastor Luke
Longest Night Service—6:30 PM



Second Sunday of Advent
Peace in the Valley of Bones

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 7, 2025

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Gathering

Choral Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Welcome

Dana Neff, worship leader

Meditation Music

Wait Alone in Stillness (Psalm 62)
Ben's Band

Call to Worship

Dana Neff, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT 218
We Come VT 225

Lighting the Advent Candle and Children's Time

Dana Neff and Tyler Johnson

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

Prayer for Offering—Western District Conference

Dana Neff

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Ellie Wintermote

Sermon

Peace in the Valley of Bones
Pastor Luke Unruh

Song of Response

Light Dawns on a Weary World VT 205

Prayer of the Church

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Sending

Sending Song

Silent Night
Ben's Band

Announcements and Benediction

Dana Neff

Postlude

May the Gift of Human Kindness
Choir

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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 Brian Kennell, Ryan Goertzen Regier, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Ben's Band, Greg Bontrager, Kendall Smith. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering. Property Committee: Rod Wedel

**Cover art is by Josh Thiessen, used with permission.*

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.**

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.

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.

Announcements

The offering for December 14 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 November 30—107; Sunday school—105.

Local Mission offering from November 16, 23, and 30—\$9,416; online Local Mission offering—\$6,030.

Local Missions Update: In November we received \$1,677 more than our expenses. However we estimate that we may need \$60,000 by the end of December in order to end the year in the black. This means we need \$15,000 per Sunday in order to meet this goal. Thank you for your generous gifts this year. Please consider what additional gifts you might give in December to meet our goal.

~The Financial Stewardship Committee

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 Amy

Thank you to the 16 members who showed up to decorate our worship space on Saturday morning. Visual cues are very important in helping us prepare for events. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. Coming together to prepare our hearts begins with what we see and feel. We thank these folks for helping us begin this amazing season of Advent.

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.

For Your Prayers

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!

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".

A meeting for survivors of sexual abuse led by a trained therapist will take place Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 PM. If you are a survivor and have questions, contact Dana Neff at

"Grains of Glory: The Kansas Mennonite Story" is a documentary which is airing on KPTS, the Wichita Public Television station. It will be shown on Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 PM. About an hour long, it was filmed by KPTS videographer Jim Grawe. He did the writing, filming, interviewing, drone footage, editing, music. Jim did a lot of filming in the 2024 year, the 150th Anniversary of the Mennonite migration from Russia to Kansas. Other interviews were done at other times. There is a lot about Goessel and the Alexanderwohl Church in the film, and about half of the 12 interviewees had Goessel connections. A short preview is available on YouTube.

SR. HIGH YOUTH



Youth Group—Youth group will meet for a worship night at Kidron Cottage on the Bethel College campus. It's located west of the Luyken Fine Arts Center parking lot, along Minnesota Street. Please come at 6:15 for a hot-dog roast supper. Worship night will begin around 7:00 PM, and we'll be done by 8:30 PM. Wear warm clothing suitable for the weather, as there is no central heat in the building.

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 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.

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 is posted on the Gathering Area bulletin board.

Community Announcements

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

New Hope Shelter Open House—today from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at 308 S. Meridian Road, Newton. See how God is moving through New Hope. Come enjoy cookies and Hot Cocoa.