

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 4—Epiphany/Communion

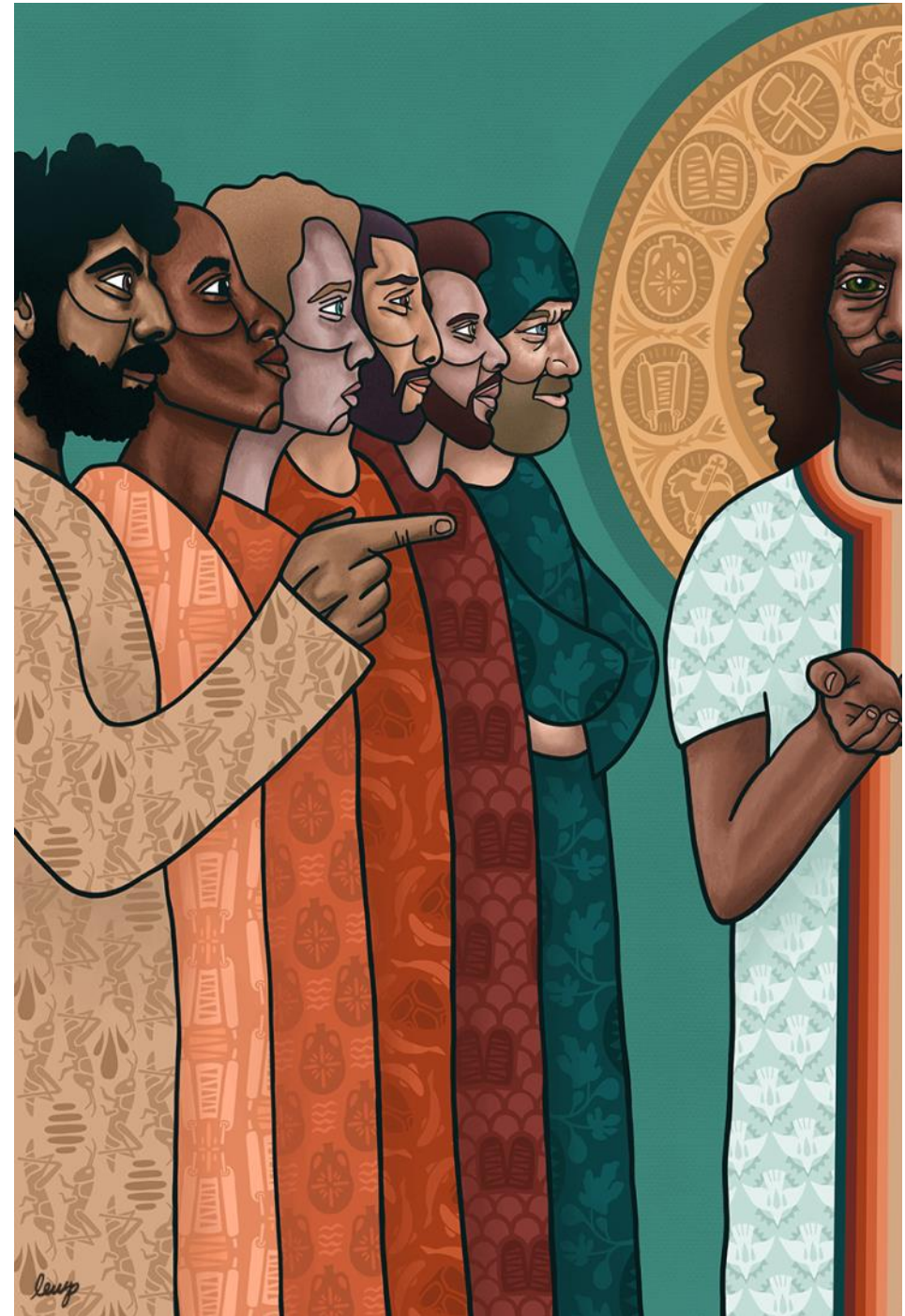
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service—Pastor Laura
- 4:00 PM Casa Betania Service
- 4:00 PM FH/Kitchen reserved

Sunday, January 11—Guest speaker Rev. Jeanne Koontz during adult Sunday school and morning worship.

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

Upcoming worship service:

Sunday, January 18—Pastor Luke



*First Mennonite Church
Newton, KS*

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



Come and See

January 4, 2026

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Gathering

Welcome

John Good, worship leader

Meditation Music

Gesu, Bambino

Donna Stucky

Call to Worship

John Good, worship leader

Listening

Songs for worship

Come and See VT 282

Nun ist Sie erschienen/The Sun Has Now Risen (insert)

v. 1-2 in English, then v. 1 in German

Children's Time

Shannon Bartel

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

Prayer for Offering—Mennonite Mission Network

John Good

Scripture Reading

John 1:35-51

Aaron, Melanie, and Ella Koop

Sermon

Come and See

Pastor Laura Goerzen

Response Song

Will You Come and Follow Me VT 540

Prayer of Confession

Celebration of Communion

Sending

Sending Song

O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem VT 275

Announcements and Benediction

John Good, worship leader

Postlude

March of the Kings

Donna Stucky

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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 Ryan Koehn, Kent Erb, and Eric Murphy are operating the necessary systems for our worship. Musicians: Donna Stucky. Visuals: Cindy Unruh and Carol Goering.

Property Committee: Alan Entz

**Cover art titled, "Come and See," by Lauren Wright Pittman. Used with permission.*

Happy Birthday!



Want to learn more about First Mennonite?

Scan the QR code or fill out the purple or green card in your pew and a pastor will reach out to you!



Have you ever wished you could listen to your favorite worship songs performed by our outstanding FMC bands anytime you want. Now you can by downloading your favorite songs and performances from the new FMC Playlist. This QR code will take you to a site that has 46 songs that you can download and listen to anytime. You can download one or all of the songs. Check back periodically as new songs will be added from time to time.



OUR VISION—Together in Christ: rooted deeply, reaching widely, loving well

OUR MISSION—With Jesus as our center, we are called to be:

- **Faith-Focused**
- **Mission-Minded**
- **Community-Connected**

Announcements

The offering for January 11 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 web-site: 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 28—78; Sunday school—88.

Local Mission Update: This past week we have received an additional \$25,140 for Local Missions. We have more than met our expenses. **Thank you for your generosity this past year!**
~The Financial Stewardship Committee

Children's pew bags: If you agreed to help sew pew bags for FMC's children, please bring them to the church office so Worship Commission can begin filling them. A big thank you to all our sewers!

Thank you—We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Eve program that we watched on-line. Please pass on our kudos to all responsible. Children were prepared, program kept our attention, & was pleased for the nativity. Nicely done. ~Stan & Jan Claassen

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 at 316-284-7208 or amygoering@gmail.com

Rev. Jeanne Koontz is the lead organizer for the Central Kansas Interfaith Justice Organization, an affiliate of the DART Center which acts with the understanding that people of faith are called to do justice, but often lack an effective vehicle to do so. We seek to stand in this gap. Jeanne is working to build a regional faith-based organization that works with faith communities to follow the biblical mandate to do justice by building power and taking direct action on local community problems. Pastor Laura has been serving on the clergy organizing committee and was elected as a member of the Executive Committee for the formation stage. Five members of our congregation attended a scriptural study on justice in November to learn more about the biblical call

For Your Prayers

to do justice and the organization that is forming. Jeanne will join us on January 11th to share more about the justice ministry during the Sunday School hour and preach during our worship service.

Save the date-Commission/Committee Retreat—Saturday, January 24, 8:30-11:30 AM, Kidron Bethel Village, Classroom A. More details to follow.

The junior high age group (grades 6-8) is in need of multiple helpers and/or teachers for the Sunday school hour starting in 2026. We are an energetic bunch and also a class that is interested in learning how to apply the Bible to our lives. Please contact Amanda Entz or Sara Rickard if interested. Thanks for considering!

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".

Yearbook update forms have been placed in your church mailbox. Please fill out the form and return it to the Church Office **by January 5**. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. **If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form.** Extra forms are also available in the Church Office and on the table in the Gathering Area. **Also, if you don't have a church mailbox and would like one, please let the church office know you would.**

Harvest of Love—You did it! Our goal for Harvest of Love was to surpass last year's giving, which our congregation accomplished! With another 72 pounds added in the last two weeks, our total giving was over 543 pounds, far surpassing last year's giving of 303 pounds. Thanks for your contributions which went to the Salvation Army for distribution to help some of those from our community with food insecurity. It has been greatly appreciated!
~Caregiving and Membership Commission

Plastic recycling update—we earned our second Trex bench! As of this week, we've turned in another 1000 lb. of plastic for recycling since May, and will order our bench soon. Between last year and this year, we have recycled more than ONE TON of soft plastic, and kept it out of the landfill. That's a real accomplishment! We learned only a few days ago of some changes in the recycling program's timing and rewards, which gave us an incentive to finish up our current collection in 2025. And we did it! Thank you to our friends in Hesston for donating some of their plastic collections to us after they met their goals, and a BIG thank you to all of FMC for faithfully putting your recyclable plastics in the bins. Starting January 1, we'll be eligible to start collecting for our third bench!

Community Announcements

Bluestem U, the lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities for individuals age 55 and better, is about to begin January 8, with "Life Upon the Wicked Stage: Classics of Western Theatre" taught by Lauren Friesen. Classes will be Thursdays, January 8 through February 12, 2026. There is still time to sign up! Other classes being offered for the winter/spring semester are "Health, the Human Face of Climate Change" taught by Dwight Krehbiel, and "Biblical Literature (Bib Lit) Crash Course" taught by Kevin Wilder. Courses are \$50 a piece. See bluestemu.org for more information and to register for classes.

Community commemoration and celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2026
Hesston College is honored to partner with Bethel College and community organizations to offer a rich weekend of events commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. January 18 and 19. Together, we are creating a shared menu of opportunities for reflection, learning and celebration across our broader community. Highlights of the weekend include concerts, lectures, films, service projects and a culminating service featuring Bethel College alumna, Roz McCommon. For a full schedule and information, visit engage.bethelks.edu/portal/MLK.

Hesston College hosts Melva Kauffman Lecture Series—Hesston College will host the annual Melva Kauffman Lecture Series January 25 and 26, welcoming internationally recognized peace studies scholar and Hesston College alumna Dr. Angela Lederach '04 for a three-part series titled "Slow Peace: Lessons from Grassroots Peacebuilders in Colombia." Dr. Lederach will speak on January 25 at 7 p.m. and on January 26 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.. All events are free and open to the public and will be held at Hesston Mennonite Church. For more information visit hesston.edu/melva.