



Welcome!

Welcome to our Sunday worship service in whichever way you are able to join as we begin the season of Advent. As we enter what is likely to be a difficult winter, we remember that Advent is a time of waiting and hope. Our theme this year is "on the road." Before the festivities of Christmas, we continue on the road, watching for God's light in the coming of Christ to our world and in our personal lives.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Jason Peters

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation

Adapted from Isaiah 64:1, 6, 9; Psalm 80:3

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Do not remember our iniquity forever.

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

(lighting of peace lamp)

Myra and Celia Peters

Instrumental song

Hope is a Candle

STS 15

Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets, never consumed, though it burns through the years; dim in the daylight of power and privilege - when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Leader: We light a candle for *hope*: *hope* in our hearts, *hope* in our homes, *hope* in our world.

People: May the light of hope shine through our lives.

Advent Hymn (instrumental)

O Savior, rend the heavens

HWB 175

O Savior, rend the heavens wide!
 Come down, come down with mighty stride.
 Unbar the gates, the doors break down;
 unbar the way to heaven's crown.

Here dreadful doom upon us lies.
 Death looms so grim before our eyes.
 O come, lead us with mighty hand
 from exile to our promised land.

O earth, in flowering bud be seen,
 clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
 O earth, bring forth this Blossom rare;
 O Savior, rise from meadow fair.

There will we all our praises bring
 ever to thee, our Savior King;
 There will we laud thee and adore
 forever and forevermore.

Children's Story

Rosi Reimer

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings
Hymn of dedication and thanksgiving

First Fruits Giving
Jason and Renae Peters

Now thank we all our God ~arr. Mark Hayes (HWB 86)

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.	O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.	All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.
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Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Adapted from Isaiah 64:5-6, 8-9; Psalm 80:3

Leader: Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved?

People: All of us are unclean. Our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

Leader: Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; Do not remember our sins forever.
Look upon us, we pray.

**People: O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are our potter.
We are all the work of your hand.**

Leader: Forgive our sins. No ear has heard, no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for you. Mold us and make us into vessels you can use.

All: Restore us, O God. Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Message

"Watching for hope"

Pastor Caleb Yoder

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Song of Response

Hark, the glad sound!

HWB 184

Hark! the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long! Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song. On him the Spirit largely poured, exerts its sacred fire, wisdom and might and zeal and love, his holy breast inspire.	He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.	His silver trumpets publish loud the jub'lee of the Lord. Our debts are all remitted now, our heritage restored. Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heav'n's eternal arches ring, with thy beloved name.
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Benediction

Pastor Caleb

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

This service made use of resources and ideas from *Leader* (MennoMedia), Fall 2020

Special thanks to Jason, Renae, Myra and Celia Peters, Rosi Reimer, Dwight J. Flaming, Jim Schmidt, Delton Voth, and the AMC Covid Task Force.

Visual Arts for December: Tina Schrag, Megan Duerksen, Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert, Eric and Gretchen Schrag, and LaNae Unruh. Thank you!

Questions for Reflection – Mark 13

1. How will you approach Advent differently this year from other years?
2. What keeps you hopeful? What is Christ calling us to watch for?

Next Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent. Pastor Caleb will be preaching.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for D. John Schroeder and his family as they grieve the sudden loss of his brother Ira Don. Ira died at his home near Castle Rock, CO this past Saturday evening, November 21. There will be a viewing at 10:00 a.m. at the Ott Miller Funeral Home in Goessel followed by a graveside service at 11:00 a.m. in the Alexanderwohl Cemetery tomorrow (Monday) morning, November 30.
- ❖ We pray for Cindy and Gene Hastings as they continue to quarantine strictly. We pray especially for Gene as he receives another round of chemo treatments, responding to recent test results. We pray that the chemo will be effective and that he would be able to tolerate the unpleasant side effects.
- ❖ We pray for Steve Banman as he undergoes chemo treatments again to shrink a malignant tumor that has recurred. We pray that the chemo would be effective so that surgery to remove the tumor can be scheduled and that side effects will be manageable.
- ❖ We pray for the nurses, doctors and others who are directly involved with caring for COVID-19 and other patients in these times when the medical facilities are pushed to their limits.
- ❖ We pray for households who are welcoming returning students.
- ❖ We are grateful for this Thanksgiving weekend as we reflect on the many reasons we have to give thanks.

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Bryant Miller
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If you would appreciate a porch visit or phone call from one of the pastors or deacons, please feel free to contact us!

Coming Events

Today, Sunday, November 29	10:00 am	Worship service via Zoom
Monday, November 30	4:00 pm	Prayer Team
	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force
Monday, December 14	1:00 – 4:00 pm	Goessel Blood Mobile

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we enter the Advent season, we would like to offer a resource for families to use at home. The 2020 Advent at Home devotional, "We Wait for Jesus" is an easy-to-use resource that includes suggested Bible readings, activities, and simple celebratory rituals that can be done at home together as a family. The flexible, intergenerational format makes it ideal for families of all sizes and ages. Use it for all of Advent to Epiphany (November 29 through January 6), just for Christmas week, or whatever rhythm works for your household. The Advent at Home advent series is a publication from Mennonite Church USA and this year's devotional material was written by Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor of Christian Formation at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana. You can download this free resource at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/advent-at-home/> or request a printed copy from the church office.

We are so thankful for the many individuals who so willingly give of their time and talents to enrich our worship services each week. The worship board welcomes additional people to consider sharing their gifts, especially those who are energized by creating a visual focus for our worship space, as well as those who find fulfillment in reading scripture during the service. We are also always open to those interested in presenting children's features or offering music during worship. Please contact one of the pastors or Karen Unruh, worship board chair, if you feel the nudge to explore any of these opportunities!

Christmas Giving Tree -- The tags are available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank. Although the bank lobby is closed, staff will open the door if you would like to come in to select a Giving Tree tag. Or, you

may ask an employee to choose a tag and give it to you at the drive-through window. All gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by **Monday, December 14**. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the “checking in” process. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance. If you have any questions, please check with one of the pastors.

Current and upcoming devotionals (*Upper Room & Rejoice!*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

Many thanks to the Goessel community for your participation in the GMA's Community Thanksgiving drive-through meal on Sunday, November 15! The response was overwhelming with right at 350 meals served and just over \$3,200 donated to the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. We could not have done this without the expert and gracious services of Keith and Barb Banman; the meal they prepared was delicious and easily transportable. We also could not have done it without the willing help of servers and runners – Kim Voth, Karl and Marcia Brubaker, Leanne and Jerry Toews, Timothy Schrag and Jacob Schrag. The holidays will certainly be different this year as we all navigate the Covid-19 virus; yet we are grateful for the generosity and support that we can count on from you, the Goessel Community, as we help one another through these difficult times. Blessings to each of you in the coming weeks and months.

- Gail Graber, Chaplain at Bethesda Home
- Brad Penner, Pastor at Goessel Mennonite Church
- Phil Schmidt, Pastor at Tabor Mennonite Church
- Caleb Yoder and Lois Harder, Pastors at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Bloodmobile: As you make plans for the holidays, include sharing the gift of life by donating blood at Goessel Church between 1:00-6:00 on Monday, **December 14**. Over half of the slots are already filled, so go to www.redcrossblood.org to get the time you want.

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for God's hope and encouragement for WDC congregations that have suffered significant loss and stress during the pandemic.

Mennonite Mission Network

David and Sophie Lapp Jost of Mennonite Mission Network live in Germany but were on the Greek island of Lesbos to witness more than 12,000 people displaced by a fire that burned a migrant camp. Pray that God's people throughout the world will open their hearts to welcome as neighbors those who without homes.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Disaster Service

When Hurricane Delta (the 5th storm to hit Cameron, Louisiana in mid October) left much destruction, it is a great testament to MDS that 27 of the 30 homes they built between 2007-2012 in that area were still standing. Some interiors will need to be gutted, but the structures survived. MDS is recruiting volunteers for week-long stints through mid December to clean up debris, cut trees, muck out, and prevent mold. Call 1-800-241-8111 for more details if you can help out, or talk to Steve and Rosi 367-2418.

Camp Mennoscah

Cookies in a Box! Camp Mennoscah is expanding on the theme of a Camp in a Box for Giving Tuesday with Cookies in a Box for anyone who gives \$25 more than their total giving in 2019 on Tuesday, December 1. We'll carefully pack up the dry ingredients for approximately 20 cookies from camp cook Leslie Schrag's famous Chocolate Crinkle cookies. Add a few ingredients that don't pack well and bake them at home! Send a check to Camp Mennoscah with “Giving Tuesday” in a note, or give online at campmennoscah.org Food allergies? Let us know. Limited to donations given or postmarked on December 1.

Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful place for family gatherings of whatever size! A variety of facilities fit any number of family groupings. Or maybe you only need a space during the day for walking the trails or playing disc golf. There is plenty of outdoor space! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org to reserve! You are welcome here!

We're thinking s'mores and socially distanced activities. The Camp Mennoscah Christmas Gathering is tentatively being planned as an outdoor event on Saturday, December 12 at 2:30pm. **Registration required.** Call 620-297-3290! Plans may change depending on coronavirus case rates and the desire to keep everyone safe. Bring your mask!

Western District Conference

December 1 – Western District Conference invites you to join this global giving initiative! Share a gift with WDC during this season, to help our congregations Witness & invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, Dwell in just & loving relationships, and Connect to God's mission in the world. You may make an online contribution [HERE](#) or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Thank you for your generosity!

The WDC Israel Palestine Task Force invites congregations to "**Preach Palestine**" on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent and International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Resources for worship planners are available from a diversity of traditions and voices that lift up liberation from Turtle Island to Palestine. So far over 80 Mennonite Churches have indicated their participation. Check out the worship resources at <https://www.fosna.org/keepawake>! **Tech Support Needed?** As many churches move to online "gatherings," Resource Commission recognizes that many of us still have questions related to the technological aspects of online worship. We want to make sure that churches have the resources they need to create meaningful worship in this time. So, amateur consultants are available. If you have a question about online worship, feel free to contact Derek King, dking@edenmennonite.org, or Steve Wilcox, rskw31@gmail.com. And since we are very amateur, we also welcome the input of other, more knowledgeable individuals. If you are willing to provide this kind of assistance to congregations in need, please contact Derek.

Extra, Unused Tech? Does your church have sound or video equipment that still works that is gathering dust? Would you be willing to share it with a congregation who has less? Does your congregation need equipment? Let Resource Commission members, Derek King (dking@edenmennonite.org) or Steve Wilcox (rskw31@gmail.com) know. We'll try to make connections, so resources can be used and churches can be as faithful and safe as possible in sharing the good news.

Bethel College

Now on display in the Regier Art Gallery, Luyken Fine Arts Center, at Bethel College: "Noir + More," recent work by Denise Brueggeman. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. *Please note that face coverings must be worn and physical distancing observed on the Bethel campus.*

Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is looking for Newton-area bakers to help support the college by supplying baked goods for this year's "5 Places of Christmas" on Dec. 5. Follow this link for sign-up options: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BABA2EA4FDCF8-baked>

Mennonite Church USA

SOOP (Service Opportunities with our Partners) is accepting applications! Use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. Flexibly designed for retirees, families, and adults over 25. Visit MennoniteMission.net/SOOP to learn more!

Youth Venture is accepting applications for summer 2021! Discover and experience the work that God is doing in the world with a team of other young people as you serve, learn, worship, and build relationships. Visit MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture to learn more!

Order Christmas goodies and gifts at Bethel College Women's Association online market. Find handmade crafts, and one-of-a-kind items, and fresh homemade treats including peppernuts, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, poppyseed rolls, and candies at [Place your order](#) by December 1, and pick up at Bethel College Mennonite Church south entrance from 10:00am to noon Saturday, Dec 5. This event is part of the annual Five Places of Christmas, sponsored by Newton Chamber of Commerce, and all proceeds will support Bethel College. And, if you are not local, most items can be shipped including peppernuts! Christmas shopping and supporting Bethel at the same time doesn't get much better than that.

Giving Tuesday is coming up on December 1. Your contribution to Mission Network will help us Be the Gospel through our valued partnerships, ministries, and resources. Visit MennoniteMission.net/Donate to give on or before December 1.

Mennonite Central Committee

Have yourself a honkin' good holiday at MCC in North Newton! This drive-thru event on Dec. 11 from 4-6 p.m. is a unique way to safely enjoy some delicious Christmas cheer while supporting the worldwide work of Mennonite Central

Committee. Each charcuterie box is composed of seasonal artisan meats and cheeses, olives, fruit, mixed nuts and seasonal treats with crackers served on the side. A box serves two generous appetizer portions. **RSVP by 5 p.m. on December 4** to reserve yours! Share your Christmas joy by ordering extra boxes to deliver to family and friends. Take a moment and treat yourself this holiday season! Suggested donation per box is \$25. Email centralstates@mcc.org to reserve your charcuterie box today! Find more information and photos at mcc.org/honkin-holiday.

MCC asks for support for Central American hurricane recovery. Not one, but two hurricanes within two weeks have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have destroyed crops and forced people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organization to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help these communities recover. You can donate online mcc.org/eta-iota-relief, by phone (888) 563-4676 or by mail at MCC, 21 S. 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

Join MCC for a series of “MCC and me” webinars to hear more about service opportunities. Are you ready to step out and into service? To gain new skills and experiences while working for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ?

MCC is working to adapt our programming as the situation with COVID-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change.

- December 9 at 7 p.m. EST: Serving and Learning Together (SALT)
- January 13 at 3 p.m. EST: Summer Service leadership program
- February 25 at 10 a.m. EST: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) summer staff
- February 25 at 8 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March 6 at 12 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March TBD: Mobile Meat Canner

For more information and to register: mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities