**First Mennonite Church of Christian**

**Pastor Peter Emery**

**Organist – Hazel Voth**

**Worship Leader – Randy Stucky**

**December 17, 2023**

**Gathering and Praising**

Prelude Hazel Voth & Roberta Gingerich

 “Christmas Fantasy”

 “Infant Holy Infant Lowly”

 “Jesu – Noel”

 “Joy to the World”

Welcome

Morning Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle:

 Monologue-Simeon-The Promise of a Messiah Tim Graber

Call to Worship
Leader: Alleluia the Christ child comes,
**People: And we await his birth.**Leader: Let us throw off our distractions,
People: And allow the chaos to settle.
Leader: Let us watch for the signs,
**People: And listen to the messengers.**

Leader: Let us stand on tiptoe,
**People: And shout aloud and sing.**Leader: Something new is emerging,
**People: Something new is being birthed.**

*\*Hymn – “Hark the Glad Sound!” VT #217*

 “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” VT #216

Scripture – Luke 2:22-40

Special Music - “O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild” Hazel Voth & Roberta Gingerich

**Receiving God’s Word**

Sermon–“For my eyes have seen your salvation” Pastor Pete Emery

Moment of Meditation – “Adoration”

**Sharing with One Another**

Announcements

Sharing Joys and Prayer Requests

Prayer of the Church

**Going in God’s Name**

*\*Sending – “Angels We Have Heard on High” VT #249*

*\*Benediction*

Postlude – “O come All Ye Faithful”

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand*

Pastor Pete Emery

Pastor Pete’s email: fmcc.pastorpete@gmail.com

Pastor Pete’s Cell Phone: 785-577-1447

Pastor’s office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Study Phone 620-345-8766

Church Secretary: Lurline Wiens

Lurline’s phone number: 620-345-6657

Lurline’s email: fmcc.secretary1@gmail.com

Office hours: Tues. 1:00-4:30PM, Thurs-Fri. 8:30AM-11:30am

Church Phone: 620-345-2546

Church Website: www.fmccmoundridge.org

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**First Mennonite Church of Christian**

**Moundridge, KS**

**A Welcoming Community of Christians for Peace**

**December 17, 2023**

**PRAYER PLACES/JOYOUS JOURNEYS**

**Congratulations** to Kevin Vivanco on his graduation from WSU.

**Great news** from the Blessing Box. People are using it. Continue your support.

**Pray for Russ Stucky** in the loss of his daughter’s (Brandy) husband and their children Emily and Lexus, Russ’s grandchildren

**Pray for Jerroll Goebel** as he goes through some health issues.

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:14**

If you have prayer requests or items of joy, contact one of the Care Team members so we can add those requests as needed. Members are: Pat Krehbiel, Dwight Goering or Cheri Kaufman.

Opportunities

**Today:** 9:30: Sunday School

 10:30: Worship Service

**December 13:** Worship Team, 9:30 am

**December 24:** Regular church service, 10:30 am

 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm

**Sunday, December 24: Organist – Roberta Gingerich, Worship Leader – James Allen, Special Music – FMCC Singers**

  Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

    Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
    righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
    on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

                   Zecharia 9:9

**Announcements**

**Come help us celebrate Pat Krehbiel** as she retires from the Moundridge Senior Center after 25 years!  There will be an open house with coffee, tea and cookies on Sunday, December 17 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Senior Center.

**Congratulations to Kevin Vivanco.** He will graduate from WSU on December 17. The graduation ceremony will take place at Koch Arena on December 17 at 2:30 pm. After-wards there will be a celebration/reception at the HUB in Moundridge at 5:30 pm. all are welcome.

**You still have an opportunity** to participate in the 2024 SMCHA 150th celebration musical drama.  We are particularly looking for young men (teens or slightly older), but will have openings for others as well.   We have some very talented participants, and hope you will join them.  If interested, contact Jenny Schrag by text or phone (620)747-9158.   Thanks! Jenny

**The Moundridge Community Blood Drive** is scheduled for December 29, 2023 at 12:00 noon until 6:00 PM at the Pine Village Wellness Center. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org/) and use “Moundridge” for the sponsor code.  Thank you for your support.  If you have any questions, call Carol at 620-345-6774 or email bczerger@mtelco.net.

**Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, Inman**, is celebrating 150 years August 31 - September 1, 2024.  SAVE THE DATES!  We are planning a Sunday School class reunion along with other activities.  Share with your families and others who have Hoffnungsau connections.  Watch Hoffnungsau's Facebook page for church trivia and more details of our weekend celebration.  If you'd like to be added to our email list for further details as they develop, please contact Barb at bj.reeves@live.com.

**The WDC Israel Palestine Task Force** invites you, your congregation, family, friends and allies to join Mennonite Action on Tuesday, December 19, for a public witness at Senator Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall’s offices in Wichita, KS to ask for a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel. We will meet at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, [655 S Lorraine ST](https://www.google.com/maps/search/655%2BS%2BLorraine%2BST?entry=gmail&source=g), at 10:30 am to rehearse the actions which include prayer, singing and sharing bread with congressional staffers and each other. We encourage fasting or bring your own lunch. We will drive and park near the offices of the Senators. There may be a $2-$3 parking fee. There will be a 6-block walk between Senator Moran and Senator Marshall’s offices. This is a somber event, and we encourage participants to wear black.  A script of the event will be provided, and we should be finished by 3 pm. Specific questions may be referred to Kathy Neufeld Dunn at 620-755-4331 or Bob Atchison at 785-313-2292.

**Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024!** This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won’t want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at [mcc.org/south-texas-lt](https://mcc.org/events/immigration-learning-tour-south-texas). Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org.

Words to “Adoration”

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim.

With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,

Kneel and adore Him-the Lord is His name!

Fear not to enter His presence is poverty,

Bearing no gifts to present as your own.

Truth in its beauty and love in its purity—

These are the offerings to lay at His throne.