**First Mennonite Church of Christian**

**Pastor Peter Emery**

**Organist– Bev Hasan**

**Worship Leader – Lurline Wiens**

**December 3, 2023**

**Gathering and Praising**

Prelude

Welcome

Morning Prayer

Introduction to Advent

Lighting the Advent Candle:

 Monologue–Abraham - the Promise of Descendants Joe Zerger

Call to Worship
Leader: All creation holds its breath.
**People: The time is almost here.**
Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.
**People: Excitement is all around us.**
Leader: Prepare your hearts–The grace of God takes on human form.
**People: Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.
*All: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.***

*\*Hymn – “O come, O Come Immanuel” VT #210 vs 1,4,5,6*

 “Come, Thou Long-/expected Jesus: VT #218

Scripture – Genesis 12:1-8

Special Music – “Come Now, O Prince of Peace” VT #391

**Receiving God’s Word**

Sermon – “All the families of the earth shall be Blessed.”

 Pastor Pete Emery

Moment of Meditation

**Sharing with One Another**

Announcements

Sharing Joys and Prayer Requests

Prayer of the Church

**Going in God’s Name**

*\*Sending – “O Come, O Come Immanuel” VT #210 vs 7*

*\*Benediction*

Postlude

*\*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 3, 2023**

**PRAYER PLACES/JOYOUS JOURNEYS**

**Continue to pray** for those affected by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

**“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 3:** First Sunday of Advent

**December 6:** Church Board, 7:30 pm

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

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

 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm

**Sunday, December 10: Pianist – Lu Goering, Worship Leader – James Allen, Special Music – Recording of Luke Ratzlaff**

If you expect to see the final results of your works, you simply have not asked a big enough question.
                                                      - Arab proverb

**Announcements**

**The Advent Monologues** being used this year are called Waiting on the Promise. They are written by Louise Weller a member of Summit Ridge Church, Tucson, AR. The Worship Team hopes you find them meaningful. As we walk through this season of Advent, help us, God, to spend time meditating on Your promise to bring our Savior into the world.

**The Rejoice and SS Quarterly** are by the mailboxes for you to pick up,

**Possibilities are being explored** of a baptismal inquiry group getting together after the New Year.  Contact Pastor Pete if you are interested!

**Out of the Office:** Lurline will be out of the office Monday, December 4-Thursday, December 7. The bulletins will be done on Friday after she gets back.

**Schweitzers and Friends**.  An opportunity for the theatrically inclined!  If interested, see poster on south bulletin board for more information.

**Bethel College Announcements:**

**Sat., Dec. 2 –** Five Places of Christmas, featuring Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Women’s Association at Goerz House, 10 a.m**.**-4p.m. Other locations are Carriage Factory Gallery, Harvey County Historical Museum and Warkentin House, all in Newton.

**Weds., Dec. 6 –** Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel’s *Messiah*, 11 a.m., with chamber orchestra and soloists,*Bethel College Mennonite Church*. Scores provided.

**Thurs., Dec. 7 –** Gala Jazz, directed by Joel Boettger, 7:30 p.m., *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*

**Sun., Dec. 10 –** 37th annual Lighting of the Green , 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus

**Hesston College Announcements:**

**December 1 to 3 - Prairie Lig**hts at Dyck Arboretum

Experience the quiet beauty of Kansas in winter: dormant native grasses shifting in the wind, lights reflecting in the pond and leafless trees lit from below like living sculptures. Observing tens of thousands of twinkle lights adorning the arboretum path and illuminating our grounds is a great way to kick off the holiday season and find renewed appreciation for the prairie landscape around us. Learn more at [dyckarboretum.org/events](http://dyckarboretum.org/events).

**December 2 - "A Christmas Carol" Performance**

Hesston College Performing Arts will ring in the holiday season with a performance of “A Christmas Carol” on Saturday, December 2. The performance will be held in the Hesston Mennonite Church at 7 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served after the performance with a special photo opportunity with Scrooge and Tiny Tim. You can watch the livestream of the production at [hesston.edu/livestream](http://hesston.edu/livestream).

**Melva Kauffman Lecture Series**: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

This year the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Charles is the son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man. He teaches with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. The public is invited to hear his presentation at Hesston Mennonite Church Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.

**Take a Bible Class at Hesston College**

Interested in auditing a Bible course beginning in January? This spring semester Hesston College has opportunities to audit Biblical Literature, Jesus and the Gospels, and Peacemaking and Justice courses. Acceptance is based upon availability of open seating. If you are interested in enrolling in or auditing a Bible course, please contact amber.hett@hesston.edu before Jan. 9 to register. Spring courses are in session Jan. 10 to May 9. Be sure and ask about discounted rates for senior citizens.