

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Halstead, Kansas

Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018

Gathering Music Kent Dick

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord – Blake
Once in Royal David's City - Smith

Welcome and Announcements Brocia Mueller

Centering Music Bell Choir

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Call to Worship

L: Look to the east.

P: Light is dawning this day.

L: Look to the west.

P: Prepare for the journey ahead.

L: Look to the north.

P: God is guiding our steps.

L: Look to the south.

P: God is shining the warmth of love in our lives.

L: Look to the heavens.

P: Christ is coming soon.

*Praise Songs

What Child is This – HWB #215

How Firm a Foundation – HWB #567

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day - Projected

Offering and Offertory Church Budget

O Holy Night Bell Choir

Advent Candle Lighting Brocia, David & Sebastian

Children's Story Melanie Haspels

Prayer of Praise and Concern Pastor Steve

Praise Song

How can we be Silent – STJ #61

Scripture

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6 (pgs. 1490; 1593)

Message

Getting Prepared

Pastor Steve

*Closing Song

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus – HWB #178

*Benediction

*Postlude

Joy to the World - Smith

Kent Dick

*Asterisk indicates to stand as you are able.

Visitors, please complete a Visitor Information Card from the pew pocket and place in the offering plate.

CALENDAR

Dec. 10	9:00 am	Women's Mission Society
Dec. 11	7:45 am	Early Birds Breakfast
Dec. 12	5:00 pm	Children's Program Practice & Supper
	6:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	7:00 pm	Choir
Dec. 13	9:30 am	Mom's Group
Dec. 16	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Program
	12:00 pm	Carry-in Meal, Goody Tins, Caroling

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Mission Society will meet at the church on Dec. 10 at 9 am to drive to SafeHope in Newton. We have been asked to sort the Angel Tree gifts. We plan to have lunch at the Breadbasket following. All women of the church are invited to join.

The Hospitality Ministry invites you to stay for a carry-in following Worship on December 16th. We will pack goody tins to distribute at the Neighbors Store following lunch. You can bring cookies, homemade snacks, or store-bought individual items to pack in the tins. We will also try to Christmas carol at the two local nursing homes immediately following. It will be a busy day, but one that will bless others!

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the Waffle Breakfast last Sunday. Approximately \$450 (plus Everence's sharing fund amount) will be donated to the city of Halstead to help residents with utility expenses.

A new church nursery schedule will be made soon. If you would like to be added into the rotation, please let Kaitlen know.

We will have our annual New Year's Eve party at the church on Monday, December 31 starting at 7 pm. Bring snacks to share and games to play! We will also have a White Elephant gift exchange, which is always a highlight of the night. Invite your family and friends!

Night in the Barn: Everyone is invited to attend and experience Night in the Barn, presented by Tabor Mennonite Church from 5 – 8 pm tonight. Please note the new location of Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 E 70th, Newton, KS -just off of K-15 between Newton and Goessel). Come and interact with the characters, animals, sights and sounds of this timeless tale. Enjoy this walking tour of the Nativity with family and friends. The suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and snack. Come and share in the wonder of the Christmas Story! If you have any questions, call (620) 367-2721.

Safe Hope still has two women in need of help this Christmas season. Please call 316-803-1800 if you can adopt one to support. Gifts need to be delivered by Dec. 10.

PASTOR: Steve Wilcox

www.firstmennonitehalstead.org

Office Phone: 316-835-2282

Cell Phone: 316-322-5651

Office Hours: Tues. 9-2 & Thurs. 8-11, 12-3

WELCOMERS TODAY	Dick & Marj VanWye
ORGANIST/PIANIST	Kent Dick
NURSERY TODAY	Kaitlen Ortman & Sandy Lewis
CHURCH ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	113
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	
MCC Christmas Tree (designated)	\$1,488.00
Church Budget	375.00
OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY	Western District Conference
WELCOMERS NEXT SUNDAY	Jim & Lois Loflin
NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY	No nursery this week

PROCLAIMING



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethel College: *Dec. 9* – 33rd annual Lighting of the Green, 8 p.m.

You are invited to begin your Christmas season with us... Hopeful Blues Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4pm at Hope Mennonite Church, 868 N. Maize Rd, Wichita. Refreshments served.

All are invited to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS to hear Brass Christmas with the McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews and the Goessel High School Elbiata Singers under the direction of Braden Unruh on December 9 at 7 pm.

You're invited to the annual MCC Christmas Soiree at MCC in North Newton on Thursday, December 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join us for this holiday party to enjoy festive food and fellowship! We'll pause at 6 p.m. to hear from current and past MCC volunteers about Christmas experiences they've had around the world. Everyone is welcome for this come and go holiday event. MCC is located at 121 E. 30th in North Newton. Call us with questions, 316.283.2720. **The Christmas Gathering for All Volunteers is almost here!** All counselors, all cooks, all summer staff, all volunteers for the past 70 years are invited to dash away all to Camp Mennoscah for a time of sugar plums and cookies, conversation and games, and a white elephant gift exchange on December 15 at 2:30pm-ish. Meet at the Retreat Center; no registration required! Questions? Call 620-297-3290 or text 316-293-7313. Families are invited, too!

Coming to the Volunteer Christmas at Camp Mennoscah on December 15? You are invited to arrive on December 14 at 5pm or later (and stay overnight) for whatever reasonable fun you can come up with in exchange for four hours of work the morning of December 15. Get a jump start on your game playing and conversations in the evening and work off your sleepies in the morning! We'll have continental breakfast and a simple lunch for you. You must register for this in advance! Call us at 620-297-3290 or email at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org no later than December 10. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Camp Mennoscah is now accepting applicants for a quarter-time (10 hours/week) custodial position. The position starts January 2, 2019, and will remain open until filled. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for further information. (See also attached document.)

This Christmas, consider giving alternative gifts through Mennonite Central Committee! With 25 ways to give, you can find something for everyone in your family! Give chickens, provide hope, education, tools and new skills to help build up communities. These are gifts that easily fit under the tree and can fit within any budget, but have the power to bring joy for years to come! Visit mcc.org/christmas or call our office for details, 316.283.2720.

Looking for a unique Christmas gift this year? Consider buying one of the resources on the Conference Resource Library's wish list in honor of your loved one! The Resource Library is excited to partner with Faith & Life Bookstore for this project. Visit our list & purchase online OR visit the wishing tree in the store. All items purchased will be delivered to the library and added to the collection in January. <http://faithandlifebookstore.net/wdc-resource-library-wish-list/>

Kauffman Museum is open through the holidays (closed Mondays, plus Tues., Christmas Day, and Tues., New Year's Day): hours 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. Visit the current special exhibit "Better Choose Me: Collecting and Creating with Tobacco Fabric Novelties, 1880-1920," featuring the collection of the late Ethel Ewert Abrahams. See www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/ or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page for more information.

Volunteer with SWAP: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap> or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also check out the latest newsletter at <https://mcc.org/media/resources/8302>.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget balance @ 01/01/18	10,929.63
January-October Receipts	91,417.22
January-October Expenses	<u>(92,694.16)</u>
Budget balance @ 10/31/18	9,652.69
November Receipts	8,896.95
November Expenses	<u>(9,071.43)</u>
Budget balance A@ 11/30/18	9,478.21

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Keep Sandy Allen in prayer as she recovers from knee surgery. Pray that the pain and soreness will subside and her movement will be restored.
- Keep Melissa Clarkson, Garris, Liara and all the family that surrounds them, in your prayers.
- Please pray for the upcoming children's Christmas program on December 16. Pray that the children will learn and be confident with their parts and that God will be glorified in the sharing of their gifts.
- Western District Conference: Give thanks for volunteers who share their time and energy to support the work of WDC.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure unit in Jackson, Mississippi, includes Gabe Graham, Alexa Rathscheck, Jakob Seiferth, and leaders Cynthia and Roger Neufeld Smith. Pray for them as they worship with the Open Door Mennonite congregation, and as they volunteer with a community soup kitchen and a transition home.