

Follow Jesus; Mature in Faith; Carry the Good News
At First Mennonite Church

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen Pianist: Erin Vanderschaaf
PowerPoint: Lori Thimm Audio: Marv Goossen
Hosts: Gayland & Marci Regier Video: Jane Esau
Ushers: Doug Casey, Bryan Heinz Children's Story: Kathy Casey

Last Sunday's Attendance: 110

Last Sunday's Offering: Stutzman Support: \$3,467; Tech fund \$225.

Happening this week:

Sunday, Dec 1 9:30 am Community Coffee Time and
Christmas program practice
9:50 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship-1st Sunday in Advent
Tuesday, Dec 3 5:30 pm Shepherd Group 4 at Warren's Table
Saturday, Dec 7 10:00 am Ladies Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec 8 9:30 am Community Time, Program Practice
9:50 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship

December Birthdays

4: Maxson Esau 6: Kristin Ruiz
9: Cara Esau, Vern Jantzen, Bill Thimm 10: Gene Penner
11: Lori Thimm 13: Laura Baade, Bill Epp
14: Paula Heinz 17: Rogena Jantzen, Wendy Kyser
17: Dick Goertzen 20: Ann Reimer, Brett Esau
25: Dick Penner 29: John Penner

- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry** items may go in the box in the narthex. Cash donations may be given to Dolores Jantzen.
- Have a project for Men's Brotherhood? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- Our service is on <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and heard on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org, under the More tab; select documents; church docs, minutes & bulletins.

Address: 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Website:** fmcbeatrice.org

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org

Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org

Church Office: 402-251-7180 **Email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857),
Don Esau (402-223-9210); **Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



Welcome to First Mennonite Church
December 1, 2024
First Sunday in Advent

Welcome: As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter situations where the way forward seems blocked, when we're between a rock and a hard place. On our Advent journey, we see a purple cloth, representing our path through life. Each week we will see additions to our path as we continue on our journey to Christmas.

Call to Worship

Leader: Responding to the call of the living God,

People: our rescuer and Savior,

Leader: we welcome the Holy Spirit's presence,

People: among and within us.

Leader: In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,

All: we offer ourselves in worship.

Prayer

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

VT 218

Candle Lighting

Reader 1: When we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, we may ask how to continue on.

Reader 2: When Daniel's persistent prayers brought him between opposing laws of the land and the mouths of hungry lions in a stone-covered den, despite the risk, he chose to trust God.

Reader 1: When Jesus found himself faced with persecution and false accusations, he chose forgiveness over self-defense.

(first Advent candle is lit)

**All: Our path may meander through rocky situations,
but we will hold Christ as our center as we journey together.**

Offering Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

VT 247

Children's Story

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6:6-23

Sermon: “In the Pits and In the Den”

Pastor Josh

Hymn: “My Life Flows On”

VT 605

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: “Lead Me Forth”

VT 837

Passing the Peace

Welcome! Glad you're here! Community Time with Coffee is at 9:30 downstairs, followed by Adult Bible Study. You can find our services on YouTube. Search for FMC Beatrice. We hope to see you again soon!

There is no Sunday School on December 1, 8, and 15 but program practices will be held at 9:30 a.m. on those dates. Program practice is also on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. The program is December 15 at 10:30 a.m.

The annual meeting is January 8. Please get in touch with Jerry Reimer, Church Chair, if you have an item to add to the agenda.

The Ladies Christmas Party Brunch is for all ladies and girls of First Mennonite Church and Summit Street Church and is on **December 7** at 10:00 a.m. Grace Tegtmeier will be our speaker. Please plan to attend!

Attention! The last person to leave church should check to see that all the lights are turned off. Please and Thank You.

There is no Community Event on Wednesday evening, December 4.

If you would like to purchase additional nuts, please see Lori Thimm.

The entire **letter from Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors** that was paraphrased in last Sunday's bulletin may be found at campmennoscah.org. Additionally, an email from Olivia Bartel, executive director, and the Board of Directors, solicits your support to help meet the financial challenges Camp is having as it enriches the spiritual lives of youth. This ministry is too

important to lose. Visit campmennoscah.org for updates on camp and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Congregation! Please check your directory to see if any information about you or your family members is incorrect and let the office know.

Dear Mennonite Friends, Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent to Gail's Memorial service. Friends brought them to my room and they continue to bring me joy and remind me of all the good times we had with you. May God bless you and give us more times to worship together. --**Gratefully, Sylvia Cross. Her address** is: Cedarwood, 828 22nd Street, Fairbury, NE 68352.

Your voice can join the Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon, reading Genesis to Revelation in four days and in multiple languages! Beginning on January 18, 2025 the *Anabaptism at 500 Read-a-thon* will begin live-streaming as the first passage of Genesis is read and will conclude on January 21, 2025, with a live-streamed worship/celebration in Goshen, Indiana when we'll read together the final passage from Revelation and celebrate the launch of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. Register at anabaptismat500.com to be assigned a biblical passage and receive instructions for recording your video as your contribution to the *Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon*.

The **2025 WDC Annual Assembly** will be Aug 8-9, 2025 at Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS. Along with others around the globe, next year at Assembly we plan to celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism.

Mennonite Church USA and its agencies invite you to join us in “**Great Menno Give**” on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3, a global day of charitable giving.

From Jason Ault, MMN: In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to express sincere gratitude for your wonderful gift to MMN! Your generosity makes our ministries possible! Please contact me if any questions arise. Have a joyful holiday season! Thank you again!

Homestead Harmonizers present “*A Harmonizer Christmas*”, **TODAY**, Dec 1 at 2 p.m. at the Hevelone Center, Beatrice High School. Tickets are \$10 at the door; students are free.

The **Beatrice Orchestra** will be in concert on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hevelone Center. Admission is \$10. Students are free.

Visit the **Gage County Museum on Dec. 14** from 5-7 pm for a scavenger hunt, kid's activities, hot chocolate, cookies, a caboose tour, and more! All activities and treats are free.