

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen
Pianist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz
Audio: Marv Goossen
Video: Jane Esau

Worship Leader: Vern Jantzen
PowerPoint: Debbie Goossen
Hosts: John & Zella Penner
Ushers: Doug Casey, Bryan Heinz

Last Sunday's Attendance: 112

Last Sunday's Offering: Food Pantry \$ 2,771; FMC \$1,200

Happening this week:

Sunday, Dec 15	9:30 am Community Time, Program Practice 9:50 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship with Christmas Program 3rd Sunday in Advent
Sunday, Dec 22	9:30 am Community Time 9:50 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, Dec 24	6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, Dec 29	9:30 am Community Time 9:50 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, Dec 31	6:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Service

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.
- Men's Brotherhood project? See 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 15, 2024

Christmas Program--3rd Sunday in Advent

Prelude: Instrumental Ensemble (Directed by Neal Trantham)

*Katie Jantzen, Erin and Eli Vanderschaaf, Mike Goossen,
Pam Kunzman, Pastor Josh Janzen, Clara and Henry Trantham,
Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Steph Janzen*



Oh Holy Night

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Joy to the World

Welcome

Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 61:1)

L: Merciful One, you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

P: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.

L: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

P: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted. May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.

L: You anoint us; we are yours.

P: We delight and rejoice in you.

Candle Lighting

Reader 1: Like a cloth with frayed edges, our world leaves people on the fringes.

Reader 2: Those who aren't accepted, who don't belong;

Reader 1: The poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the oppressed.

Reader 2: But God's kingdom shows us another way.

(three Advent candles are lit)

All: Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.

Song: "Love Has Come"

Adult Choir

"It's Christmas at the Candy Cane Shop"

A Christmas play Celebrating the Reason for the Season

(Permission to livestream granted by play author
Shannon L. Bryant, 2012, Bryant's Brain Train. All rights reserved.)

Cast

Narrators: Miles, Eli, Anders, Graham, Brendan, Rikki

Workers: Stella, Sloan, Sam, Randall, Cal, Maxson, Blake,
Gentry, Henry

Candy Canes: Braxton, Betsy, Beckett

Mary: Navy

Joseph: Ryan

Roman Soldier: Parker

Jesus: Jude

Angel: Piper

Support Cast: Baker, Scarlett, Raelynn

Special piano music during the program: Stella Ensz

"What Child is This, Helpless & Hungry"

Adult Choir

Sharing and Prayer

Pastor Josh

Benediction

Pastor Josh

Offering/Sending Hymn: "He Came Down"

VT 239

Additional Worship Opportunities:

- 🎄 Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm
Karen will play Christmas music
at 5:40 p.m.
- 🎄 New Year's Eve Communion Worship: 6:00 p.m.



Thank you to the children, choir, instrumentalists, and leaders for the wonderful Christmas program.

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

Our Advent theme is "Together on the Journey - Anointing for Justice: Who Belongs?" God's vision of shalom and justice depicts a kingdom in which we radically realign ourselves with the marginalized and oppressed. Who needs to hear the invitation to belong in God's kingdom? Who needs to extend the invitation? On the altar, the purple path flows to the third candle and a frayed piece of burlap, representing those on the fringes of our community. As we build community together, we remember to include those who are on the fringe.

Children's Sunday School is on winter break and will resume on January 5, at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness during the passing of Laura. Your cards, calls, visits, food, and memorial gifts were very much appreciated. We feel very thankful, grateful, and blessed ---**The family of Laura Franz**

The Camp Mennoscah 2025 Summer Youth Camp Schedule is on the website and the bulletin board. Please note the changes: There are two Junior Camps for those going into grades 6, 7, and 8 in the fall of 2025. There is one Junior High Camp for grades 8 and 9. Other age groups remain the same. Registration will open in February 2025.

Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3:00 pm, at Hesston Mennonite Church. This event will celebrate 500 years of Anabaptists and the release of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. The public is invited to this celebration involving singers from surrounding churches and audience participation singing hymns, led by Russell Adrian and Karen Unruh. The core of the program will be a historical narrative by Ken Rodgers tracing important hymns and texts from the past five centuries.

First Mennonite Church General Fund Summary

General Fund Balance 10/31/24	(13,230.67)
November General Fund Offerings	14,505.00
November General Fund Expenses	<u>(16,944.86)</u>
General Fund Balance 11/30/24	(15,670.53)

A reminder that annual committee/council reports are needed in the office by December 30.

Please inform the office of any changes in address, phone numbers, or emails before the 2025 Directory is printed in early January.