

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader and pianist: Erin Vanderschaaf
PowerPoint: Lori Thimm Audio: Marv Goossen
Hosts: Don & Judy Jantzen PowerPoint: Jane Esau
Ushers: Doug Casey, Bryan Heinz Children's Story: Kathy Casey

Last Sunday's Attendance: 97

Last Sunday's Offering: FMC \$ 3825; Stutzman's \$500

Happening this week:

Sunday, Dec 8 9:30 am Community Coffee Time and
Christmas program practice
9:50 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship- 2nd Sunday in Advent
Sunday, Dec 15 9:30 am Community Time, Program Practice
9:50 am Adult Sunday School
10: 30 am Christmas Program Worship
3rd Sunday in Advent

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

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- 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 Jantzen.
 - 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 8, 2024

Second Sunday in Advent

Opening Hearts: What Do We Ask For?

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

P: With our whole heart?

L: The hurting and hurtful part? The bleeding and empty part?

P: The sewn-up-tight-don't-come-in heart part?

All: With our whole heart, with all our hearts

we come to worship the Lord God,

L: whose merciful compassion, abundant patience,
and faithful forgiving love meet us in our need.

Prayer

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" VT 210, vs 1,3,4,6,7

Candle Lighting

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive.

Reader 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same
attributes in our hearts and lives.

(Two Advent candles are lit)

**All: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit,
to become more like our loving God.**

Offering Hymn: "It Came upon a Midnight Clear"

VT 248

Children's Story

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:12-14a, 28-29

Sermon: "Torn Hearts and the Patch-working of the Spirit"

Pastor Josh

Hymn: "Fill Me Anew"

VT 739

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: "Hark! The Glad Sound"

VT 217

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!

"Together on the Journey": God generously pours out the Holy Spirit on all who are humble and seek God's ways. By keeping our eyes on God as we journey, despite the turmoil around us, we open the door for the flowing movement of God's Spirit. On the altar, the purple cloth path continues meandering to the second Advent candle, and we see a heart by this candle representing this week's theme, **"Opening Hearts; What Do We Ask For?"**

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.

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

Thank you for the love you have shown me and my family during the recent month after my mom passed. Your care and concern were evident and I truly felt God's presence through all of you during a difficult time. I feel blessed to be a member of this church community. - **Christina Lyons and family**

Additional Worship Opportunities:

- ✚ Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm preceded by 20 minutes of Christmas music by Karen
- ✚ New Year's Eve Communion Worship: 6:00 p.m.



New Address: Maria DeBloc, Homestead House, #25, 2300 Lincoln St, Beatrice, NE 68310

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*.



**ANABAPTISM
at FIVE HUNDI**

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.

Hesston College Music Department will host an **Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival** on Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3:00 pm, at Hesston Mennonite Church. The Hymn Festival coincides with the 500th anniversary of the first Anabaptist adult baptisms in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525. This event will also celebrate the release of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. The public is invited to this community-wide celebration involving singers from surrounding churches and audience participation in 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 throughout the past five centuries.

Community Events:

Beatrice Orchestra concert today, Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hevelone Center, Beatrice High School. Admission \$10. Students 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.