

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

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**Serving Today:**

Pastor: Josh Janzen                      Worship Leader: Katie Jantzen  
Piano: Erin Vanderschaaf              Children's Story: Dan Kunzman  
Live stream: John Thimm              Audio: Larry Thimm  
Greeters: Needed                      PPT: Debbie Goossen  
Ushers: Bill Thimm & Daryl Riesen      Hosts: Don & Judy Jantzen  
Candlelighters/Benediction: Riley Schardt, Kollyns Hohensee,  
Eli Vanderschaaf

**Last Sunday: Offerings:** FMC \$2,611; Food Pantry \$300;  
Mission Partners: \$25; AMBS \$300. **Attendance:** 94

**Offering today:** Community Food Pantry **Next Sunday:** FMC

**Happening this week:**

Sunday, Dec 10 9:30 a.m. Adult SS; Program Practice, 10:30 Worship  
Sunday, Dec 17 9:30 a.m. Adult SS: Program Practice  
10:30 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, Dick Goertzen  
20: Ann Reimer, Brett Esau  
25: Dick Penner                              29: John Penner

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- **Need a hearing device?** Ask an usher for assistance.
  - **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
  - **Food Pantry:** Please put items in the narthex box or give cash donations to Dolores Jantzen.
  - **Men's Brotherhood** project? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen
  - Our **service is available** on youtube.com, search for fmcbeatrice. We're also on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. You'll find the bulletin at fmcbeatrice.org; click the More tab to select Documents, Church docs, bulletins.

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**First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310**

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

**Church office:** 402-251-7180

**Website:** fmcbeatrice.org **Church email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

**Deacons:** Don Esau (402-223-9210), Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174),  
Sue Gerber (402-239-8857)

**Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



**Welcome to First Mennonite Church**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent - December 10, 2023*

**Welcome**

Katie Jantzen

**Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

VT 241

**Call to Worship**

L: Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
that with God one day is like a thousand years,  
and a thousand years are like one day.

**High voices: God is not slow, as some think of slowness,**

**Low voices: but is patient with us,**

**P: not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.**

L: The word of our God will stand forever.

**P: How shall we live while we wait for salvation?**

*(pause)*

**All: Together we wait.**

**Hymn: "Hark! The Glad Sound!"**

VT 217

**Prayer**

**Children's Story**

Dan Kunzman

**Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort, O My People"**

VT 212

**Scripture: Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-13**

**Sermon: "How Will We Know? What Now?"**

Pastor Josh

**Hymn: "Poor of the Earth"**

VT 213

**Sharing and Prayer**

**Advent Candle Lighting/Benediction**

Riley, Kollyns, Eli

L: Together we wait.

**Candle lighter: God is patient with us,  
but how do we prepare while we're waiting?**

L: Go, beloved, and while you wait for these things,  
strive to be found by God at peace.  
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

**Sending Song: "Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called"** VT 220

### Offering to Community Food Pantry

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**Welcome!** We are glad you are here! Please come again!

**The Children's Sunday School will practice at 9:30 a.m.** on December 3, 10, and 17 for the December 17 Christmas program at 10:30.

**The adult Sunday School class** uses the Salt & Light discussion guides. These lessons are all stand-alone lessons so come join us as your schedule allows. All are welcome to attend. We meet in the room at the bottom of the stairs.

**WMS** will not meet during December. We'll resume meeting January 9.

**Deacon nominations** are being accepted through December 10. Please speak with your nominee before giving their name to Chair Jerry Reimer. Of note, Don Esau is eligible for re-election.

**Tuition Fund pledges/donations** may be put in the offering plate marked as such. Second semester funds are due January 9.

A reminder for **all committee and council chairs: Your annual committee/council report is now due** in the church office. Please submit it soon. If you have any questions, please refer to last year's annual report or call Vicki at 402-239-5312.

If you have an **agenda item for the Annual Meeting**, please talk to Church Chair Jerry Reimer: (402-239-2716).

If anyone would like to **join Sunday Singers** when we sing in the Christmas program the morning of Dec 17, we would love to have you. Even if you haven't sung with us before, come join us. We will practice Dec. 13 at 7:00.

The **family of Dick Goertzen invites you to help celebrate** his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Christmas Open House on Friday, December 15, beginning at 5 pm at Countryside Event Center, 27349 131<sup>st</sup> Road, Beatrice. NO gifts please.

**NUTS!** WMS has sliced almonds \$7.00, cashews \$9.50, and black walnuts \$12.50, all are one-pound bags. Contact Lori Thimm, 402-239-3611.

An **Advent at Home worship guide, "How Will We Know?"** is available from Mennonite Education Agency as a free download from their website: [www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources](http://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources). The worship guide accompanies individuals and families through the days and weeks of Advent through Epiphany with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities, and contextual information. It is intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the season.

If you have **frozen food for Scott Jantzen** and his family, you may put it in the freezer in the church kitchen. Please put cooking instructions and Scott's name on the item. The food will be delivered to Scott every Monday. Call Lori Thimm 402-239-3611 with questions.

**MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** You can help! We need: *new* infant onesies and sleepers (6–12-month sizes); *new* bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); *new* hand towels (dark colored). For prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, we need: men's shirts (sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color) and men's underwear (sizes 2XL, 3XL -- any color). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions? [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720.



### Christmas Worship Opportunities:

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Sunday, December 24, 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship  
Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

**New AMBS Vision issue on "Family" available for free online.** The Fall 2023 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD — explores how the church can play a positive role in supporting families without relying on a narrow understanding of the ideal family unit itself. Find it at [ambs.edu/vision](http://ambs.edu/vision)

*"There will be no extra Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem this year. The Palestinian Christians of every persuasion are too traumatized to try to "make merry" in the midst of the overt violence in Gaza and across the region. So many of them have lost family members and friends in Gaza that they just cannot hide that under a layer of wrapping paper, tinsel, and tiny lights. So, instead of all the glitter and sparkle of a huge Christmas tree and other decorations in Manger Square, God willing, there will be worship. In Bethlehem, and around the world, Christians will celebrate again how God came to the rescue of our human race in the form of a tiny baby. May that be enough". -Kathy Neufeld Dunn, WDC Associate Minister*