

New Creation Fellowship Church

a member of Mennonite Church USA
221 Muse Street Newton KS 67114
Church office: 316.283.1363
Website: www.newcreationnewton.com



PASTOR:

Derrick Ramer 574.354.1332 ncfnewton@gmail.com
*Pastor Derrick's normal office hours are Tue, Wed & Thur; 9-5.
He is also available outside of those hours by appointment.
Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Derrick on his cell phone at any time.*

OFFICE ASSISTANT:

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At New Creation we seek to celebrate our differences as gifts and blessings - our differences in color, gender, sexual orientation, and the many other ways we are categorized by the world. You are welcome in this place as we journey together, discerning how to follow Jesus more faithfully.

Lectionary text for December 5:

[Malachi 3:1-4](#)

[Luke 1:68-79](#)

[Philippians 1:3-11](#)

[Luke 3:1-6](#)

Offering for Nov 21-26

General: \$445.00 Sharing Fund: \$500.00

Western District Conference: Pray for pastors, musicians, worship leaders and teachers who guide WDC congregations in celebrating the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.

Mennonite Mission Network: Alfonsina and José Oyanguren have walked alongside Toba-Qom churches in the Argentine Chaco since 2004, serving through a partnership that includes the Argentina Mennonite Church, MMN and congregations in Ohio. Pray for them and their children as they build relationships and promote Indigenous languages and cultures.

New Creation Fellowship Church November 28, 2021



Speaker: Pastor Derrick Ramer

Sermon: *Dare to imagine God's goodness!*

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Worship Leader: Audrey Ratzlaff

Sound System: Galen Miller

Music: Ian Gingrich-Gaylord

Care of the Building: Ian & Megan

Children's Time: Rebecca Barrett-Fox

Focus for the first week of Advent: Can we, dare we, embrace *hope* once more? We can when we remember God's steadfast goodness and the goodness of learning and walking in God's ways. Pull out the 'zine' card from your home Advent packet and display it to then contemplate or talk about God's goodness with your household this week.

The **Advent visuals** for Advent 2021 are in the form of a "zine" (pronounced "zeen," from *magazine*). The pages include an image for the theme, a sending image, and an image for each subtheme. The zine format started in the 1930s thanks to its affordability, simplicity, and locally based interests. It has been used in a variety of ways since then and has experienced a recent resurgence. Collaging has also often gone hand in hand with zine creation, for many of the same reasons zines were produced—anyone can cut and paste from flyers, magazines, photos, and books. Collaging became a regular pastime for a group of friends during the COVID-19 lockdown, and it was then that the idea for an Advent collage began. The words and text seen throughout the zine were specially hand-printed and gifted from @suitcaseletterpress in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Advent Visuals: The visual tableau at the front of the sanctuary has several elements. The colorful banners focus on a journey, the journey of Jesus. As his followers, we are daring to imagine a different world. Each week the suitcase will reveal a different theme to focus on during this time of worshipping God together. The suitcase is surrounded by objects that may represent comfort (rocking chair, teddy bear, a mug for a warm beverage, hand carved nativity set). We as a church body seek to comfort and encourage one another through these tumultuous times.

More announcements on next page...

The next **Congregational Meeting** will be Sunday Dec. 12 at 9:00 am. We will be testing consensus on the proposed changes to the Safe Sanctuary policy from the October meeting, except the Mentor Policy which needs more conversation. We will consider the Mentor Policy in 2022.

Anabaptist World: It is time to subscribe or renew our group subscription to Anabaptist World magazine. Please send a check to NCFC for \$39 with AW in the memo line by Dec. 6.



Have yourself a honkin' good holiday, December 17 from 4-6 p.m.!

MCC is thrilled to host this drive-thru event again this year. Order your charcuterie box(es) today to enjoy in the comfort of your home, spread Christmas joy and order extra to give as gifts! Suggested donation per box is \$25. We're also collecting items for [MCC hygiene kits](#) at this event. Place your order by 5 p.m. on December 9. [Details and order form are on mcc.org.](#) Questions? Please call 316.283.2720.

Advent begins TODAY! We would like to again share seasonal daily "reflections" through congregational email. The Advent theme this year is "Dare to Imagine," with weekly themes focusing on God's goodness, God's embrace, God's song, God's face, God's robe, and God's dance. If any of these spark memories or ideas for stories or art, please contact Audrey Ratzlaff to add your name to the list! If you have a reflection you'd like to share that doesn't relate to the theme, that's great, too! All are welcome, regardless of age and artistic ability! Contact Audrey at aaratzlaff@yahoo.com or 316-619-4580.

Advent Packets: The Advent Team has put together a resource packet for each household on our church directory. These large envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please pick yours up today! If your neighbor, friend, or extended family cannot attend worship, consider delivering their packet to them.

Christmas Baskets for Heartland Supports and Muse Apartments: We are seeking donations of items such as hats, socks, cookies and other similar items and treats to be given to our church neighbors for Christmas. This is a great opportunity if you like to knit or crochet. Look for a box in the back of the sanctuary to drop off donations.

- from Megan T. on behalf of the Advent Committee

Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, Dec. 5: 2nd Sunday of Advent, Dare to imagine God's embrace!

2-5pm Intergenerational activities in churchyard: art project, care packages and fellowship

SUNDAY, Dec. 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Dare to imagine God's song!

2-5pm Intergenerational activities in churchyard: art project, care packages and fellowship/singing

6:30pm Christmas Program in outdoor shelter: children in nativity costume, songs and hot chocolate

SUNDAY, Dec. 19: 4th Sunday of Advent, Dare to imagine God's face!

2-5pm Intergenerational activities in churchyard: art project, care packages and fellowship/singing

SUNDAY, Dec. 26: "Christmas Sunday," Dare to imagine God's robe!

SUNDAY, Jan. 2: Epiphany Sunday, Dare to imagine God's dance!