

WELCOME TO ALL who are guests this morning. We hope you feel warmly received and experience a time of worship. Please feel free to contact Pastor Susan if you would like to visit.

WE WELCOME OUR YOUTH PASTOR, Hank Unruh, to the pulpit today. Blessings, Hank, as you share.

AMELIA BRANDT will speak during our sharing time. Through First Threshings articles, we've had the opportunity to follow Amelia's work with the Ebola outbreak in Africa. Thank you, Amelia, for joining us this morning!

WE WILL HEAR A BRIEF REPORT from our Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) representatives. Our special offering next Sunday is for the MCC Relief Sale in April.

COMMUNITY WILL BE A WORSHIP FOCUS during our January look at the Gospel of Luke. What did Jesus bring to his own community? What kind of community did Jesus gather around him? What did Jesus teach that would help us as we create community in Jesus' name?

JANUARY 31, WE WILL HEAR from Jeff and Tammy Wintermote as a part of their process to join our congregation.

FMC PHOTO BOARD: you are invited to bring a printed photo, no larger than 4 x 6. Go ahead and post your photo -- labels are on the board. Thank you in advance!

JEFF AND DEB JENSEN are stepping back from their Nurture leadership roles here at First Mennonite. Prayers as we all adjust to this change. Schedules for children's time and nursery will be set up very soon and you may be contacted. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS will begin again on January 6, with a 6:15 p.m. meal and planned game activities. Age-specific classes will begin January 13. The adults will begin with a participatory discussion on possible shapes of Mission Committee at First Mennonite. January 20, 27 and February 3 adults will be led in learning by Aleen Ratzlaff on the topic of how Culture, Communication and Faith come together for us here at First Mennonite. During the season of Lent, Pastor Susan will lead the adult Wednesday evenings in a study of communion.

RESPONSE TO REFUGEE CONCERNS: Two WDC congregations, Zion Mennonite Church (Elbing, KS) and Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church (Wichita, KS), joined a local Presbyterian congregation to host a holiday meal on December 5 for refugees resettled by International Rescue Committee in Wichita, KS. The churches prepared the meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, salads, and pies, and congregation members served and visited with the guests. The greatest part of this day was seeing two people recognize each other after being separated for years. Neither one knew the other was in Wichita till this meeting! LAMC is also collecting a specified list of items to take to IRC to distribute to refugees as they set up housekeeping, such as laundry and dish detergent, aluminum foil and plastic wrap, paper towels, toothpaste, shampoo, bar soap, facial tissues, toilet paper, kitchen/bathroom cleanser. Zion has been collecting gloves, hats, coats, and socks for refugees, many of whom come from warmer climates. During December Zion selected a family of 7 from the Congo who arrived this year, to purchase Christmas gifts for them. Several individuals from Zion have also volunteered teaching English, helping write resumes, and mentoring. For more information about opportunities to support refugees in the Wichita, KS area, contact the International Rescue Committee at rescue.org/Wichita or 316-351-5495, or Episcopal Wichita Area Refugee Ministry at ewarm.org or 316-977-9276.

WE SING SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE!!!

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC) invites you to join a 300 voice choir for the 2016 concert series. Rehearsals are Sunday afternoons, Feb-April. This year, the choir has planned two concerts in Lindsborg and Wichita. Offerings gathered at all concerts go entirely to the work of Mennonite Central. See bulletin board for more info and membership forms. Douglas Graber, 620-382-6591, is the FMC contact person for the group.

CONVERT YOUR STUFF INTO TREASURE FOR OTHERS.

Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale could be the place to convert your stuff into treasure for people who need a hand UP! ---- Help people to help themselves. If you have a craft item, antique tool, furniture, tractor, or car; if you have a homemade game, a replica of past culture, whatever: MCC could be the place to convert that into dollars for development and relief efforts around the world. Please consider how you could share in this Regional effort by people who care to support MCC. The MCC Sale is in April 2016. Contact – FMC MCC liaison team Jan and Deryll Amstutz, Nancy and Douglas Graber.