

SHARING

Children's Story Lenna Knoll
Sharing and Prayer Pastor Susan
Receiving Ethan and Laurel as members
(congregational response No. 794)
(end prayer with The Lord's Prayer No. 731)
Prayer Song Ethan and Laurel Koerner
Offering Shirley Flaming
*Special offering today goes to MCC Relief Sale unless otherwise designated.

LISTENING

Scripture Romans 12:1-21 (on insert) Darrel Knoll
Message Sharing from Ethan and Laurel Koerner

RESPONDING

*Hymn Before the Throne (words on insert)
*Benediction Pastor Susan
*Sing the Story 190

BLESSINGS IN THIS NEW YEAR OF 2017! We will be hearing from Laurel and Ethan Koerner's faith journey today as they become members here at First Mennonite.

REPLACING THE STABLE where we waited for Jesus to come during Advent, is a set of five candles. The center Christ candle of the wreath is lit, and sits among the four other candles. Each of the four candles is a different color representing different skin tones of the human race created by God. Jesus came into the midst of them all to help and save us, to show us the way.

BRING YOUR BIBLES for next week's worship. We will view a couple of places in the Gospel of Matthew.

WANT TO CARAVAN? Several in our midst as well as our Alive! Sunday School class are reading and thinking about understanding people who are different from us. In this spirit, we are offering an opportunity to attend a city-wide service at an African American congregation, Saint Mark Church, one block west of Hillside between 13th and 21st street. The service is **this Saturday evening**, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. All at First Mennonite are welcome to gather at the church at 4:30 p.m. to carpool/caravan. Let's enjoy the fruits of 1) going together to 2) someone else's "turf!" Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 1525 N Lorraine, Wichita Kansas, 316-281-2214.

DOUG AND HOLLY'S Israel/Palestine trip itinerary is on the pastor's bulletin board.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL AND ACTIVITY is January 11 -- this Wednesday! Adults will hear from Donna Becker, retired nurse educator, as she speaks on *Taking Out the Trash: a Developmental Task*. Donna's presentation was recommended to us, and is on the topic of caring for our internal personal matters. She speaks about the importance of tending to the hard places in our lives before the "pile" gets too high! This is a good topic to begin our year. Come to the chapel at 7:15 p.m.

Jan 11 – Donna Becker "Taking Out the Trash:
A Developmental Task"
Jan 18 – Laurel Koerner The "Every 28 Hours"
Play-Reading Event
Jan 25 – Viewing "Salam Neighbor "
Feb 1 – Don Ratzlaff "Community Journalism"
Feb 8 – Aleen Ratzlaff "Newspapers Serving
African American Communities"
Feb 15 – Aleen Ratzlaff "Local Correspondents in
1920s Black Newspapers"

MONDAY EVENINGS AT 7 P.M. is when you can come and help create comforters in preparation for the March 6 and 7 Comforter Blitz. All are welcome!

TAMMY WINTERMOTE IS STARTING a women's Bible study in January here at church. The group will meet twice a month on Tues. or Thurs. evenings. Our study will be decided by the women involved. If you are interested in joining this group, please talk to Tammy.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ARE AVAILABLE at the back table, along with word puzzles and dot-to-dot puzzles. There will be nursery available, but all other children are invited to remain in the sanctuary during worship.

IF:GATHERING 2017

We invite women, college age and older, to join us for IF:Hillsboro on February 3 & 4, 2017, at Hillsboro MB Church. Come to connect, worship, listen to speakers and be inspired to live out your faith in pure and simple ways. This is a weekend you will not want to miss. Help us to plan for you and register by January 25. For more details and to register, go to:
<https://register.ifgathering.com/event/ifhillsboro>
If you need help registering email ifhillsboroks@gmail.com or call Sara Wichert, 620-947-2749.

NATIONALLY KNOWN SINGER, speaker and author, Kathy Troccoli, will be in concert at the Hillsboro M.B. Church on Sunday night, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for this incredible community men's and women's event. Tickets are free but you must have a ticket. Tickets may be picked up at the Hillsboro M.B. Church office or you may go online at iTickets.com/KathyTroccoli. A \$1.00 processing fee will be charged online. A love offering will be received at the concert. For more information, contact the Hillsboro M.B. Church office at 620-947-3144.

AMONG OUR FRIENDS

We lift in prayer: Nadine Friesen,
Mieka and Casey Bartel and baby Marin,
Joel Klaassen, Linda Bartel,
Tammy Wintermote, Dan Schaefer,
Callie Linnens

A memorial service for Katie Funk Wiebe will be held at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita, Kansas, on Friday, January 20.

Dear FMC - I just wanted to write a note to say "thank you" for your generous donations of items for the Prisoner Care Kits and Infant Care Kits! These items will be used to help bring hygiene, love, and comfort to our brothers and sisters who may feel forgotten, vulnerable, or alone. Thank you for helping MCC promote relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ!

Blessings, Kate Mast
(Workroom Supervisor-Material Resource Center, MCC Central States)

I am pleased to announce to my church brothers and sisters at Hillsboro First Mennonite Church that Nancy Brown of Americus, Kansas and I have determined to enter into marriage. We are planning a ceremony at the Americus United Methodist Church on February 25. I look forward to eventually introducing Nancy to those of you who haven't yet met her. Nancy serves as Pastor of the United Methodist Church in Americus and also in Reading, Kansas. I am most fortunate to have found someone with whom I can love, respect and build a new chapter of life together with, especially after having been previously so blessed with 41 happy years of marriage with Linda. Nancy and I both seek your prayers of support as we take this serious step of joining our lives together.

David Mathis

MCC -- WANTED: Cars, Trucks, Tractors, Farm Equipment (old and new) and large items of value for the Kansas MCC Sale. These are tax deductible donations that can benefit you as well as MCC. If you have items you don't know what to do with, PLEASE consider donating them to the Kansas MCC Sale. We take your donations seriously and will make every effort possible to help it bring a good price. Call Jerry Toews 620-367-8257 for info and details.

BETHEL COLLEGE:

Members of the **Bethel College presidential search committee will be meeting on campus Monday, Jan. 9**, to hold listening sessions with a variety of groups, including current faculty and staff, students and local alumni. **Interested alumni and former faculty and staff members are invited to meet with the committee at 11 a.m. in Will Academic Center Room 108.** For more information, e-mail rbarrera@bethelks.edu.

CALENDAR

- Jan 8 FMC Carry-In Post-Holiday Fellowship
- Jan 10 7 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting
- Jan 11 Weds Evening Meal and activities begins
8:30 p.m. Care Committee Meeting
- Jan 26 7 p.m. Ministries Council Meeting
- Jan 29 Annual Meeting following Carry-In

CARRY-IN MEAL SCHEDULE:

- January 8 – Post-Holiday Fellowship!
- January 29 – Annual Meeting

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Today: Jacob Funk, Holly Swartzendruber
Thursday: Joel Klaassen, Carolyn Penner, Matt Regier, Tia Regier
Friday: Eli Jantz
Saturday: Ron & Marci Heidebrecht

TREASURER'S REPORT 12/25/2016

FMC Ministries	\$21,519.00
MCC	\$1,900.00
MCC – Syria	\$275.00
MCC – Blankets and Infant Kits	\$400.00
Year to Date Budget Income.....	\$167,959.73
Year-to-date Budget Expenses.....	\$164,029.27
FMC Ministries Fund Balance	\$3,930.46

THE CHRISTMAS BANNER

Integrated into the quilt matrix of squares and diagonals that present the nativity are five traditional Christmas symbols. At the top, in the heavens above the nativity, an angel is blowing a trumpet. Trumpets announce significant events, momentous news. This symbol was already introduced in the advent banner. Angels are messengers of God implementing a divine mission. The arch appearing above the manger suggests a rainbow, which is a bridging symbol, connecting the natural with the supernatural. In Christian art it is a symbol of hope and reconciliation.

The ox is the animal most frequently depicted in paintings of the nativity. It is a symbol of the sacrificial Christ. In this banner it is in the company of a lamb, the earliest symbol of Christ.

John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus “the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” In addition to symbolizing Christ, the lamb can also embody the meaning of sacrifice, renewal, redemption, gentleness, humility, and patience. Animals, along with shepherds and wise men, can be effectively used to help express wonder and amazement at this monumental event.

In addition to the five symbols depicted, light also functions as a symbol. The light source for the entire composition is located in the crib. Though unseen, the divine light, “the light of the world,” radiates upward – making all other symbols visible.

CHURCH OFFICE

102 S. Ash, Hillsboro, KS, 67063, Phone 620-947-5662
www.fmchillsboro.com

Susan Jantzen, Pastor	Office hours: Tues – Fri 9-12
pastor@fmchillsboro.com	C: 620-877-7923
Hank Unruh, Youth Pastor	Office hours: Wed afternoon
youthpastor@fmchillsboro.com	C: 316-288-1079
Becky Gage, Secretary	Office hours: Mon & Weds 9-12,
secretary@fmchillsboro.com	Thurs & Fri 9-12
Tim Unruh, Custodian	Office hours: Varied
timu@tabor.edu	C: 620-947-1585

The church building is open from 9 am to noon Mon. – Fri. except for holidays. For assistance outside of those times, please contact Tim Unruh at 620-947-1585. Please schedule all meetings & events at FMC through the church office.



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ -
 Making Disciples through
 Loving Relationships.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:35 a.m.

January 8, 2017

GATHERING

Gathering Music	Shirley Flaming
Welcome & Announcements	Darrel & Pastor Susan
Prelude to Worship	Shirley Flaming
*Call to Worship	Darrel Knoll

People of God,
 look about and see the faces
 of those we know and love --
**neighbors and friends,
 sisters and brothers –
 a community of kindred hearts.**
 People of God,
 look about and see the faces
 of those we hardly know --
**strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,
 the ones who need an outstretched hand.**
 People of God,
 look about you and see
 all the images of God assembled here.
**In me, in you, in each of us,
 God's Spirit shines for those who have eyes to see.**
 People of God, come.
ALL: Let us worship together.

*Hymn	Come, thou fount	No. 521
*Invocation		Darrel Knoll
Hymn	Be thou my vision	No. 545