

---

---

# HOPE HEADLINES

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE MENNONITE CHURCH

Volume 36 Number 12

December 2021

---



## The New and Not-So-New Normal

*“The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard” (Luke 2:20).*

We talk a lot these days about living into a “new normal.” In our context what some people mean by that is living into post-COVID. For others, the new normal means *letting go* of hopes for post-COVID and instead living into permanent virus-management, and all that goes with it.

Our lives do indeed have new features that have recently emerged on the scene. Social distancing during COVID has had the effect of greatly expanding on-line shopping and home\*December 5 – Christmas Choir delivery. It seems like a great gift idea for some families this\*December 19 -our children’s Sunday School will share. Christmas would be a loading dock!

Similarly, the use of home security systems has exploded of late. Through the keen sensitivities of my external cameras, I can now receive on my phone minute-by-minute alerts of “motion at my back door.” In our case these events are overwhelmingly “Code C’s,” that is, the cat walking across the deck to get a drink. Thanks for letting us know!

And yet, many of the things I look forward to the most this time of year are precisely the things that aren’t new. Family meals, gift exchanges, sentimental decorations and ornaments with stories, the Moravian star at our front door, the seasonal songs and Scriptures of the church.

For the startled shepherds who received the angels’ announcement of Good News, their lives went forward with a combination of the new and not-so new.

On the one hand, after they saw the infant Savior, the shepherds “returned.” They went back to their routine, to their familiar animals and pastures and tasks and relationships and challenges. They went back to being shepherds. The first Christmas, like all the Christmases since, came to an end, and the shepherds went back to the not-so new.

On the other hand, they didn’t just return. They returned “glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard.” The newness of Christmas rippled through them and transformed their post-Christmas lives, so that they were never the same again. Christmas ended, but

the Christmas joy remained. The joy filled the shepherds and spilled over and made all their normals new.

God’s Christmas gift to us is that same rippling joy, joy we carry with us into 2022 and beyond. Our living Savior “returns” with us, and our normal will never be normal again!

Merry Christmas!

~~Pastor Dave



\*December 5 – Christmas Choir

\*December 19 -our children’s Sunday School will share.

\*December 19 concert – Hopeful Blues and Doxology Ensemble (afternoon time to be announced)

\*December 24 - a service of Lessons & Carols and candle lighting.



## Fellowship meal

Can you believe it? Our last fellowship meal was in January 2019. So it is with great joy that we are all invited to join together for a meal following the congregational spending plan meeting on December 5. Please bring food to share AND sign up on the bulletin board so the appropriate numbers of tables and chairs can be set up.

*Bits & Pieces* \*\*\*Jon Pinkerton (son of Randy and Joanna) married Abigail Martinez on October 2, 2021. Jon has been accepted into the doctorate programs for digital humanities and English literature at Lille University in Lille, France and Kent University in Canterbury England. Jon, Abby and their dog Bo plan to move to France in January, 2022. Currently Abby is a social worker in the Pando Initiative that serves underprivileged children in USD 259. Jon will be digitalizing the ancient manuscripts of Christopher Marlow including commentary, footnotes, and cross-references. His educational tour will be 3 years in Europe.



**The Craft Bazaar committee had fun considering options for our 2021 bazaar.** Because of the yet unsettled situation with Covid cases, we decided it was in everyone's best interest to offer an alternative to our usual bazaar format this year. Although this year turned out to be a lot of fun, we are SO looking forward to next year when we *believe, hope, pray, and plan* we will get to finally celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup>!

So, to try to keep everyone safe, we offered a couple of alternative opportunities this year. Like last year, Leona and Byron again made several batches of pre-rolled peppernut dough available for purchase. And like last year, these sold out! We also offered pre-ordered meals that consisted of a bowl of chicken noodle soup, a sausage sandwich, chips, and a piece of pie (cherry, dutch apple, or pecan). A total of 102 meals were "sold" by donation only – and the proceeds at this point total \$4,110 (include total of peppernut dough and meal donations). All proceeds will be split between Camp Mennoscah and Family Promise – unless gifts were designated for one or the other.

On a side-note...we heard from several people that some of the soup "smelled strange – but tasted fine". We tried to figure out the problem but couldn't find a consistent answer. We believe that the soup is safe to eat, but obviously if you have any concerns, please discard it. We are chalking that up to one of the strange mysteries of the universe – and hoping to do a chicken noodle soup re-do after the first of the year to ease this disappointment! J

A special thanks to our committee: Leona Adrian, Katie Chlumsky, Renetta Gooden, Emily Regehr, and Tiffany Regehr for the late-night Zoom meetings, the creative ideas, and helping to make this year's format work! Connie Luty and Laurie Regehr, Coordinators

## HOPE FRIENDS NEWS

Due to the low number of people attending & supporting our Hope Friends meals, Care & Nurture has decided to take a spring hiatus. Hope will continue with choir and youth group on Wednesdays, but there will be no meals offered. The meal option will be reevaluated prior to next fall. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to a member of the commission, Heidi Johnson, Jan Worley, Lori Regier, Delaine Stolzie.

## Christmas with the Wichita Symphony Chorus

Friday, December 10 at 7:30 PM

University Congregational Church

9209 East 29th St N, Wichita, KS 67226

The Wichita Symphony Chorus is taking center stage!



Join us at University Congregational Church for a special concert of Christmas choral works, led by Wichita Symphony Chorus Director Dr. Ryan Beeken. This program weaves traditional holiday themes with yuletide gems from throughout history. Featuring members of the Wichita Symphony brass and percussion sessions, this concert is sure to bring some holiday cheer to the season! Tickets on sale now at <https://wichitasymphony.org/events/christmas-with-the-chorus> Seating is limited, so act fast. Our own, Rod Kremer, is a member of the chorus.

## SANDWICH SATURDAY 2021



The first Saturday of each month, Hope puts together 150 sack lunches and distributes them at St. John's Episcopal Church at 11:00 am. You are encouraged to consider putting together a group in 2022. The new signup sheet is on the bulletin board. A big thank you to the following people/groups who served in this ministry to the homeless in 2021 – Jim & Barb Voth (2), Randy & Shirlyn Graber, Andale High School FCA (2), Travis Cox, Thursday evening women's Bible study group, Bob Stolzie small group, Working Men of Christ, Bellar family and the Conway Springs National Honor Society, Hope's youth group. Hope partners with 7 other churches/groups for this ministry; Christ the King Lutheran, Cross of Glory Lutheran, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Pathway Church, Resurrection Lutheran, St James/St John's Episcopal, Good Shepherd Episcopal and the Ron Lewis/Haysville group. Hope and Pathway take one Saturday each month of the year, the others share Saturdays throughout the year.

December



## December Reminders...

### Scripture Reader

December 5-Mike V.  
December 12-Lori M.  
December 19-Marcus  
December 26-Randy P.

### Worship Leader

December 5-Renetta  
December 12-Renetta  
December 19-Marcus  
December 26-Lowell

### Pianist

December 5-Laurie  
December 12-Ruthie  
December 19-Vicki  
December 26-Amy

### Song Leader

December 5-Kendrick  
December 12-Jared S.  
December 19-Galen  
December 26-Lowell

### December Tech

Michelle J.

### Children's Story

December 5-Debbie  
December 12-Lori M.  
December 19-Annette

### SS Helper

Renetta

### Worship Prep

December 5-Cynthia  
December 12-Joanna  
December 19-Connie  
December 26-Lori M.

### Coffee

December 5-Epps  
December 12-Fasts  
December 19-Lutys  
December 26-No Coffee

### Greeters

December 5-Stolzles  
December 12- J&B Voth  
December 19-Maytas



# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wendy Wiens	2	3 Kyle Kasitz	4 Jerold Heide
5 Budget Meeting & Holiday meal	6 Pastor Dave	7	7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Women's Bible Study		Sandwich Saturday 8-11pm Reserved Event
 12	13 Byron & Leona Adrian	14		6:30pm Deacons	7:00pm Women's Bible Study	11
 19	20	21	15	16	17	18 Dianne Birkey
 26 David & Rita Schmidt	27 Dave & Lori Miller	28	22 Kathleen Lehman	23	24	25
			29 Jerold & Donna Heide	30	31	6:30pm Christmas Eve Service
						<p>Come let us Adore Him</p> 