

Hope Mennonite Church
November 23, 2025
9:30 am Worship

Gathering to Worship

*As we gather for worship, please silence all electronic devices.
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Open our ears,
to hear your word.
Open our eyes,
to see your presence.
Open our arms,
to the embrace of community.
Open our minds,
to the beauty of truth.
Open our hearts,
to the new of new life.

Opening Prayer

*Songs of Gathering

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Sing to the God of Harvest

#88

#122

Hearing God's Word

Time with children

Ruth Harder & Steve Pankratz

Invitation to the Pray-Ground

Touch the Earth Lightly

#145

Scripture reading with movement

Psalm 40:1-4

Message

What a Smorgasbord

Ruth Harder

Responding to God's Word

* *Come, Ye Thankful People*

#123

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting our Guests (Please pass the welcome registers)

Seeing and Seeking God
Work of the Church
Sharing our Praises and Concerns
Prayers of God’s People

Sending

**For the Fruit of All Creation* #124

*Benediction

* * * * *

*Stand as you are able

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us this morning in person or on Zoom. Today we conclude our series our Psalm 40 on Hope’s 40th and end the church year. The new church year begins on November 30, the first Sunday of Advent.

Worship Participants

Worship leader: Mike Voth, Katelyn Anderson
Pianist: Amy Bellar
Song leader: Steve Pankratz
Scripture reader: Connie Luty
Psalm 40 movement: Joanna Pinkerton
Worship tech: Galen Fast
Zoom host: Barb Voth

Upcoming Worship Services

December 7	Second Sunday of Advent
December 14	Third Sunday of Advent
	Children’s Christmas program during worship
December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	Christmas choir
	6:30 pm Longest Night service
December 24	6:30 pm Christmas Eve service

Stay in touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church
868 N. Maize Rd.
Wichita, KS 67212

phone 722-0903
fax 722-5173
www.hopemennonite.org

Pastor

Ruth Harder 913-333-2605 pastor@hopemennonite.org
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30-1:30pm
Afternoons by appointment

Secretaries

Cynthia Loganbill 721-8807 secretary@hopemennonite.org
Kim Voth 644-0668 secretary@hopemennonite.org

Church Office Hours

Cynthia Mon-Thurs 9-1:30pm
Kim Fri-9-1pm
Staff meeting Monday 9:30am

Hope on Facebook: Follow the link at hopemennonite.org and “like” Hope Mennonite Church to see pictures & updates on church life.

First Fruits: Giving the first and best of that we are given.

November 16

Attendance 141 (Hope 127; Zoom 14)

Offering - \$1,699

Hope Year to date \$206,473

2025 Spending Plan commitment \$280,000

*Hope offers an electronic option of giving through **Tithely**.
Contact church office for instructions*

Our Purpose: As an Anabaptist community of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit, Hope Mennonite Church is calling and making disciples who **bring** Christ's love and peace to our world.

Hope Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

We believe all people are created in God's image and we covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we seek to follow Jesus. We gather around God's table as an open and affirming congregation, embracing all people to full participation in the life and ministry of our church regardless of age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, gender identity, citizenship, ability, ethnicity, or any other factor subject to discrimination or exclusion in our world. We recognize and give thanks for the diverse opinions among us and are united as we strive to model a community of faith offering justice, peace, love, and compassion in the name of Christ.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK (November 23-29)

Wednesday -9 am Newsletter articles due

Thur/Friday -Office closed



*Toddler & Preschool (ages 2-4): Room 8/9

*Younger elementary (K-1st): Room 2

*Older elementary(2nd-5th): Room 7

*Youth (middle & high school): Room 6

*Adults(sanctuary): Pastor Ruth will be leading one more Sunday on our congregational priorities.

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Annette Chlumsky



NURSERY (infant up to 5th birthday)

Today: Shelby & Tyler Kaufman

Next Sunday: Donovan & Laurie Regehr

December 7: Taylor & Kevin Sechrist

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (November 30-December 6)

Sunday -Family Hosting week

Tuesday -1 pm Women's Bible study

-10 am Fellowship Hall Christmas decorating

Wednesday -7 pm Choir

Saturday -Sandwich Saturday

* * * * *

Guests & visitors last Sunday: Marie Brunet; Dave & Suzanne Krause; Stephanie & Jay Gehring; Joyce Albright; Doug Everingham; Kara & Caleb Wiens; Maria Newman; Blaire Mayhue & Matt Sticky, Kira & Owen

Thank you all for the many expressions of care we've received over the past couple of weeks. The prayers, flowers, donations, food, and kind words from our church family have truly been a blessing and a source of comfort to us. We're so grateful to be part of such a caring church family. Russ & Berni Ronnebaum

Calling all musicians children, youth and adults. You are invited to consider sharing a musical number during our Advent worship services November 30-December 7. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

The December-February issue of the devotional *Rejoice* is available on the front table. Pick up your copy today.

We wish to thank Travis Cox for his leadership with Family Promise over the last few years. We always relied on Travis to fill vacant spots and serve our families. He will be stepping down but will continue as a volunteer. We are grateful that Elizabeth Anderson has stepped up to take Travis' place as one of our five coordinators for the Hope/Aldersgate team. Thank you, Elizabeth!

We are in the middle of our sign-up for Family Promise. Our hosting week will be November 30 - December 7. If you are a trained volunteer, please look at your email from Vicki to sign up. If you would like to be trained to serve with Family Promise, please see Vicki Howard, Marcus Loganbill or Elizabeth Anderson who can give you the necessary information. If you would like to "try out" a stint at serving prior to training, we can also arrange that during our hosting week.

Thank you to Chris and Amy Bellar, Greg Shelly-Unruh, Karin Koch, Donovan Regehr, Jared Regehr, Dave Miller, Marcus Loganbill, and Randy Pinkerton for their work at the retreat center at Camp Mennoscah on Saturday, November 15. PTAC units were placed in all rooms. A coat of primer was completed in all rooms. Escaped hatches and grates are close to completion. Seven other volunteers joined us to bring the retreat center several steps closer to completion. If you are interested in going out to camp to volunteer at any time, please see Marcus.

Witness and Outreach is again partnering with Wichita's HumanKind Ministries Operation Holiday to gather **non-perishable food, winter accessories, and kid's/teen's coats-2T to adult 2XL** (new or gently used). You will find collection boxes by the Witness and Outreach bulletin board for your donated items. The boxes will be turned in after Sunday, December 7th. You can also donate time by helping out with the "prep crew" or "distribution crew" as they prepare and later distribute the collected items to Wichita families. All of the volunteer information can be found at <https://www.humankindwichita.org> and clicking on the "Events" tab where you will find "volunteer at OH"

We are very excited to have 4 Sundays during Advent for a fun, unusual Adult Sunday School experience entitled, "Jesus Didn't Want Us to Act Like Adults." So, you are invited to join us on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 to take a break from adulting and revisit childhood for one hour each week during Advent. Jesus called us to a childlike faith, and it was obvious that he held children in very high esteem during his ministry. Although acting "childish" often gets a bad name, being "childlike" is a life of unconditional love, unending grace, and an almost irrational capacity for joy, fun, creativity, compassion, generosity, and forgiveness. So come on. Let your inner child be honored during this Advent season and join us! Come for one Sunday or all of them – it won't matter. We promise you'll enjoy the break from your adult life! Laurie Regehr and Amy Bellar

On December 2, Justice Together will request the Wichita City Council to include an Affordable Housing Fund investment as part of the proposed 1 cent sale that will be on the Spring 2016 ballot. This tax would raise \$115 million annually. This is our one shot to secure a dedicated \$10 million each year for the Wichita Affordable Housing Fund.

Here are a couple action steps you can take to help this effort:

- Learn more & sign up: tinyurl.com/wichitahousingaction
- Contact your City Council member
- Send a preprinted post card to Mayor Wu
- Pick up a flyer with more information & ideas
- ATTEND THE PRAYER VIGIL OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 8:30 AM ON DEC. 2

Postcards to Mayor Wu and flyers are available on the literature table between the mailboxes. (Note: Justice Together Network members will find them in their mailboxes).

Give back on Giving Tuesday at Mennonite Central Committee, Dec. 2 from 6:30-8PM! Bring your kids, grandkids, and friends to MCC (121 E. 30th St, North Newton) for a fun evening of packing hygiene kits for MCC! Giving Tuesday is a casual, come-and-go, all-ages event. Pack hygiene kits, tie comforters, make a cardboard comforter block craft, and enjoy snacks. Kick off your holiday shopping by picking gifts for your friends and family from the MCC Christmas Giving Guide. Find out more at mcc.org/giving-Tuesday.

Prayers for the wider church

... Give thanks for generous financial contributions that support Western District Conference congregations and our shared ministry within WDC.

... Last month, heavy rains caused landslides that wiped out villages in India and Nepal. Pray for Mission Network partners and all who are responding to families who lost loved ones and life's necessities.



There is a plate of dried, non-artificial olive branches in the Pastor's office. That's because for many, olive branches are a symbol of peace and reconciliation, made possible by and in God. Extending an olive branch to a person or to a cause is intended to be a gesture toward that end—a wish to end discord and bring greater peace and well-being.

We can all think of relationships, systems, and realities that could use an olive branch—or two or three, or better yet, a whole tree. We long for leaves and gestures that can heal the hurting places within our lives and world. Sometimes we need help and encouragement when extending or receiving olive branches.

To that end, Pastor Ruth will offer periodic olive branch opportunities (see other side). This won't be an exhaustive list (there is no such thing), nor will she assume these opportunities are ones everyone can get behind in the same way. Pastor Ruth will curate these opportunities with prayer and in consultation with other leaders at Hope Mennonite, keeping our Hope Vision and Values in mind. May these olive branch opportunities become avenues for us live out our welcome and inclusion statement with greater awareness, vitality, tools, and courage.



Olive branch opportunity-November 23, 2025

Our Hope Mennonite Church Immigration Compassion Team (ICT) has drafted a first-ever Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) Response Plan for Hope Mennonite. Hope Vision Council, after another round of reviews, will distribute this draft soon, along with a cover letter, so that everyone has a chance to learn and offer feedback before a congregational vote at the end of January 2026. In addition, Abraham Diaz Alonso, Immigration Program Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee, has been conducting virtual and in-person trainings on the topic of "Faith in Action: Building Prepared Churches - Responding to ICE and Protecting our Communities". **The next opportunity is a virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 25 from 6-8pm. Please consider registering.**

<https://mcc.org/events/building-prepared-churches-responding-ice-and-protecting-our-communities>

From MCC website:

"Our churches are called to be places of peace, welcome, and safety for all. Yet, with recent changes to immigration enforcement policies, faith communities are facing new challenges in protecting and accompanying immigrant neighbors.

MCC's Immigration Network invites you to a special **two-hour virtual training** designed to help your church understand immigration enforcement, know your legal rights as a faith community, and develop a plan of action in case immigration agents show up at or near your church community.

Through this training, church leaders will: Learn what "sensitive locations" are and how immigration enforcement policies have changed; Explore how to create a church response plan and understand your rights under the law; Reflect on how our faith calls us to respond with courage, hospitality, and solidarity.