

Hope Mennonite Church  
December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent  
9:30 am Worship

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

Prelude

Advent Welcome

Lighting the candle of Peace      *Tender Mercies* arr. Treva Greaser  
All sing refrain and verse one in unison  
Men sing verse 2 in 3 parts  
All sing refrain in parts

*\*O Come, O Come, Immanuel (vs. 1,5,6,7)* #210

Hearing God's Word
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Time with children

Scripture collage

*Comfort, Comfort, O My People* #212

Message      *Herold the not so great*      Ruth Harder

Responding to God's Word
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*\*My Soul Cries Out* #412

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

Prayer of God's People

## Sending

*\*It Came upon a Midnight Clear (vs 1,3,4,5)*

#248

\*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. We are in the season of Advent. Our theme this year is “Hanging on by a thread: Place, power, people, and promise.” *Tender Mercies* is our 2025 Advent theme song. Please leave the copies in the sanctuary during this season.

### Worship Participants

Worship leader: Kendal Warkentine

Pianist: Brad Anderson

Song leader: Lowell Birkey

Scripture reader: Greg Shelly-Unruh

Time with children: Grace Parker Sutter

Candlelighters: Ryan, Brenda, Oaty Henneberg

Worship tech: Scott Luty

Zoom host: Brenda Glanzer Lilliston

### Upcoming Worship Services

December 14	Third Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas program during worship
December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas choir 5:30 pm Longest Night service (time change)
December 24	5:30 pm Christmas Eve service (time change)



## Stay in touch with Hope

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

phone 722-0903  
fax 722-5173  
[www.hopemennonite.org](http://www.hopemennonite.org)

### Pastor

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

### Secretaries

Cynthia Loganbill 721-8807 [secretary@hopemennonite.org](mailto:secretary@hopemennonite.org)  
Kim Voth 644-0668 [secretary@hopemennonite.org](mailto: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](http://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 30

Attendance 114 (Hope 97; Zoom 17)

Offering - \$2,509

Hope Year to date \$215,357

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 (December 7-13)

Today -4 pm Congregational meeting on Zoom

Wednesday -8:30 am Coffee with Friends (women)

The Gathering Place, 205 West Wichita, Colwich, KS  
(contact Annette Chlumsky regarding carpooling)

-7 pm Choir



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

\*Younger elementary (K-1<sup>st</sup>): Room 2

\*Older elementary(2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>): Room 7

\*Youth (middle & high school): Room 6

\*Adults(sanctuary): "Jesus didn't want us to act like adults" led by Amy Bellar & Laurie Regehr. Come take a break from adulting and revisit childhood for one hour each week in December. Let your inner child be honored during this Advent season

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Travis & Charity Cox



NURSERY (infant up to 5<sup>th</sup> birthday)

Today: Taylor & Kevin Sechrist

Next Sunday: Clinton & Katie Chlumsky

December 21: Ben & Grace Parker Sutter

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 14-20)

Monday -5 pm Reserved Event

Wednesday -7 pm Choir

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Guests & visitors last Sunday: Alex & Alexis Epp; Joel McFadden; Emma Graber, Corbin Graber, Andrew Graber, Emma Hochstetler; Todd & Claire Zehner

Hopeful Brews (our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary special blend coffee) is available for purchase, 1 lb.\$20, at the kitchen window.

The plaque is BACK!! Thank you to everyone who volunteered with Family Promise this past week. We served four families throughout the week. Hope had 22 volunteers filling 42 positions. The final official score was 40 for Hope, 32 for Aldersgate. The Wesley-Simons Volunteer Plaque returns to Hope!! The competition continues. Our next hosting will be March 8 -15, 2026.

The December issue of *Anabaptist World* is available on the front table. There are a number of Advent articles and so much more. Pick up a copy today.

Congregational Meeting Please join Vision Council **this afternoon** at 4:00 p.m. for a virtual congregation meeting. The purpose is to introduce items that will be voted upon at the January annual meeting. The agenda will include a draft of the 2026 budget, review of open commission positions, Immigration Detention Response Plan, and one bylaw change. The meeting will last approximately one hour. Join the session by clicking the livestream link at [hopemennonite.org](http://hopemennonite.org).

**Christmas poinsettias.** One of Hope's traditions is to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias, purchased by Hope members to celebrate a loved one. Since we don't have room for them with our current renovation, Worship Commission is changing the tradition this year. You may send the \$10 to purchase a poinsettia to the church office with the name of your loved one, and we'll send the \$10 donation to MCC for their immigration programs. Please have your donation and loved one's name(s) to the church office by December 17.

You are invited to our Longest Night Service, Sunday, December 21 at 5:30 pm. This service is designed to offer a place to honor the sense of loss many people feel at this time of the year. Taking place on the evening of the winter solstice, we will use the imagery of the long cold night and provide a place to ponder and reflect with others who are experiencing their own grief. The grief may be fresh; it may be old; it may stem from the death of a loved one or any other loss that makes you feel "out of synch" with those around you. The service will feature reflective music, scripture, brief mediation, and the lighting of candles. Come alone or come with friends.

We will be resurrecting Hope's Men's Breakfast beginning in January. Marcus Loganbill is collecting information to help decide where & when to meet. If you are interested, you will find a questionnaire in your mailbox or on the literature table. Fill it out and return it to Marcus' box by Sunday, December 14. If you have any questions OR if you will not be in church to get the questionnaire, call, text or email him for the questionnaire.

## Prayers for the wider church

...Give thanks for musicians, artists, poets, prophets, pastors and preachers whose gifts enrich Western District Conference congregations' worship and witness during the Advent season.

... New Service Adventure leaders are needed for the units that will begin in August 2026. Pray that those whom God is calling to fill these positions will say yes to a two-year term of mentoring young adults in their faith journeys.



## **Olive branch opportunity-December 7, 2025\***

From Hope Witness and Outreach Commission:  
Thank you for the donated Operation Holiday items collected so far! These boxes will be turned in after worship today. There is still time to donate TIME helping with preparations and distributions.

**To volunteer your time, take these steps.**

Go to <http://www.humankindwichita.org>

Click on the Yellow Get Involved Tab and then find and click on Volunteer. This should take you to a page that looks like this.



HumanKind Ministries

Operation Holiday Prep Crew



HumanKind Ministries

Operation Holiday spirit of giving distribution crew

\*Olive branches have become symbols 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. So many relationships, systems, and realities could use an olive branch—or two or three, or better yet, a whole tree. Sometimes we need help and encouragement when extending or receiving olive branches. To that end, we will offer periodic olive branch opportunities. 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 help 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 to live out our welcome and inclusion statement with greater awareness, vitality, tools, and courage.