

Hope Mennonite Church
December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
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

Advent Welcome

Lighting the candle of joy *Tender Mercies* arr. Treva Greaser

**Blesse'd Be the God of Israel* #223

Hearing God's Word

Who's who of Advent

Wisdom from on High is Dawning #238

**Angels we have heard on High* #249

"Prince of Peace"

Luke 2:1-18

Hudson Regehr, Amelia Koop

Prince of Peace

All children

I Will Shine Amelia & Zoya Koop, Logan Regehr, Ellie Chlumsky

Little Star

All children

Candy cane gifts

Joy to the World #240

Responding to God's Word

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Silent Night

Laurie & Hudson Regehr

Away in a Manger Ruthie Goering & Logan Regehr

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

**Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee*

#215

*Benediction

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*You are welcome to stand

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.” Today the focus is on the precarious ensemble of people gathering around Jesus’ birth (then and now). *Tender Mercies* is our 2025 Advent theme song. Please leave the song copies in the sanctuary.

Worship Participants

Worship leader: Connie Luty

Pianist: Ruthie Goering

Song leader: Adam Kroeker

Scripture reader: Kendal Warkentine

Candlelighters: David & Rita Schmidt

Musicians: Jesse Graber, Rod Kremer, Leon Greaser

Worship tech: Mike Voth

Zoom host: Lee Schmucker

Hope children: Amelia & Zoya Koop; Hudson, Haydon, Holden

Regehr; Ellie & Owen Chlumsky; Simeon Parker Sutter; Logan,

Landon, Leyton Regehr

Directors: Laurie Regehr, Ruthie Goering

Upcoming Worship Services

December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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
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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.

December 7

Attendance 132 (Hope 123; Zoom 9)

Offering - \$17,706

Hope Year to date \$233,062

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 14-20)

Monday -5 pm Reserved event fellowship hall
-5:30 pm Choir Caroling at Spring Manor-
Conway Springs
Wednesday -7 pm Choir



*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): "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 – Marcus & Cynthia Loganbill
--Any volunteers for December 28?



NURSERY (infant up to 5th birthday)
Today: Clinton & Katie Chlumsky
Next Sunday: Ben & Grace Parker Sutter
December 28: Jordon & Emily Regehr

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 21-27)

Sunday -5:30 pm Longest Night service
Monday -4-10 pm Reserved event fellowship hall
Tuesday -noon – 2 pm Library
January newsletter articles due
Wednesday -5:30 pm Christmas Eve service
Thursday -office closed
Saturday -12:30-4 pm Reserved event fellowship hall

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Guests & visitors last Sunday: Marty & Hannah Malotte; Angelo Aldridge; Ken & Evelyn Anderson; Jeff & Julie Frady

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

Pastor Ruth will be out of the office December 16, 17, & 23.

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 Mennonite Central Committee 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 sync" with those around you. The service will feature reflective music(dulcimer, violin), scripture, brief meditation, and the lighting of candles. Come alone or come with friends.

Work continues on the retreat center at Camp Mennoscah. Thank you to all who have worked these past two weekends. We will now rely on Tom Gaeddert's email notices. Individuals can join in the work as you are able. If you are receiving Tom's emails and no longer wish to be on the list, or if you are perhaps NOT on the list, but wish to be, please let Marcus Loganbill know, and he will make the requested additions or deletions. Tom will be sending regular notices regarding workdays, and specifics on scheduled projects.

Today is the deadline for filling out a questionnaire to have input regarding time and location for Hope Men's Breakfast beginning in January. Check your box for information or see Marcus Loganbill. Specifics will come out late next week.

Prayers for the wider church

...– Pray for chaplains and pastors in Western District Conference who accompany others and provide care and support during the Christmas season, in the midst of joy and celebration and also in the face of pain and suffering.

Sharing Prayers & Praise
Week of December 7, 2025

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Work of the Church

- * Marcus Loganbill thanked the congregation for their ministry with Family Promise this past week. It went very well.
- * Care and Nurture has sent up a small tree in the fellowship hall with ornaments that name different Mennonite Central Committee projects during this Christmas season. Consider a gift toward one or more of these projects.



Olive branch opportunity-December 14, 2025*

Today our Olive Branch Highlight is more relational in focus.

Human relationships—in our families, at our work or volunteer assignments, with friends and neighbors, among strangers, and within faith circles can often be, as Charles Dickens’ famously wrote, “the best of times and the worst of times.”

And holidays can often bring out the best and worst in us, sometimes simultaneously.

As Glennon Doyle reminds us, "Our families are often where our roles are most deeply entrenched. Are you the “free spirited, flighty, irresponsible” one? Are you the “detail-oriented, boring, responsible” one? Are you the hippie? The clown? The scapegoat?...Notice that no matter how much progress you make during the year, the second you walk into your home, you might feel eight years old. So does everybody else! We all do! No problem!"

Doyle goes on to say that within families (and beyond), there is often so many attempts to fix, criticize, persuade, cajole, judge, disapprove, and lobby. Can we, she asks, stop trying to change others LONG ENOUGH to see them for who they are, here and now?

Maybe, just maybe, we will learn to find some beauty in each of their characters. How? Her suggestion is that we all pick up a box of our favorite hot tea this week.

"We keep our mug filled all day tomorrow and every time our hands feel the warmth of that mug, we remember: I am loved, I am loved,

I am loved. I am whole and beloved and I will bring my worth into this day with me and carry it out of this day with me. My worth and belovedness are not given or taken, proven or disproved by a mother or father or an in-law or a friend."

If we start each day confident of our status as a beloved creation of God, Glennon says, maybe we will see everyone else in our family as a beloved creation of God.

Feel free to bring this mug of hot tea to our evening gathering on Sunday, December 21, at 5:30 pm. During this Longest Night Service, we will acknowledge and pray for the estranged, injurious, complex relationships of our day.

And if you are not among those who have difficult relationships, come and support the rest who do. Let's extend olive branches where we can, reaching out to one another as we navigate the best of times or worst of times.

*Olive branches are 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. To that end, we will offer periodic olive branch opportunities. 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.