

Hope Mennonite Church  
December 21, 2025  
Fourth 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 love

*Tender Mercies* (vs. 1-4)

*\*Love Came Down at Christmas*

#255

Hearing God's Word

Time with Children

Scripture reading

Luke 1: 57-80

*\*Helpless and Hungry/What Child is This*

#268/267

Message

*Tender Mercies*

Ruth Harder

Responding to God's Word

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Shawn Kirchner

Choir

*Brightest and Best* arr. Shawn Kirchner

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

\**To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

#259

\*Choral benediction     *Silent Night* arr. Shawn Kirchner

Choir

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*

\*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 precarious promises.** *Tender Mercies* is our 2025 Advent theme song. Please leave the song copies in the sanctuary.

### Worship Participants

Worship leader: Connie Luty

Pianist: Laurie Regehr

Song leader & choir director: Trae Gehring

Scripture reader & children's time: Natalie Regehr

Candlelighter: John Koontz

Hopeful Blues: Laurie Regehr, Leon Greaser, Rod Kremer, Galen

Fast, Eldon Chlumsky

Worship tech: Michelle Jantz

Zoom host: Kendal & Marjie Warkentine

### Upcoming Worship Services

December 21     5:30 pm Longest Night service

December 24     5:30 pm Christmas Eve service

December 28     First Sunday of Christmas

No Sunday school



## 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.

December 14

Attendance 128 (Hope 119; Zoom 9)

Offering - \$30,059

Hope Year to date \$263,121

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 21-27)

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



\*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.

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Scott & Connie Luty



NURSERY (infant up to 5<sup>th</sup> birthday)  
Today: Ben & Grace Parker Sutter  
Next Sunday: Jordon & Emily Regehr  
January 4: Greg & Leah Shelly-Unruh

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 28-January 3)

Thursday -Office closed  
Saturday -Sandwich Saturday (we need 10 dozen cookies)

\* \* \* \* \*

Guests & visitors last Sunday: Bonnie Kaufman; Mike & Connie Kaufman; Noah, Braydon, Isaiah Guerra; Rod & Amy Kliwer; Cleo Koop

Hopeful Brews (our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary special blend coffee) is available for purchase, 1 lb.\$20, at the kitchen window. There are only 12 bags left.

Camp Mennoscah has asked their partner churches to participate in a matching funds challenge to finish the remodeling of the retreat center. We have an individual willing to provide \$5,000 as a match. You are invited to donate to this match with the hope of raising a total of \$10,000 for camp by March 2026. Check written to Hope with Camp Mennoscah in the memo line.

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.

You are invited to our Christmas Eve service this Wednesday at 5:30 pm. We will join in scripture and song for our annual Lessons & Carols candlelight service.

Thank you to Adam Kroeker for sharing his painting with us this morning. Adam's inspiration came the musical composition *Stars* by Eriks Esenvald which was based on a poem by Sara Teasdale of the same name.

Hope Mennonite Men are invited to our first Men's Breakfast meeting at the **Egg Crate Cafe**, 8606 W. 13th Street North at **7:00 am** on **Wednesday, January 7**. We will have a separate room reserved on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of the month (January-March) when they open at 7:00 am. At that time, we will determine if we wish to make any changes. All men are welcome to join us on any given Wednesday. There is no need to make contact with anyone or reserve a space. We realize this is not convenient for individuals who go to work early. However, if you have a free morning or have a flexible schedule, join us any time you are able. The Egg Crate Cafe is in the center across from Northwest High School.

Thank you to everyone who has worked these past two weekends at the retreat center at Camp Mennoscah. We will now rely on Tom Gaeddert's email notices regarding work days. The camp welcomes workers most any day and time, if you arrange things ahead of time. 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 know, or email Tom directly. Tom Gaeddert's email is [tmgaeddert@gmail.com](mailto:tmgaeddert@gmail.com).



## COMMEMORATIVE POINSETTIAS

- \*Cindy & Galen Fast – In honor of Gene Kliewer (Cindy's dad)
- \*Ruthie Goering – In honor of Lenora Gehring (Ruthie's mom)
- \*Steve & Vicki Howard – In memory of Marvin & Annetta Howard (Steve's parents). "Your love remains with us today." In memory of Dave Stevens. "Thank you for the blessings you shared."
- \*Cynthia & Marcus Loganbill – In memory of Arley Loeffler (a dear family friend)
- \*Joanna & Randy Pinkerton – In memory of Judy and Fred Pinkerton (Randy's parents); Edna and Ellis Gerber (Joanna's parents); In honor of Rory Pax Miller (grandson)

### Prayers for the wider church

... Give thanks for all Western District Conference congregations as they celebrate the birth of Jesus and embody the light of Christ in their communities and the world.

... Praise God for how Laura (former Hope member) and Nick Sharp and their children are adapting to life at the Colegio Americano Menno (CAM, American Mennonite School) in Colombia. Pray for them as they assist in teaching English, physical education and music classes at CAM and as they teach one day each week in a rural one-room school

... On Christmas Day, pray for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray especially for Mission Network partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — that faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace in a time of violence and great devastation in Israel-Palestine.

### Sharing Prayers & Praise

Week of December 14, 2025

- \* It was good to see Sharon Pankratz in church following her brief hospitalization last week.

Choir text – *Brightest and Best*

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator  
down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,  
lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Chorus: Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom and off'rings divine.  
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?