



Matthew 2:1-15 • illustratedministry.com

January 4, 2026

Epiphany: Courageous Defiance

First Mennonite Church

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

One: We gather together in this place:

All: **prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**

One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

All: **we who dare to dream God's dream.**

One: We listen with Joseph,

All: **guided by faith and dreams.**

One: In fear or in flight,

All: **God is our refuge.**

One: By the light of a star,

All: **God guides us on the way.**

One: Come and worship, all you who dream and imagine.

All: **We have come to wonder and praise.**

Prayer

HYMN O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem VT 275

Lighting the Peace Lamp & Praying for Peace

Fellowship Greeting (stand to share the peace of Christ with others)

HYMN *See Whose Glory Fills the Skies* VT 274

Christ Candle Lighting

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Character Narrative – Joseph

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-15 and Exodus 1:8-2:10

Sermon

Music for Meditation ... *Behold that Star* (Arr. Mark Hayes; Music by Thomas W. Talley)

Receiving Star Words

You are invited to draw a "Star Word" randomly from the baskets as they are passed. These words are offered as spiritual invitations – gentle, meaningful words to help guide our hearts and actions throughout the year. As the star guided the magi to Jesus, we pray these words will also draw us closer to Jesus throughout the year. The basket with the handle has Star Words especially for younger children.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer (VT 989B with 'sins')

One: Gracious One,

All: in your mercy, hear our prayers.

HYMN *To Us a Child of Hope is Born*

VT 259

Benediction

Postlude

If you need a hearing assist device, please ask at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

The Nursery is typically staffed with a volunteer care provider during worship (and Sunday School as needed). Children are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary! Worship bags with drawing/coloring materials are provided at the back of the sanctuary.

Ediger & Allen Yoder



Livestream: Joel Iwashige
Ushers: Kris Lindenberger & Marlene Thode
Nursery: TBA
Worship Leader: Santalena Caudillo
Song Leader: Magdalena Wenger
Pianist: Shelley Kauffman
Children's Time: Susan Combs
Christ Candle Lighting: Jean Gaeddert, Julie Goering
Character Narrative: Joel Iwashige
Scripture Reader: Iwashige's
Sermon & Prayers of the People: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

Reno County Food Bank donations for January: Peanut Butter

TODAY:

Text prayer requests to Pastor Tonya @ 620-513-2828

Offerings to support FMC mission and ministry are received in the offering box at the back, or on our website.

Fellowship time with drinks after worship in Common Grounds

No Sunday School today. Regular schedule resumes next Sunday, January 11.

NEXT SUNDAY, January 11 we'll pick up the Narrative Lectionary which invites us into an extended journey through the Gospel of John, leading up to our Easter celebration on April 5.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Jan 7 – Confessional Bible Study, 6:30-8:00pm (RSVP to Pastor Tonya if possible!)

- Jan 12 – Craft Night, 6:30-8:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- Jan 21 – Congregational Ministry Team and Coordination Teams meet, 6:30pm
- Jan 24 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen

Sun., Jan. 18-Mon., Jan. 19 – Bethel College and Hesston College, with Newton Community for Racial Justice and the Newton Public Library, will collaborate to celebrate the annual Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Jan. 18, 3 p.m., Hesston Mennonite Church: concert featuring Bethel College Concert Choir, Hesston College Bel Canto Singers, Central Kansas Master Chorale, and Roz McCommon and her band; Jan. 19, 8 a.m., Bontrager Student Center at Hesston College, prayer breakfast with local clergy; Jan. 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., escape room with clues based on Dr. King's life and work, sponsored by NCRJ at the Newton Public Library; Jan. 19, 6 p.m., Memorial Hall at Bethel College, listening event for Dr. King's 1960 speech at Bethel; Jan. 19, 7 p.m., program in Mem Hall with Roz McCommon, Bethel choirs, HC Bel Canto Singers and Bethel orchestra.

Read THIS WEEK @ FMC posted at hutchfmc.org on Tuesdays for more announcements, opportunities for sharing and serving, resources to support your personal growth, and events to celebrate this season of hope.



Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

Phone: 620-662-9385

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-2pm; Wed 12-3pm

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Pastor Jim Unruh: jhunruh.ju@gmail.com

Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Joy Miller: joy@hutchfmc.org