

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

### **Class:**

Early Childhood (Ages 0-3 years)..... Parents  
Preschool (Ages 3-5 years)..... Evie Shellenberger, Patsy H, Crescencia N  
Primary (Grades 1-3)..... Veronika Sukup & Andrew Blount  
Middler (Grades 4, 5, & 6)..... Jim Beachy & Marlene Beachy  
Junior High (Grades 7&8)..... Jamey Sullivan, Aaron Johnson, Bonnie B.  
Youth (Grades 9-12)..... Matt Pfleiderer

### **Teachers:**

**Adult Class:** Bible study on “Acts of Worship” using passages from Psalms, Daniel, and the NT.

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, let us worship in faith the God who is here and desires our worship.  
Let us invite the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, so that our worship will be filled  
with the joy that comes from remembering God's splendor.

All: *Oh, that you would reveal your joy to us, O Lord!*

Leader: Let our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. Let us celebrate the year of the Lord's favor;  
a time of comfort for those who mourn.

**People: There will be beauty instead of ashes, cloaks of praise instead of spirits of despair.**

Leader: Cities of renewal instead of devastation.

**People: The Mighty One has done great things for us; Holy is God's name.**

Leader: God's mercy extends to those who honor him from generation to generation.

All: *The Lord will wrap us in robes of righteousness.  
Come, O God, and clothe us in garments of salvation.*

### **FOR PRAYER**

This week, remember in prayer all our college students – Logan, Sophie, Lacey, and Hannah – as they prepare for and take final exams in the days ahead. May they have calmness, confidence and joy even as they face end-of-semester stresses.

Pray that God would sustain and comfort those who are living with cancer, including: Sarah W., Mickey Lewellyn, Donald Parsons, and Pam Guess.

Pray for the artisans in developing countries who create the products that are sold in Ten Thousand Villages stores across North America ([www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com)). Give thanks and pray for the many volunteers who run the stores. Praise God for the opportunities this fair-trade business venture provides for artisans to earn a living.

# PAOLI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

**December 14 2014**

*We welcome all persons  
to worship, study and fellowship with us as we continually  
seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus.*



**Oh, that you would reveal your joy**

**Focus:** *In a world of grief and despair God's Spirit clothes us in celebration.*

### **Gathering to Worship**

Gathering Song: Hope is a candle - SS 15, verse 1, 2 & 4  
Welcome and introductions  
Call to Worship (see back of bulletin)  
Lighting the Advent candles  
Confession (see insert) – Come and fill our hearts – SJ 59

### **Singing Our Faith**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming – H 211  
It came upon a midnight clear – H 195  
My Soul Cries Out – SS 124

**Opportunities for Generosity** - Special giving for December to Life Family Resource Center

### **Hearing and Experiencing God's Word**

Children's time  
Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (see insert)  
Luke 1: 46-55; John 1:6-8, 19-28  
Meditation

### **Responses**

**Sharing joy and concerns / intercessory prayer**

### **Announcements**

**Sending song:** Joy to the world – H 318

### **Benediction**

**PASTOR-ELDER TEAM**

Rebecca Kauffman, Pastor 653-4140  
Matt Pflederer, Pastor 653-4131  
Mary Beth Gibbons 723-2723  
Ted Larrison 723-3826

**MINISTERS**

All the congregation

**CHURCH OFFICE**

**Pastors:** Rebecca Kauffman; Office Hours - Tues 9-4, Wed 9-1, Thurs 1-5  
Matt Pflederer; Office Hours – Mon, 1-3 pm, Tues, Wed, Fri. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Secretary:** Deb Giles; Office Hours – Wed. and Fri. 9:00 am – 12:00 noon  
**Phone:** (812) 723-2414; **Fax:** (812) 723-3515 **email:** mennos.paoli@gmail.com  
**Address:** 2589 N. CR 100 W., Paoli, IN 47454

**OUR COVENANT**

In covenanting together, we affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord. We gratefully acknowledge him as our Lord and accept his teaching as the way to live. We recognize the importance of:

- Regular Bible study, worship with others, and prayer as a vital part of our Christian life.
- Taking each other seriously, contributing our gifts and caring for one another in love to strengthen the Christian body.
- Living and sharing the Good News as Christ has taught us and as the Holy Spirit enables.

**TODAY**

Can a follower of Jesus experience any joy knowing of Christian persecutions, innocents being killed, girls and women being sexually assaulted, wars, refugees, racial minorities feeling threatened and oppressed, ravaging of the environment? Is there any reason for hope and joy that the will of God will be done on earth as in heaven?

Final practice for the children’s Christmas program following Sunday school. All children in the preschool, primary and middler classes are asked to be present.

**NEXT SUNDAY**

Longest Night Service: at 7 p.m. During this busy Advent season you are invited to participate in our Longest Night service which gives voice to our own losses and to the grief and loss experienced by others. Please reach out to others in our community who you know are dealing with loss and invite them. This service will include scripture readings, prayer, silence, music and the lighting of candles. It is a time to experience the call of Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

**This Week**

Mon. Dec. 15, 7:00 pm, PCRC  
Thur. Dec 18, 2:00 pm, PET  
Fri., Dec. 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm – Children’s Christmas program. Invite a friend! You are invited to bring finger foods or cookies for our refreshment time following the service.

**UPCOMING**

Winter Youth Retreat at Amigo, Jan. 16-18.  
Sunday, Jan. 25, Covenant service.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Note a **new cell phone** number for Patsy Heinz: 812-416-1165.

“**Consider the Conversation**”, the DVD used in the adult education class recently, is available *for loan*. Find it and other **new resources** on aging, end of life, and grief on the Circle of Care resource shelf in the hall way.

**New in magazine rack:** Dec. issue of *The Mennonite*, and *The Marketplace* from Mennonite Economic Development Associates

The preschool Sunday school class is preparing **food boxes** to give to person(s) /families who are experiencing health problems. We would appreciate help from you in providing some of the food. We are looking for healthy items. We will collect the food for the next two Sundays. You may put the food in the wagon outside our class room. The children will assemble the boxes and help deliver them. Thank you!  
-the preschool class

It is time to update the **PMF address roster and participant information** for our files. I have put cards in your mail boxes and ask that you complete them and drop them in the box on the office door. I will need them by December 28. If you have any questions please let me know. Thank you, Deb.

This message is for everyone, but particularly for those who have or expect to have a life changing event such as finishing school, getting married, had a baby, changed jobs, retired, or death in the family. **Everence, the stewardship arm of the Mennonite Church** provides faith based advice, assistance, and products to meet your stewardship needs. To connect with this resource, contact your local Everence advocate, Wendell Lantz.

<p><b><u>TODAY</u></b> Dec. 14, 2014 (worship at 9:30)</p> <p><b>Oh, that you would reveal your mystery</b></p> <p>Worship Leader: Rebecca Kauffman Music Leader: Keith Gibbons Meditation: Ted Larrison Greeters: Giles Family Nursery: Sandi Sears/Luke Mosemann A.V.: Craig Bumbalough</p>	<p><b><u>NEXT SUNDAY</u></b> Dec. 21, 2014 (worship at 9:30)</p> <p><b>Oh, that you would reveal your mystery</b></p> <p>Worship Leader: Lonnie Sears Music Leader: Joanna and Dave Woodsmall Meditation: Rebecca Kauffman Greeters: Wendell Lantz/Doris Weaver Nursery: Cynthia Parsons/Dave Mullet AV: Craig Bumbalough</p>
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### Confession

Leader: Today in this safe but dark and holy place we become aware of your presence, oh God. Our thoughts turn to our congregation and the wider Anabaptist Mennonite church family.

**People: Our desire is to be a faithful church, but sometimes we've kept the riches of our faith and the joy of your salvation to ourselves.**

Leader: Sometimes we have refused to admit our weaknesses.  
Sometimes we have excluded the inquirer who has come to our door seeking faith.  
Sometimes we have been too quiet about the difference you make in our lives.  
Sometimes we've helped those far away but ignored those who are next door.  
Sometimes we have forgotten the joy of worshipping you.  
Hear our honest confessions, O God, and remember us in mercy.

**People: Restore to us the joy of being your transformed people.**

**All: Restore our joy, O God Almighty; let your face shine, that we may be saved.** (Time of Silence)

**Song:** Come and fill our hearts with your joy.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your joy.  
Alleluia.

### Assurance

Leader: The Lord has done great things in and through his church, and has bestowed rich blessings on us, his Anabaptist people.

**People: Thank you God, that when we place our lives into your hands, you willingly transform our timid hearts with your infectious joy.**

### Scripture reading: Isaiah 61:10-11

**All:** I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

*Men: as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,*

*Women: and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.*

**All:** For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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