

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

### **Class:**

Early Childhood (Ages 0-3 years).....	Parents
Primary (Ages 3- 1st) .....	Crystal Shellenberger & Stori Sullivan
Middler (Grades 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5th) .....	Veronika Sukup & Bonnie Beachy
Junior High (Grades 6, 7 & 8) .....	Andrew Blount & Darlene Larrison
Youth (Grades 9-12).....	Evie Shellenberger & Phil Minerger

### **Teachers:**

**Adult Class:** “Dig In” – 13 Scriptures to help us know the way

### Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine; your light has come!

**People: God’s glory has risen upon us.**

Leader: Even if darkness should cover the earth; deep darkness cover the peoples.

**People: Nations shall come to your light, kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

Leader: Nothing can hide God’s glorious light.

**All: Let us look to God and be radiant. Let us reflect the brightness of this dawning.**

### **Time of Quiet**

Reading and lighting the Epiphany Candles

Leader: Together we light these Epiphany Candles. This light is not just for us. The mystery of God is revealed to all people.

**All: We celebrate with these candles the way God’s light revealed in Jesus burst the boundaries, overcomes barriers, and is released into the world.**

Leader: On this Sunday we celebrate that justice is stronger than wrong, that God will tumble all dividing walls and bring great things from small beginnings.

**All: Even as the church celebrates it’s vocation as the bearer of this message, we humbly accept that the scope and reach of God’s love knows no bounds. We confess that like others before us in the church, we have tried to narrowly define the limits of God’s gracious love.**

Leader: By lighting these candles, we ask God to enlighten our minds and hearts and cast away the shadows of exclusion and discrimination.

**ALL: As we light these final candles of the Advent and Christmas Season, we celebrate the many ways that God’s light is embodied in the church and in the world in its rich variety.**

**Invitation to light a candle**

# PAOLI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

**January 3, 2016**

*We welcome all persons*

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



## **Epiphany Sunday**

*Focus: The light Jesus brings into the world challenges and illuminates all the distinctions between us that we elevate as ultimate. For if the light has the power to draw wise men from afar and overcome barriers of former religious outcasts, what power does it have to bring new freedom into our church and world?*

### **Gathering**

Music for Gathering: Angels we have heard on high – H 197  
We three kings

Welcome and Introductions  
Call to worship (see back of bulletin)  
Opening Prayer

### **Singing Our Faith**

Arise, your light is come! – SS 30  
Shine, Jesus shine  
The Lord is my light – SJ 97

### **Celebrating Shalom –**

**Opportunities for Generosity:** Special Giving for January is for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)

### **Hearing God’s Word**

Children’s Time: “The Christmas Candle”  
Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-15  
Meditation “Mixed Responses to Christmas”

### **Responding – Time of Quiet (see back of bulletin)**

Song of response: Longing for light – SJ 54

**Sharing our joys and concerns / Intercessory Prayer  
Announcements**

**Sending:** Joy to the World

**PASTOR-ELDER TEAM**

Rebecca Kauffman, Pastor 653-4140  
Mary Beth Gibbons 723-2723  
Yolanda Yoder 653-8627  
Lonnie Sears 723-0722

**MINISTERS**

All the congregation

**CHURCH OFFICE**

**Pastor:** Rebecca Kauffman; Office Hours – Tues 9-4, Wed 9-1, Thurs 1-5  
**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, **website:** paolimennonite.org

**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.

<p><b>TODAY</b> Jan. 3, 2016 (worship at 9:30 am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Epiphany</i></b></p> <p>Worship Leader: Ted Larrison        Music Leader: Marlene B. Joanna &amp; Dave W.        Meditation Al Mortenson        Greeters: Doris Weaver &amp; Wendell Lantz        Nursery: Sam Kinsey/Veronika Sukup        A.V.: Jamey Sullivan</p>	<p><b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> Jan. 10, 2016 (worship at 9:30 am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Covenant</i></b></p> <p>Worship Leader:        Music Leader: Marlene Beachy        Meditation Rebecca Kauffman        Greeters: Ted &amp; Darlene Larrison        Nursery: Ted Larrison/Marlene Beachy        AV: Jamey Sullivan</p>
---	--

**TODAY**

At the time of Jesus' birth, the response to him was mixed - both homage and rejection. Still today, we and others have a mixture of devotion and denial in response to who Jesus is. Yet we are called to live and share the message of the coming of Jesus the Christ.

**NEXT SUNDAY**

For the next few Sundays our focus will be on 'covenant' as a commitment with each other to walk with God together. This is in preparation for our annual covenant service.

**Introduction to the Enneagram:** Wally will be leading a class for PMFers who have no training in the Enneagram on Sunday, **January 10, 2016**, following Sunday school. A light meal will be provided. Please let him know if you plan to attend. Even if you are not able to attend Winter Retreat and the continued training in the Enneagram, you are invited to participate in this class. Mary Beth (for PET)

**This Week**

Wed., Jan. 6, Small Groups

**UPCOMING**

January 13 – next Large Group meeting

Feb. 6-7 – Winter Retreat at Mount St. Frances

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Running the sound board so everyone can hear, projecting visuals when needed, recording parts of the service, taking care of equipment - all these are important pieces of our worship service each Sunday. If you are interested in being **trained to help run the AV ministry**, please contact Jamey S. or Larry Lehman.

**On the bulletin board:**

- Christmas letter and photo from Matt & Deb Hickman family
- Christmas photo /note from Miriam & C.J. Friesen.

**New in Magazine rack:** Fall issue of "Church Health Reader" focusing on healing from moral injury and trauma. Also, "BULLETIN" from Bethany Christian Schools, and Mennonite World Conference newsletter "Courier Correo, Courier".

**For Prayer**

Pray for students and teachers as they return to their classrooms this week. Ask God to bless the interactions and learning that happens so that each one is affirmed in their value and abilities.

Pray for comfort and healing for those who are facing health concerns:

- for Gail Brown as she continues treatment for cancer
- for Liliann Woodsmall as her broken leg heals
- for Julie Harrison as she deals with pain from a torn meniscus in her knee.

A New Years prayer: Thank you, Emmanuel, for your presence with us. This is a year of new beginnings, a year for trusting your Holy Spirit, a year for considering the wisdom of the ages and the visions for your new world. May we mirror your virtue, model your suffering love, live your righteousness. By your grace, enable us to serve you with joy and gratitude, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.