

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

Class:

Teachers:

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

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

Call to Worship

Leader: Our souls magnify you, Lord,
People: *our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.*

Leader: You have looked with favor on your servants,
People: *chosen us in our lowliness rather than our strength.*

Leader: All generations can see that we are blessed,
People: *for you have done great things, and holy is your name.*

For Prayer

Give thanks this week for the blessing of Christmas - Emmanuel, God with us! Ask God to show you how you might share the joy and hope of Christ with those around you.

Pray for God's blessing on Curtis, Yolanda, Leah and Hannah as they visit Audrey in Cambodia. May they have safe travel, good health, and peace of mind as they take a break from responsibilities here. May God bless their interactions and adventures.

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.

Mennonite Mission Network personnel in Europe request our prayers for wisdom for themselves and partner organizations and churches as they try to find appropriate and Christ-centered responses to the massive influx of refugees.

PAOLI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

December 20, 2015



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

Advent 4

Freedom Bound – The Path of Love

Focus: From the smallest tribe of Israel, from a poor teenager, from the margins God is bringing real and unexpected freedom. The fourth Sunday of Advent reveals what God’s love will mean for the world. The upheaval that Mary sings about is nothing short of revolutionary.

Gathering

Music for Gathering: Oh, how shall I receive thee – H 182
 Love came down at Christmas – H 208
 Welcome and Introductions
 Call to Worship (see back of bulletin)

Singing Our Faith

My soul is filled with joy – SS 13
 My soul proclaims with wonder – H 181
 It came upon the midnight clear – H 195

Celebrating Shalom – Wally Shellenberger

Opportunities for Generosity: Special Giving for December is for the L.I.F.E., Family Resource Center

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s Time: Jim Beachy
 Scripture: Luke 1: 46-55
 Meditation

Responding to God’s Word (see insert)

Sharing our joys and concerns / Intercessory Prayer

Announcements

Sending

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>TODAY Dec. 20, 2015 (worship at 9:30 am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Freedom Bound</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: Evie Shellenberger Music Leader: Marlene Beachy Meditation Rebecca Kauffman Greeters: Dave & Debbie Heinz Nursery: Trish Moore/Luke Mosemann A.V.: Jamey Sullivan</p>	<p>NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 27, 2015 (worship at 9:30 am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Freedom Bound</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: Aaron Johnson Music Leader: Marlene B., Joanna & Dave W. Meditation Rebecca Kauffman Greeters: Aaron & Shanna Johnson Nursery: Cynthia Parsons/Dave Mullet AV: Jamey Sullivan</p>
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TODAY

Mary’s prophetic prayer of praise points to the reversals that have come because of God’s strength and faithfulness. Although her life is turned upside-down, she celebrates God's loving intervention in the world.

NEXT SUNDAY

Our familiarity with the story of Jesus' birth sometimes causes us to miss the mystery and excitement that surrounded that event. Read Luke 2: 1-20 in preparation for pondering this text together. If you were to make a painting of the story, what aspect would you highlight? Why? What in the story catches your attention this year?

This Week

Over the past year we have experienced loss and grief. On Monday evening, December 21, **the longest night**, you are invited to attend a worship service of lament, trust and hope as we remember Jesus' words to "come, bring your burdens to me." The service will begin at 7 p.m. Please invite friends who grief this Christmas season to attend.

UPCOMING

Keep the date of **December 30** open on your calendars so you can attend an important congregational meeting to discuss our grant proposal for youth, families and all of us. We will meet at 7 p.m. and your presence is highly desired as we take the next step in making the proposal a reality.

Save the date: January 13 – next Large Group meeting.

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jubilee Christmas - please assist our area children by buying new clothing or new toys! We have a Jubilee tree in Save A Lot with trumpets that list ages, size and gender of Throop elementary students and this will ensure we have what we need! You can leave your purchase at Save A Lot where a committee member will pick it up, or bring to PMF. Thank you! Mary Beth Gibbons.

Please note Connie Gilliom has a **new email:** conniegilliom@gmail.com.

The **church office will be closed** on Christmas and New Years Day. Announcements for the bulletin should be submitted on Wed. Dec. 23 and Wed. Dec. 30.

Everence Financial has matched \$3000 of PMF’s special giving during 2015.

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: Nov. issue of Camp Friedenswald newsletter

MYF will participate in a **service day with the Mercy Center** during winter break on Dec. 28. Youth are to be dropped off at the center at 11:00 to help with the preparing and serving of that day’s meal. Youth should let Deb, Andrew, Stori or Jamie know if they will attend.

Responding to God's Word

Song of Response: My soul cries out – SS 124

Litany:

Among the poor,
among the proud,
among the persecuted,
among the privileged,
Christ is coming.
Sing: Come, come, Emmanuel

With a gentle touch,
with an angry word,
with a clear conscience,
with burning love,
Christ is coming.
Sing: Come, come, Emmanuel

That the kingdom might come,
that the world might believe,
that the powerful might stumble,
that the humble might be raised,
Christ is coming.
Sing: Come, come, Emmanuel

Within us,
without us,
among us,
before us,
in this place,
in every place,
for this time,
for all time,
Christ is coming.
Sing: Come, come, Emmanuel

(Over)

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(Over)

Lighting the Advent Candle/Removing the Chain of Oppression

1. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are drawing ever nearer to God's coming in Jesus. We feel the stirring of a new age.
2. As we light this candle, we celebrate the good news, which breaks the powers of oppression and lifts up the lowly.
1. We pray to be freed from the grip of privilege, power, control, and status that imprison us and shelter us from the suffering of others. We desire to stand in solidarity with all who suffer the brunt of history.
2. As we light this candle, we are humbled by Mary's trust and boldness. We pray that like Mary we may be open to birth new hope.
1. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come to free us. Come to free all people.

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