

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

Class:

Teachers:

Early Childhood (Ages 0-4 years)Parents
 Primary (Ages 5 – 2nd grade)Crystal Shellenberger & Stori Sullivan
 Middler (Grades 3rd – 5th)Jon Shellenberger, Aaron Johnson,
 Jim Beachy, Dave Woodsmall, & Doris Weaver
 Junior High (Grades 6, 7 & 8)Andrew Blount & Mary Beth Gibbons
 Youth (Grades 9-12)Evie Shellenberger & Phil Mininger

Adult Class: “Creation: A Divine Cycle”

Call to Worship

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
 You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!

**People: Restore us, O God;
 Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand.
 The one whom you made strong for yourself.

**People: Restore us, O God;
 Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: We will never turn back from you;
 Give us life, and we will call upon your name.

**People: Restore us, O God;
 Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Prayers

Pray for the Parsons family as they grieve the loss of Danny’s nephew Matthew Morgan. May God give them comfort and strength.

Continued prayers for Ted, Jo and Liliann as they continue to recover from their injuries. May God continue to give them strength and healing.

Gratefulness for the creativity that is coming out of our congregation with the welcoming signs, facebook groups, and other things aimed towards love in a time where hate is getting the most press.

Hold Syria and the refugees that have made it out in your prayers as violence continues to escalate.

Continue to pray for the leaders of our county, our community and around the world; pray tat they let the light that God has inevitably given them shine in their important work.

PAOLI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

December 18, 2016



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

Advent 4

The Holy Way: Walking in the Way of God’s Heart

Focus: God’s restoration is at hand. Come, walk in the way of God’s heart.

Gathering to Worship

Song: Angels we have heard on high – H 197
 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy – H 202
 Welcome and Introductions
 Call to Worship: from Psalm 80 (see back of bulletin)

Candle lighting: Come Light of the world – SS 3
 Moment of Silence

Singing our Faith

Special music: The Angel Gabriel
 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming – H 201
 Peace before us – SS 16
 Hope is a candle – SS 15

Confessing/Reconciling (See insert)

Celebrating Shalom – Phil Mininger

Opportunities for Generosity – Special giving for December is Life Family Resource Center

Hearing and Experiencing God's Word

Children's time
 Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Matthew 1: 18-25
 Meditation: Dave Brown-Kinloch

Sharing our joys and concerns / Intercessory Prayer

Announcements

Sending

Song: Joy to the world – H 318

PASTOR-ELDER TEAM

Rebecca Kauffman, Pastor
Darren Bender-Beauregard
Doris Weaver

On Sabbatical
723-5259
723-2841

MINISTERS

All the congregation

CHURCH OFFICE

Pastor: Rebecca Kauffman; *On Sabbatical until Feb. 2017*
Director of Youth: Evie Shellenberger; Office Hours: Thur. 9 – 1. Cell: 812-653-9703
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.

<p>TODAY Dec. 18, 2016 (worship at 9:30 am)</p> <p><i>The Holy Way</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: Veronika Sukup Music Leader: Keith Gibbons Meditation: Dave Brown-Kinloch Greeters: Veronika Sukup Nursery: Sam Kinsey/Dessica Albertson A.V.: Aaron Johnson</p>	<p>NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 25, 2016(worship at 9:30 am)</p> <p><i>Christmas Day – Jesus is Born!</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: Aaron Johnson/Becky Johnson Music Leader: All Meditation: Group Input Greeters: Dave & Marlene Beachy Nursery: Shanna Johnson/Marlene Beachy AV: Aaron Johnson</p>
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TODAY

Advent is the season of longing and waiting as we await the birth of the Christ Child. At the time Jesus was born, the Jewish people were also longing and awaiting the arrival of the Messiah foretold by the Prophets. When God sent Jesus as the Messiah, did he meet the peoples' expectations then, or our expectations now? Today we explore why God sent Jesus to us as a baby in a manger."

Children's Christmas Program, today at 4:00 pm. Please come and enjoy some cookies and warm apple cider, while preparing to improvise the passages from the Bible's Christmas Story. Bring the children and your creative spirit (and some light snacks, if you choose so), we'll provide costumes and props. We hope for a night filled with singing and laughter and joy of our Savior's birth.

NEXT SUNDAY

Christmas Day Service 10:00 am.

THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 20, PET Mtg. 12:30 pm.

Invite your friends and neighbors to our **Longest Night Service** which will be held Wednesday, December 21 at 7 pm. This service; held on the longest night of the year, acknowledges the darkness of grief and loss in our lives, and the lives of those we know, and the Light of Christ as a source of hope, compassion and courage during dark times.

UPCOMING

Junior High Snow Camp, Camp Amigo on Jan. 13-15.

Winter Retreat, Saint Mount Frances, Feb. 4-5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's time to **update the church's address list**. In your mail boxes you will find a form to complete if you have changes etc. Please return the form to me by Dec. 27. Thank you, Deb Giles.

The youth are continuing to sell **coffee as an FYI fundraiser**. Order forms are on the table in the foyer. A new arrival of coffee should be coming in soon. Thanks for your support.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jose Castro who finishes high school this next week!

Thank you for your contributions to the **Pastoral Assistance Grant**, a matching grant from Everence and Lilly Foundation that goes toward Rebecca's seminary debts. The goal is \$2, 500. Your generosity has raised \$2,050 to date and makes the remaining \$450 within reach!

Prayer of Confession

Leader:

God of restoration.

People:

**We yearn to walk in your way
but often choose our own path of
turmoil and pain.
Save us, Lord,
from the pride and foolishness of
choosing our own course,
that we may humbly and confidently
follow your lead,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

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Words of Assurance

Leader:

Throughout the tumult of life,
God holds you close in love.
Rejoice,
because God's wisdom is your guide,
God's compassion is your strength.
God's love is your redemption.

All:

**Come, let us walk in the way of
God's heart!**

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