

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

Classes:

Nursery (ages 3-5)Shanna Johnson & Crystal Shellenberger
Primary (Kindergarten – 2nd grade)Stori Sullivan, Cristy Ford, Sherry Schmidt
Middler (Grades 3rd – 5th)Jon Shellenberger, Aaron Johnson,
Veronika Sukup, & Doris Weaver
Junior High (Grades 6, 7 & 8)Mary Beth Gibbons & Samuel Kinsey
Youth (Grades 9-12)Darren Bender Beauregard & Evie
Shellenberger

Teachers:

Adult Class: Doctrine of Discovery

Call to Worship

Leader: Yes!
The invitation to carry light
comes to each of us, no matter who we are.

**All: Oh God, you choose to dwell within us.
You promise to move about with us
until we find our rest in you.**

Leader: Your call seems risky;
saying yes takes away our breath.

**All: Yet we know your faithfulness and steadfast
love endures forever.**

Leader: You are our strength.

All: Yes! Let it be now.

Prayers

Pray for those for whom this season carries pain or grief. May God's Spirit "speak tenderly" to our hearts and shine comfort and hope into dark places. Consider ways you might offer a word or action of encouragement.

Pray for the search committee that is seeking the next Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA. Pray for wisdom as they discern the denomination's leadership needs, review survey feedback, and evaluate candidates.



PAOLI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

December 17, 2017

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

Yes! Let it be now

Focus: Could it be there are surprising messages from God for us if we have the faith to listen?

Gathering to Worship

Gathering song: The Angel Gabriel – H 180
Welcome and Introductions
Call to Worship: (see back of bulletin)
Lighting of Advent Candles

Singing Our Praise

O come, all ye faithful – H 212, v. 1-3
It came upon a midnight clear – H 195
To Us a child of hope is born – H 189

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

Hearing God's Word

Children's time: The woodworker's visit
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38
Meditation

Responding to God's Call

Confession and Assurance
Song: "Amen"
Sharing Joys and Concerns / Intercessory prayer

Sent to share God's Love

Announcements
Drama: "Wisdom and Wonder"
Benediction

Theme verse - Luke 1:38 -

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

PASTOR-ELDER TEAM

Rebecca Kauffman, Pastor	653-4140
Darren Bender-Beauregard	723-5259
Doris Weaver	723-2841

MINISTERS

All the congregation

CHURCH OFFICE

Pastor: Rebecca Kauffman; Office hours – Tues. 9 am-3pm, Wed. 10 am-noon, Fri. 9 am-1pm
Pastor of Youth Formation: Darren Bender-Beauregard; Office hours – Wed. 2-5 pm
Secretary: Deb Giles; Office Hours – Wed. and Fri. 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Phone: (812) 723-2414; **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 Dec. 17, 2017 (worship at 9:30 am)	NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 24, 2017 (worship at 9:30)
<i>Yes! Let it be!</i>	<i>Yes! Let it be!</i>
Worship Leader: Lonnie Sears	Worship Leader: Ted Larrison
Music Leader: Mary Mininger	Music Leader: Joanna Woodsmall
Meditation: Janice Pickens	Meditation: Rebecca Kauffman
Greeters: Veronika Sukup	Greeters: Mica Beauregard
Nursery: Veronika Sukup/Ted Larrison	Nursery: Shanna Johnson/Dessica Albertson
A.V.: Aaron Johnson	A.V.: Aaron Johnson

TODAY

The response of Mary (Luke 1:38) to God's invitation can serve as inspiration for our own willingness to say "yes" to God. God has a calling for each of us. Let's be willing to listen and respond.

NEXT SUNDAY

In Luke 2: 22-40 we meet two lesser known witnesses to Jesus' birth - Simeon and Anna. Both were eagerly waiting for God to fulfill the promise of deliverance. Are we as excited about Jesus' arrival as they were? What praises can we offer in response to what Jesus has done for us?

THIS WEEK

Wed. 20, 6:00 pm - PMF **Christmas Program**. All ages are welcome! This inter-generational event will feature singing and creative engagement with the Christmas story.

Thurs. 21st, 7:00 pm - **Longest Night service**. For some people, this holiday season holds pain or grief instead of, or alongside of, feelings of merriment. All are welcome to this simple service of reflection, scripture and prayer. We will name our losses and needs before God, and be reminded of the everlasting Light that dawns into our darkness.

UPCOMING

Dec. 31, Shalom Sunday, Farewell 2017 and Welcome 2018 party, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm. Please bring your best of 2017 memories (stories, pictures, etc.) to share and your hopes for 2018 expressed in prayer, scripture, poems, songs, etc. Have these (2018 hopes) written out for a special activity. Also bring your favorite New Year's finger food/appetizers to share for a pitch-in lunch. Happy New Year! Shalom Comm. Dave, Mary and Deb.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please let Joanna know sometime **today** if you are interested in helping **sing Silent Night in languages other than English** at the Children's Christmas Program. Thank you! -Joanna, Sandi, Marlene and Adalie (music committee)

PMF sent a check for \$5156.45 to **Foods Resource Bank** to be split between Mennonite Central Committee and the Cambodia East overseas project in recognition of Audrey Thill's work in that country. Funds help local communities feed themselves through sustainable agriculture projects. Money was raised through our summer "noisy offering," volunteer work, donations, and contributions of items such as wheat, maple syrup, produce, salsa, and timber. For more information see foodsresourcebank.org. Maple syrup season will be here soon!

Thank you to Christiana Matheny and Marlene Beachy for providing our **Advent visuals!**

Please note, there **will not be Christian Education hour on December 24 or 31**. We will have a worship service on Dec. 24 (9:30 am), and Shalom Sunday on Dec 31 (11:00 am).

Church Office will be closed on Dec. 27.

PMF Address list for 2018 is due today! Thank you.

AMBS will offer an Online Short Course called **Biblical Foundations for Creation Care**, Feb 7 – March 20. Students will explore creation references in Genesis, Proverbs, Psalms, Isaiah, Job and the New Testament. See www.ambs.edu/shortcourses.

New in magazine rack: TODAY, Hesston college magazine.