

Invitation from Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church – “Anticipating Christ in Christmas”, Sunday, December 17th, 6:30 p.m. Chestnut Ridge invites you to a special musical sing-a-long journey led by Pastor Kevin Himes from Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas season. Bring a salty snack or cookies to share during the fellowship time after the service.

Help Wanted! We need two volunteers to help out in the kitchen on January 14th. We are having a five-church worship service at Crown Hill and a meal to follow. Bill is cooking and needs serving and clean up help. See Bill or Jan to sign up.

Happy Birthday to Donaldo Lleshi, who turns 20 on Thursday. Please remember him by sending a card or offering a special prayer of thanks for him.

Coming Events:

December 24	Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm
December 31	Fifth Sunday Mission Offering
January 14	Five Church Worship and Pork/Sauerkraut Meal at Crown Hill Mennonite Church James Krabill speaking Lunch proceeds to benefit Ohio Conference and BreakAway youth group

Orrville Mennonite Church	
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Email address: omcjan@gmail.com	
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am - 12 noon	
Orrville Mennonite Church Web Site www.orrvillemenno.net	
Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA Web Site www.ohiomennoniteconference.org	
Staff	
Pastor Bill Seymour omcbill@gmail.com	330-347-7034 (Cell)
Elder Council	
Marilyn Kamp – Elder for Community/Discipleship kampsinmillersburg@gmail.com	330-763-3271 (Cell)
Marion Beyeler – Elder for Stewardship marionbeyeler@gmail.com	330-347-3988 (Cell)
Lidia Zehr – Elder for Mission lbzehr@gmail.com	316-680-0480 (Cell)
Jen Bixler – Elder Facilitator mjbix@zoominternet.net	330-857-0323 (Landline)
Bill Seymour - Elder for Worship omcbill@gmail.com	330-347-7034 (Cell)
Ministers: Each member of the congregation	
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December 3, 2017

“We are dedicated to loving God and loving people”

To the Glory of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is our mission to be a loving community of believers who intentionally further God's Kingdom by going out and loving all people, sharing the good News of Jesus Christ and making disciples.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: Awake!

The invitation to carry light comes from the God of trembling mountains and shaking foundations.

**All: O God, your expectations terrify us.
How can our small selves hold your blazing presence?**

(pause for silence)

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

All: Lead us beyond our resistance. Let it be.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Mark and Jen Bixler Family

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus
Adore*

WB 172 vv. 1, 4, 5, 6
WB 178

Scripture Isaiah 64.1-9
Message *It's Us*

Pastor Bill Seymour

Confession

O God of power and might, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down, yet we tremble and quake at the thought. We confess that even though we know your light, we do not like the dark, empty void where your Spirit hovers over the waters. We shake like leaves in the wind, fearful of what you might ask, afraid to trust you completely..... *(continued)*

Caught up in the swirling of our world
we struggle to “let it be.”
Forgive us, O God. *(pause for silence)*

Words of Assurance

O God, Emmanuel, in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel WB 172 vv. 2,3

Mission Moment

Warm Things for Kids!!

Offering/Prayer

(God's children are invited to bring offerings for the "My Coins Count" Jug)
Who Has Known the Mind of Jesus? SJ 58

Sharing and Prayer

Announcements

O Savior, Rend the Heavens WB 175

Love Step Prayer and Benediction

Lord, give me time and energy to pay attention when you put me in front of someone so I can meet them with love where they are. Help us to learn from each other and walk together in a way that we can both grow closer to Christ. As we go from this place, may we be given peace. When the presence of God shakes the world in which we live, may we remember that the invitation to walk with Jesus is not a promise of safety, but rather a call to courage. Spirit of God, embolden us to let it be. Amen.

Worship Band: Anita and Andrew Fisher, Christi, John, and Noah Michaels
Allison and Bill Seymour
Reader: Marilyn Kamp Song Leader: Jane Beyeler

Today (December 3) 1st Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Pastor Bill Seymour preaching
11:00 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday

3 – 6 p.m. WINGS After School Program in Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. WINGS – *Christmas Party*

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Axis Youth Group – *Bible Study*
6:30 p.m. BreakAway

Next Sunday (December 10) 2nd Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Central Christian Varsity Singers
Meditation – Bill Seymour
10:45 a.m. Sharing and Prayer
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
5:00 p.m. Fundraiser Meal and Worship for Austin Zuercher
at Crown Hill Mennonite Church

Last Sunday (November 26)

Ministry Spending Plan: \$2,880.00 Weekly MSP Needed: \$3,054.79
Partnership Plan: \$100.00 Weekly PP Needed: \$897.35
Compassion Fund: \$100.00

Greeters Today John and Barb Shilling, Liz Snyder

Next Sunday Danae King, Ken and Rita Wenger

Elder Greeter Today Marion Beyeler **Next Sunday** Marilyn Kamp

Worship Nursery Today Marilyn Kamp **Next Sunday** Jan Kauffman

Coffee Hospitality Today Marion and Jane Beyeler

Next Sunday Allison Seymour

Meet and Eat is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 6 p.m. at Old Carolina Grill/Baja. Looking forward to an evening of food and fellowship. See you there!

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry is hosting a fundraiser meal and worship

time for Austin Zuercher on Sunday, December 10th. All are invited to join together at Crown Hill Mennonite Church for a meal followed by a time of worship through music supporting Austin Zuercher who will be serving in Costa Rica. Food and fellowship will be from 5 – 6:30 p.m. with music starting at 6:45 p.m.

Central Christian School Announcements

- **Central Christian High School choirs and instrumental groups** will present an evening of worship at the Christmas program on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. CCS alumni are invited to join the orchestra for the annual playing of the Sleigh Ride.
- **Alumni Night, December 22nd – Varsity Girls' basketball** will play at 6 p.m. and Varsity Boys' basketball will play at 7:30 p.m. vs. Lucas High School. All alumni get in free and will be eligible for prize drawings.

Sermon Notes for December 3, 2017

Isaiah 64.1-9

Isaiah 64.1-9

God, you are amazing. Your works are legendary. You are in charge.
We cannot see as you see. We cannot fathom what you can fathom.
You have surprised us with your mercy in the past.
We have sinned so badly, we need this mercy. We need your help.
Come to our help.

Mark 13.24-31

God will surprise us in the future. It may not feel much like mercy. It will be an ending. An end of failure and sin, and God will revive God's people.

1 Corinthians 1.7

God has given us all the gifts that we need as we wait for the return of Christ, living even now for Jesus as we wait.

The First Sunday in Advent is for those who have lost hope, who cannot see love, who are stuck in suffering or pain or sin with no vision to have anything different. The First Sunday in Advent brings this sinful world to a screeching halt and proclaims its death even while beginning its transformation. In the meantime, God has left us – Holy Spirit filled followers of Jesus – to bring hope and peace and love.

Adore

You stepped down from heaven
Humbly You came
God of all creation
Here with us
In a starlit manger Emmanuel
Light of the world here to save

Chorus

Adore
Come let us adore
O come let us adore Him
The Lord
Worship Christ the Lord
Let all that is within us adore

Wise men bring their treasures
Shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing
Of peace on earth
What have I to offer to heaven's King
I will bring my life my love my all

Chorus

Angels sing praises ring
To the newborn King
Peace on earth here with us
Joy awakening
At Your feet we fall

Chorus

CCLI Song # 7050417

Graham Kendrick | Martin Chalk

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We have been invited by the Upanga Mennonite Church of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to begin a prayer and sharing relationship with them and to come and visit. The pastor there is Abner Mathube. We are looking to go near the dates of June 5-18, 2017. For those interested in the Tanzania trip, we have an information sheet. See Mark, Lidia, or Bill to declare your interest.

From Mennonite Central Committee – This holiday season as you pick out gifts for loved ones, add a few supplies for MCC kits to your list. MCC Great Lakes has put together a list of most needed items on Amazon.com. Simply purchase the pre-selected items on the wish list and the items will ship directly to the material resource center in Goshen. (Due to space limitations at MCC Connections in Kidron, all items are being shipped to Goshen.) Thank you for joining MCC in sharing God's love and compassion in this tangible way this Christmas. Search "MCC Great Lakes" in Amazon Wish Lists.

Prayer Concerns & Praises for Week of December 3, 2017

- **That God would be glorified and that lives would be transformed** in every aspect of Orrville Mennonite Church.
- **Areas of unrest and instability in our world today** – Prayer for those caught up in the world's violence and for ways we can respond.
- **Prayers for our government leaders** in these uncertain times.
- **Elder Council, Pastor and Ministry Team leaders, Grow Groups**
- **Mennonite Church USA Future Church Summit** – prayers for leadership at all levels & all of us as we reflect on & discuss the outcome of the summit.
- **Youth who connect with us through WINGS, BreakAway and Axis YG**
- **Amos & Esther Muhagachi** and their family
- **Lowell & Louise Bowers** – Lowell is currently at West View Manor in Wooster.
- **Kara Shilling and Evan Zuercher** as they study at Vida220 Discipleship School in Costa Rica. Address: c/o DeLynn Hoover, Apartado 1094-3000, Heredia, Costa Rica Central America. Cards and notes welcome!!
- **Sherm & LaVonne Amstutz** as they serve at the Haggai Institute in Hawaii.
- **Marion and Jane Beyeler** – Marion scheduled for colon surgery, Dec. 14th.
- **Academia Menonita Betania in Puerto Rico** – sister school to Central Christian as they recover and rebuild after Hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- **Grace Geiser** (Brenn-Field), **Dorothy Miller** (Inn at Belden Village), **Cathy Gable** (Orrville Pointe)
- **Mel and Lois Leidig** – ongoing eyesight and health concerns
- **Mim Wenger's cousin's (Chet) wife, Kellie Slabaugh** was recently diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer and is undergoing treatments.
- **Mim's cousin, Rose Emick** was recently diagnosed with lung cancer.
- **Jeff Fisher** – continued healing
- **Lance Almond** as he seeks medical care for a heart issue.
- **Taryn (Diane Hostetler's classmate) and her baby**, born 3 months early
- **Duane Amstutz (John Michaels' grandfather)** – serious health concerns.
- **SWAP Ministry/Pete & Lou Erb**
- **Anna Miller, Sandy Miller's mother** as she adjusts to life transitions

- **Lidia Zehr's sister, Alicia** – prayers for Lidia as she ministers to family members and especially prayers for Alicia who has serious health concerns.
- **Sawsan Elateek and her children, Seif and Yassmine**. Yassmine is in college to study pharmacy.
- **Larry Gerber, Ralph Rheinheimer, and Wilma Eash** – continued healing.
- **Pastor Santos & Ester Reyes** – Continue to pray that God would provide ways to meet their spiritual, physical & material needs.
- **Bill's sister Laurie**, who is primary caretaker for her father-in-law, brother-in-law, as well as her daughter, **Amy**, who struggles with deep psychological illness.
- **Allison Seymour's mother, Sharon Walter** – Pray for Sharon's health concerns and for Allison's father, Gary, as he helps care for her needs.
- **Mennonite Mission Network** – Asher and Lindsey Fast, serving through MMN and Virginia Mennonite Missions, are helping to build the after-school program at the Mother Theresa Resource Centre in Botswana. They are also assisting in a local elementary school. Pray for wisdom and energy, and healing for Lindsey's back and neck.
- **Mennonite Education Agency – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**. Give thanks for a new publication, *Where Are We? Pastoral Environments and Care for Migrants*, edited by Daniel Schipani, Dr.Psy., Ph.D. Published by the Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counseling, the book includes contributions from AMBS faculty members who participated in a recent collaborative faculty scholarship project.

Orrville Mennonite Church Daily Devotions Week ending with Sunday, December 10, 2017

Day One Read Isaiah 40.1-11
What brings comfort?

Day Two Read Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13
Who is salvation for? What does this mean?

Day Three Read Malachi 3.1-4
How does God refine the church?

Day Four Read 2 Peter 3.8-15a
For what do we wait?

Day Five Read Mark 1.1-8
What does it mean to "make the Lord's paths straight?"

"Love Step Prayer"

Lord, give me time and energy to pay attention when you put me in front of someone so I can meet them with love where they are. Help us to learn from each other and walk together in a way that we can both grow closer to Christ.