

Invitation from Chestnut Ridge Mennonite Church – “Anticipating Christ in Christmas”, tonight at 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.

You're invited to the Arnold Road Live Nativity (today!) Come see the birth of our Savior told through song, word and drama. Where: Steiner's white barn-- 13401 Arnold Road. TWO times options are 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Music begins 15 minutes prior. Dress warmly, come early to park and find a seat on the straw bales.

Orrville Mennonite Church WiFi password – OMCpub4u

Happy Birthday to Allison Seymour whose birthday is today! And Happy Anniversary to Mel & Mim Wenger whose 42nd anniversary is on December 20th. Please remember these friends by sending a card or offering a special prayer of thanks for them.

Coming Events:

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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Orrville Mennonite Church Web Site
www.orrvillemenno.net
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www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

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Ministers: Each member of the congregation
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1305 West Market Street – Phone (330) 682-5801 – Orrville, Ohio 44667

December 17, 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.

Prelude *O Holy Night* (arr. A. Adam)

Call to Worship

Leader: Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from the God of restoration.

All: O God, you amaze us with your promise to build up the ancient ruins. You say you will replace the ashes of the past with garlands of beauty. Your bold vision dazzles our doubting souls. (pause for silence)

Leader: Quiet our questions.

All: Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path to peace. Let it be whole.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Xan Seymour, Donald Lleshi and Doug Fisher

Joy to the World WB 318

What Child is This WB 215

Away in A Manger MH 472

Confession

O God of peace,
your justice wells up like a spring,
bringing dreams, laughter, and wholeness to the world.
We confess we so often stifle your Spirit.
We are afraid to claim that you anointed us
to carry your upside-down vision into our broken world,
where the lowly are trampled upon, the hungry go away empty,
the rich increase in power and might.
We confess we lack the courage to build up and repair
what we have broken, imprisoned, and oppressed. (next page)

Forgive us when we do not catch your vision.
Lead us beyond our fears,
and guide us on the path to peace.
(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

Offering/Prayer

(God's children are invited to bring offerings for the "My Coins Count" Jug)

Offertory *Love Came Down at Christmas* (arr. Benton Price)
Judy Ferguson

Scripture Luke 1.46-55

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder WB 181

Message *Courage* Pastor Bill Seymour

Sharing and Prayer Announcements

The Peace of the Earth Be With You SJ 77

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.

May the God of restoration make us holy and whole. May our bodies, spirits, and souls be knit together in preparation for the coming of the One who calls all to dwell in the fullness of grace. Amen.

Postlude *The Peace of the Earth Be With You*

Organist: Judy Ferguson Song Leader: Carol Rheinheimer
Worship Band: Anita and Andrew Fisher, Christi, John, and Noah Michaels
Allison and Bill Seymour
Reader: Jen Bixler

Today (December 17) 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Pastor Bill Seymour preaching
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
6:30 p.m. *Anticipating Christ in Christmas* Sing-A-Long at
Chestnut Ridge led by Kevin Himes (from Salem)

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Axis Youth Group – *Christmas Party*

Next Sunday (December 24) 4th Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Bill Seymour preaching
Scripture: Romans 16:25-27
Meditation: *Mystery*
10:45 a.m. Sharing and Prayer
(No Sunday School on December 24th)
6:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Last Sunday (December 10)

Ministry Spending Plan: \$4,792.00	Weekly MSP Needed: \$3,054.79
Partnership Plan: \$725.00	Weekly PP Needed: \$897.35
Compassion Fund: \$25.00	BreakAway: \$100.00
Mennonite Mission Network: \$25.00	VBS Reimbursement: \$380.05

Greeters Today Mark and Jen Bixler Family

Next Sunday Norm and Sandy Sohar, Wilma Eash

Elder Greeter Today Lidia Zehr **Next Sunday** Bill Seymour

Worship Nursery Today Virg & Kathy Troyer

Next Sunday Marilyn Kamp

Coffee Hospitality Today Stan Kamp

Next Sunday Ralph and Carol Rheinheimer

We welcome all to join us at Orrville Mennonite Church on Sunday evening, December 24th at **6:00 p.m.** for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**. The service will begin with a cello prelude and will include scripture readings, carol singing and instrumental music. The service will conclude with candle lighting outdoors weather permitting (keep your coats with you during the service). Come, help us proclaim God's marvelous works and His amazing love in sending us our Savior, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Need a Christmas gift idea? Orrville Mennonite Church 100th Anniversary Cookbooks make great gifts! Only \$7 each or 2 for \$10.00. Check out the table in the fellowship hall.

Boxed sets of offering envelopes are available by the mailboxes. Our Finance and Facilities Ministry would like each person/family to **sign up for and take a new box to start out the year 2018** and recycle or discard any unused envelopes from your current set of envelopes for 2017. If you choose to keep your current box of envelopes, please indicate that by dropping a note in the box by the mailboxes.

5 Church Combined Worship & Meal

Jan 14, 10:30Am

At Crown Hill



Guest Speaker: James Krabill

James began his mission experience in 1976. He and his wife, Jeanette, spent nearly 14 years living and teaching in Ivory Coast, including several years living in a small village among the Dida people. The Krabills have also lived in Paris and in Birmingham, England.

Drawing on these experiences, James offers his insights on how the North American church can learn from the church around the world. Through the message of the gospel, he shares the interwoven callings of the church to evangelism and peace.

9:00 Combined "Sunday School" With James. This can take the form of a question and answer time or if there are no questions James will lead and facilitate a discussion with us on a topic of his choosing.

Fundraiser Meal

Immediately Following Worship Service

A group of volunteers from the 5 churches are preparing a traditional Sauerkraut, pork and mashed potatoes New Year's meal for all of us to enjoy (there will also be some "kid friendly" alternatives :). At the meal there will be a donation basket out to raise money for BreakAway and Ohio Conference. This will help pay for BreakAway students to participate in Camp Luz's winter retreat. Some of the donations will go towards Ohio Conference to support the Conference's ongoing challenge of forming us into mission minded congregations.



Fighting and Arguing

Isaiah 61.1-2

- Good news to the oppressed
- Binding up the brokenhearted (this is a good thing)
- Proclaim liberty to the captives
- Release to prisoners
- And this also comes with vengeance on the oppressors. (it is OK that we are uncomfortable with that)

Luke 1.46b-55

Mary's posture toward God was this:

- Humble
- Willing to listen and to do whatever God wanted her to do.
- Expecting
- Trusting

Advent Journey

Advent One: Something is wrong. God, please come.

Advent Two: God, I humble myself before you.

I confess my sin and cherish your forgiveness.

Please come.

Advent Three: God, I am your servant. I am expecting you.

I am willing to do what you want.

Is this your Advent journey?

What are you expecting from God? Are you willing to listen? Are you willing to adjust your life?

What is your posture toward God, creator of the Universe, who sent the Son to die for you?

Prayer Concerns & Praises for Week of December 17, 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
- **Marion and Jane Beyeler** – Marion' surgery went well and he continues recovery at Aultman Canton Hospital.
- **Joy Schrock – wife of Dean** (Sandy Sohar's and Kathy Troyer's father) as she begins radiation treatment to shrink cancerous tumor in her leg.
- **Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi** – as she prepares to be keynote speaker at mission conference in early January.
- **Kara Shilling's friend, Keturah** – pain related to spina bifida.
- **Diane Hostetler's friend, Al** – cancerous tumor, raising funds for treatment
- **Barry Kauffman** – as he's taking seizure medication and begins another long period of not being allowed to drive.
- **Lowell & Louise Bowers** – Lowell is 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.
- **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)
- **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.
- **Lance Almond** as he seeks medical care for a heart issue.
- **Taryn (Diane Hostetler's classmate) and her baby**, born 3 months early
- **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 Yasmine.** Yasmine 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** – MMN's Youth Venture program invites teens and young adults (ages 6-22) to participate in a short-term learning and service experience during the summer of 2018. Pray for open hearts in those whom God is calling to Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Peru or Spain.
- **Mennonite Education Agency – Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA).** Pray for the 40 IBA volunteer tutors who serve at study centers across the country. May God bless them as they give of their time for this ministry and contribute to the training of new leaders for the Hispanic churches of Mennonite Church USA. May God grant them wisdom, patience and lots of energy as they continue to serve with IBA in the coming year.

Orrville Mennonite Church Daily Devotions Week ending with Sunday, December 24, 2017

Day One Read 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

What sort of house is being referred to here?

Day Two Read Isaiah 9.2-7

Who is this child? Why is this child?

Day Three Read Psalm 96

Take some time and sing to the Lord today.

Day Four Read Titus 2.11-14

Why did Jesus appear?

Day Five Read Luke 2.1-20

For many, this passage is familiar. Read it carefully, anyway. What do you see in this Story for the first time?

“Love Step Prayer”

Pray this daily and as you go through your day, look for how God might be answering...

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.