

Next Sunday, December 31st is the final opportunity for **5th Sunday mission giving in 2017**. An envelope and letter are in your church mailboxes today.

5 Church Combined Worship & Meal. January 14th at Crown Hill. There will be a combined Sunday School with James Krabill at 9 a.m. James will also be the guest speaker for the worship service at 10:30 a.m. Immediately following worship all are invited to a fundraiser meal. A group of volunteers from the 5 churches are preparing a traditional sauerkraut, pork and mashed potatoes New Year's meal for us all to enjoy (kid-friendly alternatives will be available). There will be a donation basket out to raise money for BreakAway Junior High Youth Group and Ohio Conference.

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Happy Birthday to Ken Wenger who is celebrating his birthday, today, December 24th! Please remember him by sending a card or offering a special prayer of thanks for them.

Coming Events:

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

1305 W. Market St., Orrville, OH 44667

330-682-5801

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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Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 West Market Street – Phone (330) 682-5801 – Orrville, Ohio 44667

December 24, 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: Yes!

The invitation to carry Light
comes to each of us, no matter who we are.

All: O 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
endure forever.**

Leader: You are our strength.

All: Yes! Let it be now.

Lighting of Advent Candles Louise Bowers, Kara and Barb Shilling

Fling Wide the Door, Unbar the Gate WB 186

Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee WB 182

Confession

O God of blessing and joy,
your favor rests upon us, and our souls magnify you.
We sing of your steadfast love and proclaim your faithfulness.
We confess we often lack complete trust,
walking in our own strength, building our own houses
instead of joining you in turning ruins into abundance.
We are terrified and overcome by fear,
wondering, "How will we know?"
and pondering, "How can this be?"
We are afraid to claim and proclaim that nothing is impossible
when your power overshadows us,
when your Spirit comes upon us.
We find it hard to let go and say, (next page)

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

Glory

Testimonies from Costa Rica

Kara Shilling

Offering/Prayer

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

Songs Chosen by the congregation

Scripture Romans 16.25-27
Message *Why is Mystery Revealed?* Pastor Bill Seymour

Songs Chosen by the congregation
Come, All Ye Faithful WB 212

Sharing and Prayer/Announcements

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.

We go with God. We carry the grace of Christ fearlessly. We are overshadowed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Nothing is impossible with God. Amen.

Accompanist: Anita Fisher Worship Band: John, Christi, Noah Michaels Andrew Fisher, Allison and Bill Seymour

Reader: Megan Sohar Song Leader: Doug Fisher

Today (December 24) 4th Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Pastor Bill Seymour preaching
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Monday Christmas Day!

Saturday Axis Youth Group New Year's Pre-Eve Party

Next Sunday (December 31)

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Bill Seymour preaching
Scripture: Luke 2:22-40
Meditation: *Who is this Kid?*
Fifth Sunday Mission Offering
10:45 a.m. Sharing and Prayer
11:00 a.m. Sunday School

Last Sunday (December 17)

Ministry Spending Plan: \$ 1,646.00 Weekly MSP Needed: \$3,054.79
Partnership Plan: \$550.00 Weekly PP Needed: \$897.35
VBS Reimbursement: \$124.25 Compassion Fund: \$25.00
Mennonite Mission Network: \$25.00

Greeters Today Norm and Sandy Sohar, Wilma Eash

Next Sunday Stan and Marilyn Kamp, Diane Hostetler

Elder Greeter Today Bill Seymour **Next Sunday** Jen Bixler

Worship Nursery Today Marilyn Kamp **Next Sunday** Mim Wenger

Coffee Hospitality Today Ralph and Carol Rheinheimer

Next Sunday John and Barb Shilling

We welcome all to join us at Orrville Mennonite Church this evening 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 vocal & 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.

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.

URGENT NEED FOR COMFORTER TOPS! MCC Connections has an urgent need for volunteers to sew comforter tops. There are also openings to cut squares for comforters. If you enjoy sewing and working with fabric, please consider giving of your time to help those in other countries who are in need. Both volunteer positions can be done at home, or in the Quilt Room at the thrift shop. Other volunteer opportunities are also available in various departments. Please call 330-857- 7802, or stop by for additional information. The gift of time is priceless!

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

One star
Burns in the darkness
Shines with the promise Emmanuel
One child
Born in the stillness
Living within us Emmanuel

Chorus

We're singing Glory Glory
Let there be peace let there be peace
Singing Glory Glory
Let there be peace let it start in me

One voice
Speaks for the voiceless
Hope for the hopeless Emmanuel
One love
Brings us together
Now and forever Emmanuel

Chorus

Do not be afraid
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us
(REPEAT)

Chorus

Let there be peace let it start in me

Chris Stevens | Matt Maher | Rachel Taylor Popadic
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The Advent Story and the Four Gospel Questions

Advent Starting Position

God, something is wrong. Please come.
Isaiah 64.1-9, Mark 13.24-37

Gospel Question 1 – Who's in charge?

We ask for God to come, but are we willing to accept when God doesn't show up the way we expected?
Genesis 1-2, Psalm 24.1, Romans 1.18-19,

Second Advent Position

I confess my sin and am ready to listen when you come.
Isaiah 40.1-11, Mark 1.1-8

Gospel Question 3 – Who is Jesus?

Will we confess our sin and accept the gift of salvation through Christ who lived, died, and was raised from the dead for us?
John 1.1-3, 3.1-18, Hebrews 1.1-3, Eph. 2.8-10, 1 John 1.8-2.2

Third Advent Position

I humble myself before you, Lord and accept your will.
Isaiah 61.1-11, Luke 1.46b-55

Gospel Question 2 -- Who am I?

We accept that we are created by God and bear the imprint of God's image. But we are marred by sin, by a bent to rebel and do our own thing. Will we live our lives in rebellion, or will we accept what God offers us in Jesus -- to live as God's child?
Gen. 1.27-2.2, John 3.16, 2 Corinthians 5.14-17, Romans 6, 1 John 2.1-2, Romans 8.1-4

Fourth Advent Position

I am ready to follow. Come, Lord Jesus.
Luke 1.26-38, Romans 16.25-27

Gospel Question 4 – Will I follow the Holy Spirit?

John 14.15-27, Galatians 5.12-6.2, Romans 8.26, 1 Cor. 10.13

Romans 16.25-27

There are a number of mysteries wrapped in the Gospel of Christ. Why come as a baby? Why does God not vanquish our enemies? Why is acceptance not based on rule following? Why are people included who are not like us? In the midst of the confusion, we are reminded that salvation through Christ is offered to everyone. Fully. No exceptions. No pre-requisites. Just come.

Prayer Concerns & Praises for Week of December 24, 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**
- **Praise! Derek Ressler** graduated as a Doctor of Chiropractic last Saturday!
- **Praise!** Judy Ferguson has a new great-granddaughter, Margo Sutherland Johnson!
- **Amos & Esther Muhagachi** and their family
- **The mother of Heather**, one of our BreakAway youth, passed away unexpectedly last Saturday. Please keep Heather in your prayers.
- **Marion and Jane Beyeler** – as he continues recovery at home
- **Stan & Marilyn Kamps neighbors, Linda & Brian** – as they parent grandsons (Kenyon and Camden) following death of the children's mother
- **Karen Overholt (niece of Dale & Nancy Hostetler)** – surgery to remove tumor
- **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** – continued adjustments
- **Lowell & Louise Bowers** – Lowell is at West View Manor (assisted living)
- **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** – brain cancer
- **Mim's cousin, Rose Emick** – 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 Yassmine.** Yassmine is in college to study pharmacy.

- **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 31, 2017

Day One Read Isaiah 61.10-62.3

How is salvation through Christ a vindication of God's people?

Day Two Read Psalm 148

Who should praise?

Day Three Read Galatians 4.4-7

Why are you no longer a slave? A slave to what?

Day Four Read John 1.1-14

Who was in the beginning?

Day Five Read Luke 2.22-40

How did God speak through Anna and Simeon to Mary and Joseph?
What did they say?

“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.*