

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.

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.

Coming Events:

- January 12-14 Junior High Youth Retreat at Camp Luz
BreakAway Youth Group attending
- 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
- January 24 All Church Game Night
with BreakAway Youth Group, 6:30 pm

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 31, 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! We will give thanks and rejoice!
- All: *We will praise the Lord from the heavens, from the heights, and with the angels!***
- Leader: We praise the Lord with the sun and moon!
We praise the Creator of the shining stars!
- All: *Fire and hail! Snow and frost! Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedars!***
- Leader: Young men and women alike!
Children and the aged ones too!
Let us praise the name of the Lord.
- All: *Praise the Lord!***
- Leader: Yes! Let all things be new.

Lighting of Advent Candles

- The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* WB 202
- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* WB 210

Confession

O God, the waiting is over, the time has come: you dwell among us!
 We marvel at the mystery of your birth. We are filled and guided by the Spirit as you open our eyes, our hearts, and our arms to receive you. Yes, we say, and yet we confess that instead of being drawn beyond our knowing, into the call of your infinite light, we examine your coming within the boundaries of our understanding. We confess that instead of marveling at the vastness of your mercy, instead of rejoicing with Simeon and Anna, instead of allowing your Spirit to move within and among us, we resist the mystery of your presence. (next page)

We confess our struggle to step forth with vulnerability, honesty, courage, dreams, hope, and celebration emanating from the depth of our hearts.

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.

He Came Down SJ 31

Offering/Prayer (Fifth Sunday Mission Offering)

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

My Soul is Filled with Joy SJ 13

Scripture Luke 2.22-40

Message *Who is this Kid?*

Pastor Bill Seymour

He Shall Reign Forever More/Build Your Kingdom

Sharing and Prayer

Announcements

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.

Benediction

As you go, may you rejoice greatly in the goodness of our God.
May your whole being spring forth with joy. May you not be silent.
May you not find rest until redemption shines like the dawn and safekeeping glows like a burning torch. May you be called by a new name, and may you delight in the presence of God. Amen.

Accompanist: Anita Fisher

Worship Band: John, Christi, Noah Michaels, Andrew and Doug Fisher
Allison, Xan, and Bill Seymour

Reader: Sandy Sohar

Today (December 31)

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Bill Seymour preaching
Fifth Sunday Mission Offering
10:45 a.m. Sharing and Prayer
11:00 a.m. Sunday School

Monday **New Year's Day** (office closed)

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Axis Youth Group
6:30 p.m. BreakAway – Cookie Dough-Making!

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship and Service

Next Sunday (January 7)

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Worship Service
Bill Seymour preaching
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
Message: *The Magi*
10:45 a.m. Sharing and Prayer
11:00 a.m. Sunday School

Last Sunday (December 24)

Ministry Spending Plan: \$1,259.00 Weekly MSP Needed: \$3,054.79
Partnership Plan: \$250.00 Weekly PP Needed: \$897.35
Mennonite Mission Network: \$300.00
Land: \$300.00
Cookbooks: \$44.00

Greeters Today Virg and Kathy Troyer, Diane Hostetler

Next Sunday Mim and Mel Wenger, Jan Kauffman

Elder Greeter Today Jen Bixler

Next Sunday Marilyn Kamp

Worship Nursery Today Mim Wenger

Next Sunday Jan Kauffman

Coffee Hospitality Today John and Barb Shilling

Next Sunday Stan and Marilyn Kamp

Dear Friends at Orrville Mennonite Church, Thank you for the donation you made in our husband and father's name to the Royer Scholarship Fund. It was a good fit since mother (Melinda Marie Amstutz) attended church at OMC before marriage and remembers I.W. Royer well. He officiated at their wedding in 1948. Thank you for your kind and thoughtful gift/donation. Sincerely, Cheryl & Tom Michaels for The Duane Amstutz Family

Merry Christmas from Febri Kristiani – Dear Orrville Mennonite Church, Wishing you all the joys of Christmas season and the best in the coming year. Thank you so very much for supporting me financially to study at AMBS. I am thankful for all of you. Peace, Febri (Febri's picture is posted on the bulletin board near the mailboxes).

Orrville Mennonite Church WiFi password – OMCpub4u

He Shall Reign Forevermore

In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

Chorus

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

Chorus (twice)

Chris Tomlin | Matt Maher
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Sermon Notes for December 31, 2017

Luke 2.22-40 *Who is this kid?*

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus

Mary

Simeon

Anna

Galatians 4.4-7

Jesus came so you and I may be children of God, heirs with Jesus of the blessings of God. See also John 1.12, Romans 8.17

Advent, Christmas, and the Church Year

Advent Starting Position

God, something is wrong. Please come.

Isaiah 64.1-9, Mark 13.24-37

Second Advent Position

I confess my sin and am ready to listen when you come.

Isaiah 40.1-11, Mark 1.1-8

Third Advent Position

I humble myself before you, Lord and accept your will.

Isaiah 61.1-11, Luke 1.46b-55

Fourth Advent Position

I am ready to follow. Come, Lord Jesus.

Luke 1.26-38, Romans 16.25-27

The Question of Christmas

The question on the day of the dedication of Jesus, the baby, was,
“Who is this child and what will he do?”

This question is already answered for us, so OUR question at Christmas is:

“What will we do with this baby, Jesus?” or

“What will we do because of Jesus?”

Prayer Concerns & Praises for Week of December 31, 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
- **Lance Almond** as he seeks medical care for congestive heart failure. Prayers for sleep and peace and the help he needs.
- **The mother of Heather**, one of our BreakAway youth, passed away unexpectedly. Please keep Heather in your prayers.
- **Marion and Jane Beyeler** – Marion's recovery from surgery
- **Stan & Marilyn Kamp's 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
- **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
- **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.
- **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** – Tonight is Watch Night in many African-American communities. At midnight on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation became law. Though written 154 years ago, that law has not yet been completely fulfilled. Join MMN in proclaiming and working toward salvation and justice for all people in the coming year.
- **Mennonite Education Agency – Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH)** – May God fill SeBAH students with wisdom and blessings. May God help them to devote themselves to their studies and guide them through this learning process.

Orrville Mennonite Church Daily Devotions Week ending with Sunday, January 7, 2018

Day One Read Isaiah 60.1-6

What do you see when you lift your eyes to see what God is doing?

Day Two Read Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

A prayer for the king. Who should we pray this prayer for now?

Day Three Read Ephesians 3.1-12

What is the mystery?

Day Four Read Revelation 21.1-6a

What is seen?

Day Five Read Matthew 2.1-12

Who are these wise men and why did they visit Jesus?

“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.*

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!