

IN TOUCH

WINGS Update

For weeks, all the kids wanted to know when the annual WINGS Christmas banquet was! They couldn't wait! We wrapped up our study of the Armor of God, had a fun night of Thanksgiving games and then . . . it was time! We introduced the Christmas story to the kids the week before the banquet as a reminder that Jesus is the whole reason for Christmas. That same night, we thought we would try something different and take the kids Christmas caroling as a way to bring the part of the Christmas story about the shepherds sharing the good news of Jesus' birth to life. If you live in Orrville, you may have heard a mob yelling at the top of their voices throughout the streets "Feliz Navidad . . . Feliz Navidad . . . We want to wish you a Merry Christmas!" We weren't sure what to expect and the first house we went to had the kids timidly trying out their voices (lucky you, Bill and Allison!). After that first house though, all of Orrville heard that Christmas was coming! We visited several more houses of astonished residents (it was the Tuesday before Thanksgiving by the way) and then, rushed the kids back to the church before our sanity was lost to "cha cha cha's". Back at the church, we iced Christmas cookies only to realize that adding sugar to the "cha cha's" wasn't quite the right way to silence a crowd. Ours was not a silent night Christmas!

The next week was the Christmas banquet. Families joined their WINGS kids to celebrate Christ's birth. About 66 guests enjoyed food, fellowship, a devotional, a slide show of pictures remembering the past year, and, of course, presents. One small gift was Flarp. If you have not tried Flarp or given Flarp to your children, beware. It is also not conducive to silent nights, but it does lead to many, many jokes and much laughter. :)

WINGS takes a break for December and then, we will be right back at it in January with a new theme: Wise Choices, new fun night surprises, and much more sharing Jesus' love with each kid that walks through the door. Thank you for all of your prayers and support. Please continue to pray that needs are met for families that are struggling, new leaders are called by God to join us, and any child that walks through our doors is shown Jesus. Thank you!

~ Sara Anderson, WINGS Leader

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Orrville Mennonite Church
1305 West Market Street
Orrville, OH 44667

Phone: 330-682-5801

E-mail: omcjan@gmail.com

Pastor Bill Seymour

Cell—330-347-7034

Email—omcbill@gmail.com

Web Site for OMC:

www.orrvillemenno.net

Web Site for

Ohio Conference

of Mennonite Church USA:

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org





Remember these neat little church bags (sewn by Cheryl Phillips!) we've had at the end of our pews? We want to try something a little different and keep six or so of these in a tote at the usher station at the back of the sanctuary for the usher to hand to families with children as they enter. We'd like to keep them fresh and fun for the kiddos!

That's where you all come in! We will provide a collection basket at the back of the sanctuary over the next few weeks for donations of small toys, activities appropriate for use during a worship service... Think crayons, coloring booklets, pads of paper, puzzles. You can think back to what you brought along to church for your kids when they were small. :o)

The size of the bag is 7" x 10".

We're also thinking about providing colored pencils and coloring pages for older kids/adults. Feel free to share your feedback!

Giving opportunity. We have three seminary students, Febri Kristiani, Danae King and Esther Muhagachi, who are recipients of Royer scholarship funds through OMC and matching grants from AMBS. We thank you for your support earlier this summer when we asked for \$1,200.00 to cover the August payment. We have another payment of \$1,200.00 due in December. With your generosity this summer and the interest earned on the account, we are short approximately \$250.00 for this payment. If you would like to share in this opportunity, please designate in the offering "Royer Scholarship 2019". Thank you!

You are invited to hear Handel's Messiah performed at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville this coming Sunday afternoon, December 15 at 2:30 p.m. This church has a long-standing tradition of hosting this beautiful work and their 86th rendition will be offered as a worshipful way to celebrate the Christmas season.

Give a kit for Christmas! From hurricanes and flooding to conflict and drought, MCC is responding to many disasters around the world. This Christmas, why not gather your family and pack a school kit as a gift to other families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? For more information about school kit contents and how you can get involved, visit mcc.org/kits/school.