

First Mennonite Church

December 31, 2017

ORGANIST --- Dr. Scott Lehman ✦ WORSHIP LEADER --- Brent Hyman

Prelude *Three Epiphany Pieces/Linker*

*Welcome Brent Hyman

*#265 [brown] *The First Noel* (vs. 1,5,6)

*#249 [brown] *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vs. 1,3)

*#215 [blue] *What Child Is This?*

Video: The Fourth Wise Man

Offering (Christmas Version)

Offering Prayer for Household Treasury/Local Ministries Greg Meyer

Offertory: *Make Room* Hall/Maher

Praise Band

Children age 3-K may go children's church.

Guests, please fill out the cards in the pew and drop in the offering plate.

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14

Message *Are You Ready?/Pastor Bill Helmlinger*

*#549 [brown] *Higher Ground*

Intercessory Prayer Naomi Lehman

Announcements

*#218 [blue] *As with Gladness*

*Benediction Pastor Bill Helmlinger

*Postlude *In Thee Is Gladness/J. S. Bach*
If you would like someone to pray with you following the service, please go to the chapel, as someone is waiting to pray with you.

TODAY AT FIRST MENNONITE

On the scanner and TV today is the Helping Hands class.

Today is Project Share. Our church is requested to provide beans this month; however, all donations are appreciated.

Today a carry-in dinner will be held following the worship service to honor Pastor Jerry and Bonnie Flueckiger's retirement. Following the dinner, a time of sharing will be given in the patio. A card shower will also take place with baskets for you to place them in. Please bring your own plates & table service.

NO EVENING SERVICE

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

TUESDAY –January 2

6:30 p.m. Sunshine Hour

6:30 p.m. Prayer with a Pastor – Prayer room

WEDNESDAY – January 3

- 5:00 p.m. Grace Notes Bell Choir
5:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6:10 p.m. Little Notes of Praise (4 yr. old – 1st grade) Rm.17
6:10 p.m. Mennonotes – Choir room (grades 6-8)
6:10 p.m. JAM – Rm. 7 (grades 2-5)
6:50 p.m. Grades 1-5 – in the Family Life Center
6:50 p.m. Youth - Youth room
7:00 p.m. Age 4-K – Room at the bottom of the ramp
7:00 p.m. Age 2 & 3 – Toddler Nursery
7:00 p.m. Chapel – *Time Well Spent* – Marcia Cressman
6:45 p.m. DVD Series *Life Is Best* led by Jessica Lehman – Rm. 15
7:00 p.m. *The Real God* Chip Ingram book study led by Malcolm Stauffer and Michael Mosser. Rm. 12
7:00 p.m. Parenting: What Does the Bible Say? Led by Kent & Becky Lehman. Rm. 17
7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00 p.m. Women's Ministries – Project Committee Room. Quilting is also available.
7:00 p.m. Prayer Group – Prayer room
8:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The offering today is for Household Treasury/Local Ministries. Next Sunday it is for Eastern Mennonite Missions.

On Tuesdays for the month of January, the Cornerstone Class will be responsible for setting up tables for the Wednesday evening meals.

Next Sunday, January 7, there will be communion during the worship service.

The menu for Wednesday, January 3: Pizza casserole, garlic bread, corn, tossed salad, ice cream, hot dogs (kids), & beverages.

New flower calendar for 2018 has been placed on the bulletin board by the church office. You're invited to sign up for Sundays at your convenience.

Offering envelopes are still available to be picked up. If you do not yet have your envelopes, please locate them on the table in the hallway on Sunday mornings or pick them up from the church office.

Individual Year-End Giving – Contributions received after December 31 will be posted as 2018 giving.

Volunteers needed! If you can help clean the Family Life Center, which is once every two months, please give Steve a call at 525-3174.

Year-end reports for Ministries Council, Spiritual Guidance Cabinet, Board of Trustees, Adult Ministries Committee, Endowment Board of Trustees, Worship Commission, Witness Commission, Care Commission, Disciple Commission, and pastors, for the Annual Business Meeting, are due to the church office no later than January 1.

Junior High Winter Retreat will be held January 12-14, 2018. Cost is \$70 for first child and \$40 for second, plus money for 2 meals. The theme is "Rooted" from Colossians 2:6-7. Registration is due January 7th. Forms are out on the table.

NEW ADULT MIDWEEK CLASSES begin this week! "Life Is Best" on pro-life issues, *The Real God* study, and "Parenting: What Does the Bible Say?" will begin January 3. We invite you to come and grow!

January is National Sanctity of Human Life Month. Starting Jan. 3, come to a 5-week Wed. night class to learn how to defend the pro-life position on abortion. Each week we will watch two 25-minute episodes of Scott Klusendorf's DVD series *Life Is Best* and then have a short discussion. Episodes cover human value, what the Bible says about abortion, men, and abortion, the gospel and forgiveness, common arguments, and more. This class **starts at 6:45** and is led by Jessica Lehman. Come be equipped and inspired to join the fight for lives and souls.

Hope Clinic Baby Shower – January 7 - 28. In support of Sanctity of Human Life, we are providing you with the opportunity to purchase **new** baby items for The Hope Clinic. We are hosting a church-wide baby shower so that we can bless moms who have chosen life for their child. The following are items that are always needed: diaper bags, diapers (especially sizes 4, 5 & 6), baby wipes, **new** baby equipment (cribs, mattresses, high chairs, baby gates, strollers, carrier infant car seats, car seats for up to 40 pounds, and toddler seats/boosters), crib sheets, laundry soap, potty chair or ring, pacifiers, teething toys, bottles and sippy cups, baby tableware, baby toys, baby clothes (newborn through 2T), receiving blankets, baby food, baby cereal and formula. Children's books for infant through at least 3 years of age. Items **not** needed at this time include: baby powder and baby oil. For our mothers, we need gently used maternity clothes in sizes large and extra-large that are suitable for the workplace.

The showcase in the west lobby will again be having the decade wedding photographs for the months of Jan. and Feb. The Historical Committee would appreciate all attendees to supply us with a photograph, preferably a framed 5 x 7 or an 8 x 10. Please bring them to the church office. They will be returned to you in March. Letters are being sent out but if you attend First Mennonite and for some reason, you do not receive a letter, bring your wedding picture in so that it can be included in the showcase. We may not have your wedding date on file. Questions, call Floyd Liechty at 849-1425.

Discover more fully God's heart for missions locally and around the world. Perspectives, a 15-week course designed by the US Center for World Missions, explores missions from Biblical, historical, cultural and strategic points of view. Each week different speakers provide informative and interesting material on a subject in their expertise. The class will begin on Monday evening, January 8, at First Missionary Church. For more info, visit www.perspectives.org or contact: Matt Wheeler, 260-417-1667, Connie Potter, 260-525-8516, or Gina Brewster, 260-692-2740.

God calls us to encourage each other. Here is a list of January birthdays for missionaries and church staff. A basket will be placed in the foyer in which you may place cards for them, and these will be sent for you.

4 Katie Cline 5 Kendall Lehman 13 Neill Von Gunten 19 Brian Fox

Congratulations and best wishes of the congregation are extended to Roy & Karen Lehman, who are celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary today.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jeff & Megan Linthicum, Brad & Deb Linthicum and other family members in the death of Sandra Linthicum on December 25; also to Pat Spade in the death of Ron Spade on December 26; and to Byron Liechty, Rick & June Liechty, Jeff & Cheryl Liechty, Fred & Sonia Lehman, Barb Yoder, Charlie & Louise Lehman, Clyde & Marjorie Wulliman, John Lehman and other family members in the death of Ruth Mary Liechty on Dec. 26.