

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
December 23, 2012

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

ORGANIST – Dr. Scott Lehman SONG LEADER – Brent Hyman

Prelude

And All on Earth Rejoiced/arr. Wagner
Youth Bell Choir
Angels from the Realms of Glory/Majesty/arr. Keveren
Jaci Gorrell

Welcome

Brent Hyman

**We Have a Savior*

Advent Candle #4: Love

Clint & Heidi Stumph

*#256 [brown] *Love Has Come*

The First Noel

Brass Quintet

arr. Fisher

Offering

for Household Treasury/Local Ministries/Bill Beachey

Offertory

Carol of the Bells/arr. McChesney
Grace Notes
Guests, please fill out the cards in the pew and drop in the offering plate.

Intercessory Prayer

Naomi Lehman

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

First Mennonite Men's Quartet

arr. Haun

Christmas Questions

Little Notes of Praise

Dohner

*#262 [brown] *Away in a Manger* (vs. 1,3)

Children age 3-K may go to Children's Church.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

JAM and Chancel Choir

arr. Sterling

Scripture

I John 4:7-12/Emily Miller

Message

The Light of Love/Pastor Jeff Linthicum

Born Is the King (It's Christmas)

JAM and Chancel Choir

arr. Duren

*#278 [brown] *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Anyone interested in singing the "Hallelujah" chorus may come to the choir loft (where sheet music is available) during this carol.

*"Hallelujah" chorus from *Messiah*

Handel

*Responsive Benediction

If you would like someone to pray with you following the service, you may go to the chapel where someone is there to pray with you.

*Postlude

Flourish on Joy to the World/arr. Hobby
*We invite you to stand if you are able

TODAY AT FIRST MENNONITE

On the scanner and TV today is the Chapel class.

WPGW-FM will be rebroadcasting *Messiah* today at 4 p.m. It can be heard at 100.9 on the FM dial.

No Evening Service tonight.
No youth. Merry Christmas!

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

MONDAY – December 24
Church office closes at noon
10 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

TUESDAY – December 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WEDNESDAY – December 26
NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The offering today & next Sunday is for the Household Treasury/Local Ministries.

On Tuesdays for the month of January, the Bible Basics Class will set up the tables for the Wednesday evening meals.

There will be communion on Sunday, January 6th during the worship service.

New flower calendar for 2013 has been placed on the bulletin board by the church office. You're invited to sign up for Sundays at your convenience.

Treasurers of Sunday School classes, WM, Chancel Choir, Mennonite Choral Society, please turn in your year-end report by December 28th.

Women's Ministries want to invite women and their families to the final WM meeting. Carol Knarr will be speaking on Thursday, January 3, at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Her program is titled "Stories for Israel." She is a professional storyteller who took a trip to Israel with a group of storytellers last spring. The stories will be part 3rd person, 1st person, and travel stories with pictures.

Year-end reports for Ministries Council, Board of Trustees, Midweek 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 4.

Individual Year-End Giving – In order for year-end contributions to be credited to this year's giving, they must be received at the church office, or postmarked, by noon on December 31. The church office will close at noon on the 31st. Contributions received after that will be posted as 2013 giving.

The Historical Committee would like your help for the display cabinet for February. Framed wedding pictures are needed from the years 2003-1993-1983-1973-and sequent 10 years on down. Please bring these to the church office by January 10th. The picture and frame will be returned in March.

The Children's Department is seeking some "new" toys for use in Sunday School and Children's Church areas. As you are cleaning out and making room for your new Christmas gifts, if you have age-appropriate items (that do not require batteries) that you would be willing to donate, please leave them in the box outside the children's department office.

Children's Programming Schedule - There will be no children's programming on Wednesday, Dec. 26 or January 2. "Agape National Park" will begin on January 9 for grades 1-5. Pre-school will continue "Exploring God's People."

Darren with the 5th Graders will be on **JANUARY 13!**

M.C.C. Relief Kits -- This is the last Sunday to contribute for relief kits. They will be going out on Thursday, December 26.

Mark your calendars: On January 25 and 26 the MCC mobile Meat Canner will be here in Berne. We need everyone working together to help with this project. How can you help: volunteer, give an hour or two of your time to help process the 26,000 pounds of turkey, give financially (cost to buy and process the turkey is \$62,500), and most importantly, pray for those who travel with the canner, those who volunteer, and the committee that organizes the event. Hope to see you there.

Blessing Missionaries – Do you have a special place in your heart to care for missionaries or to help our congregation keep up to date with our missionaries? Witness Commission is looking for some people from our congregation who might have a desire to bless our missionaries while they are in the mission field. If you would like to know more about some exciting ideas on how to do this, please contact Kim Ringger (260-565-3675) from Witness Commission.

What is a Disciple's Purpose? How does serving others differ from being enslaved to everyone's demand and never being able to say no? What are two responsibilities you have as a Christian ambassador who has been given the ministry of reconciliation? What do your goals reveal about what is most important to you? Answer these questions and many more with Megan Linthicum and Jaci O'Dell starting Wednesday evening, January 9th, for a simple Bible study titled "Discipleship: The Growing Christian's Lifestyle". This class is open to women of all ages and stages of life. Please sign up at the water fountain or contact Megan or Jaci by Sunday, January 6. Recommended book donation \$8.00.

Truth Project: In a recent study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic: Only 9 percent of professing Christians have a Biblical worldview. Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy, and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and as a nation. Join us January 9 for a 13-week DVD presentation by the Truth Project's Dr. Del Tackett. Sign up in the main foyer. Limit of 14 enrollees. If you have any questions about the class, contact Dave Shuey at 589-8815 or e-mail dp111967@yahoo.com.

Made to Crave is being offered again! Craving isn't a bad thing, but God created us to crave so we'd ultimately desire more of Him in our lives. Many of us have misplaced that craving, overindulging in food instead of lasting spiritual satisfaction. Join us for this 7-week video study that uncovers the missing link between a woman's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment to make it happen! The class starts January 9th at 7 pm! Sign up above the drinking fountain or by contacting Dawn Stevens at ndckccstevens@gmail.com

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Steve & Nicki Lehman, Mike & Wendy Lehman, and other family members in the death of LeRoy Lehman on December 14; also to Gina Brewster in the death of her father, Don Foltz on December 18.

Building Project Summary

	Pledges	Payments	
Combined	\$2,209,346	\$2,193,011	99.3%

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

“All-Nighter” December 28 (Cost is \$23; a free IHOP meal is included; bus leaves at 6)

Senior High Winter Retreat: Camp Friedenswald, January 4-6 (cost \$80)

Winter Jam: January 20 (\$10 plus one fast food meal)—leaving mid-afternoon; return could be as late as 11:30 (note this is a school night)

Junior High Winter Retreat: Camp Friedenswald, January 25-27 (cost \$80)

Pokagon State Park Toboggan Run (Jr. High students), Feb. 8-9 (cost \$25, plus two fast food meals)