

PLEASE NOTE that Melody Rupley has a new cell number: (717)-892-2982.

NEXT WEEK’S 2ND Hour Formation Class: **Land Use - What will the Future Bring?** We will look at a clip from a documentary entitled, ***This Changes Everything*** by Naomi Klein. The forests of Alberta Canada have been undisturbed for thousands of years until the discovery of oil in the tar sands. Now the forest is being stripped from the Beaver Lake Cree Nation. The United States is a player in this story with the construction of the Keystone Pipeline across the USA to the Gulf Of Mexico. Should this pipeline be built? Following a brief discussion we will look at a DVD Bob Wyble produced from a trip this past year to four national parks; Saguaro National Park, The Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Park. Observe saguaro cactus and raptors in the Southwest, the grandeur of the Teton Peaks; wildlife, geysers and hot springs in Yellowstone, and landscapes and bighorn sheep in Glacier National Park. Will the beauty of these national parks be here for our grandchildren to enjoy, or will we find some resource we can’t live without and rip up the parks? Class meets in the assembly room on December 10. Bob Wyble, Facilitator.

AMC HAS RE-JOINED the Parish Resource Center. Some of the benefits include workshops at a free or discounted rate; discounted tickets to major events; access to resources on Christian education, pastoral support, church year planning, IT support, and other services; and access to worship visuals and other materials from their books and curriculum collection.

ALL ARE INVITED to join a prayer group that has formed to pray for our congregation and the broader Church. We will next meet on Thursday, December 7 at 12:30 pm in Rachel’s office.

LECTIO DIVINA: All are invited to join Rachel Nolt in her office each Tuesday at 7:30 am for this spiritual practice of “divine or sacred reading.”

AMC’S CHILDREN invite you to participate with them in an Advent giving project during December. Please consider donating supplies for Prison Ministry Kits. People coming out of prison often have nothing but the clothes on their back. They face a staggering number of requirements and obligations, including getting a job. Yet, they often lack the most basic necessities, things we all take for granted, like a toothbrush and toothpaste, a bar of soap, washcloth and towel, a comb or brush. We will be collecting these items (a list is provided) on the table in the foyer to fill several “Bags of Love” containing basic hygiene supplies to make a world of difference for a Returning Citizen.

Please see insert for additional announcements

GIVING & BUDGET		
Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Weekly Budget</u>
	\$ 14,538	\$ 9,700
Year-to-date General Fund	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$ 423,657	\$ 463,700
January-December 2017:	\$ 510,000	5 weeks to go; \$ 86,343 to collect; \$ 17, 269/week
Attendance Last Sunday: 153		

Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
Church Office: (717) 859-1488 || 1311 Diamond Street || Akron, PA 17501

AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH
December 3, 2017
9:00 am
Advent 1 – Let it be

GATHERING/PRAISING

Prelude music		Diane Gehman
Instrumental call	<i>Wake, awake</i>	Peter Clemens
Call to worship		screen
Vocal response	<i>Come, Light of the world</i> (STS 3)	Ensemble
Words of invitation		
STJ 54 (green)	<i>Longing for light</i>	
STS 1 (purple)	<i>Praise the One who breaks the darkness</i>	
Offering and offertory		Diane Gehman
Offertory prayer		

HEARING GOD’S WORD

STS 10 (purple)	<i>Come! Walk in the light</i> – refrain only	
Children’s time		Sandra Richard Wood & Jerry Shank
Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Donna Shenk, Jean Buchen, & Esther Nolt		
Wonder & Wisdom dialogue		Dylan & Dawn Nolt
Scripture	Isaiah 64:1-9	Helen Peifer & Anne Weaver
Special music (STJ 102)	<i>When from the darkness</i>	ensemble
Scripture	Mark 13:24-37	Randall Justice
Sermon	<i>Keep Awake!</i>	Rachel Nolt

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

HWB 175 (blue)	<i>O Savior, rend the heavens</i>	
Confession & Words of assurance		
Prayers of the people		Patricia Martin

LIVING AS COMMUNITY

Introduction of guests		
Announcements		
Benediction		
STS 16 (purple)	<i>Peace before us</i> (stanzas 1-3, 6)	

Musicians
Song Leader
Worship Leader

Diane Gehman & Leon Myers
Jon Clemens
Patricia Martin

Scripture next week: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8; Terry Wible, preacher

PLEASE JOIN US (10:15 – 10:40)

Everyone is welcome to participate in coffee/tea fellowship following the worship service. Guests, please sign the guest book in the foyer next to the Welcome Desk.

SECOND HOUR FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (10:40 – 11:40)

Adults

Today only: *Strangers in our Midst (Refugees).* Curtis Book and Laura Pauls-Thomas from the MCC East Coast office will update us on the many issues surrounding this complex and timely subject. This will include information on how many refugees there are worldwide, as well as from where they come and where they are hosted. Also included will be information on such contemporary issues as the Dream Act and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program. With them will be Estefi Marcias, a DACA recipient from Honduras who will tell her fascinating story. Don't miss this opportunity to get better acquainted with what is happening and what we can do to bring joy to some of the dark corners of this world. Edgar Stoesz, Facilitator. Meets in the Assembly Room.

Koinonia Class: This class is studying Richard Rohr's book Immortal Diamond. Don and Lin Good, Facilitators. Meets in Room 222.

Children and Youth

Taught by members of the church who graciously volunteer their time. See below for locations.

Nursery age - - - - -	Nursery
Ages 2 -4 - - - - -	Rooms 16/18
Kindergarten-5th Grade - - - - -	Rooms 131, 132, 133 (lower level)
Jr. MYF (6-8 th Grade Youth) - - - - -	Room 122/124 (lower level)
MYF (High School Youth) - - - - -	MYF Room

AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY

Greeters: John & Janet Weber, Marilyn Langeman	Sound/AV Operator: Dale Hershey
Nursery Worship: As needed	Nursery DH: As needed
Coffee Servers: Barry & Dawn Nolt	Mug Washers: Jerry & Ethel Shank
Ushers: Steve Hartzler (Head usher), Marvin Nolt, Helena Dueck, Jane Hartzler, Clyde Martin	

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3 Today	Intergenerational Christmas caroling in Akron 6 – 8 pm; All are welcome!
December 5	Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am

December 6	Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm
December 6	Stewardship Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
December 7	Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7 am; Bob Peifer, presenter
December 13	Luther Acres lunch gathering 12 – 1:30 pm
December 15	Journey to Bethlehem at Woodcrest Retreat @ 6 pm; All are welcome!
December 17	AMC Christmas Program and Tea @ 6:00 pm
December 18	AMC Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
December 19	AMC Women's Brown Bag Luncheon @ Janet Stoner's, 11 am – 1 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service @ 7:00 pm

Save these Dates:

January 20, 2018	MYF Spaghetti Supper
March 24, 2018	MYF Auction

Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF - Grades 9-12):

- December 3 Christmas caroling with F.L.I.P. and Share-A-Life programs 6 – 8 pm
- December 9 Supper club and movie at Susan King's @ 5 pm
- December 15 Cookie baking @ AMC 6:30 – 9 pm

PRAYERS

Susan King's father and Christopher Hershberger's grandfather, John King, died November 24 at the age of 85. Family and friends gathered in Goshen for the funeral on November 29. Let's hold Susan and Christopher and the extended family in our prayers.

Randy Newcomer's father, Mervin M Newcomer, died on November 23 at age 82. Family and friends gathered for the funeral at Zion UCC in Ephrata on November 27. Let's hold Randy and Jolene in our prayers.

Evie Gerstlauer has been discharged from the hospital after a stroke and is now at Fairmont Homes. She would welcome visitors, phone calls (717-354-1621) and cards. She is in the Healthcare facility, room 128. If you want to send a card, send it to Evie Gerstlauer, Fairmont Homes, 333 Wheat Ridge Dr., Ephrata, PA 17522. Let's hold Evie in our prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA will be held the evening of Sunday, December 17 following the Christmas program. Hospitality Committee invites your contributions according to the first letter of your last name: **A-H**, 3 dozen cookies; **I-P**, 1 pound cubed cheese; **Q-Z**, 8-10 servings of washed and cut up fruit (e.g, strawberries, grapes, pineapple, oranges, clementines). Food can be dropped at the kitchen the morning of December 17. **If you are willing to help with setting up tables in advance or with clean up after the tea**, please contact Marilyn Yoder, email: msy9497@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Pat Martin is looking for persons to read Scripture for the Christmas Eve Service on Sat., Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact her: (pmartin@akronmench.org)