

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.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED to teach Spanish to DSECC children ages 2 to 11. Class held for 20 minutes. Classes can be taught all in one day or through the week. No teaching experience needed. Child clearance required. Contact Mindy Reigel at mindy@diamondstreet.org.

PLEASE RETURN your completed 2018 Giving Intention form to either Ken Langeman, Treasurer, or Rebecca Pereverzoff, Administrator, if you have not already done so. This will help complete the budgeting process for 2018. Thank you.

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 17. Bob Wyble, Facilitator.

Please see insert for additional announcements

GIVING & BUDGET

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Weekly Budget</u>
	\$ 21,613	\$ 9,700
Year-to-date General Fund	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$ 448,060	\$ 473,400
January-December 2017:	\$ 510,000	4 weeks to go; \$ 61,910 to collect; \$ 15,478/week
Attendance Last Sunday:	169	

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 10, 2017
9:00 am
Advent 2 - Let it be so

GATHERING/PRAISING

Prelude music Patricia Martin

Choral call to worship *Comfort ye* Merle Gingerich, soloist
Call to worship screen

Words of invitation
HWB 178 (blue) *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Offering and offertory *Every valley* Merle Gingerich, soloist
Offertory prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD

STS 10 (purple) *Come! Walk in the light* Jerry Shank
Children's time
Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Linda Good, Susan Martin, & Claire Magill

Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11 Cheryl Zook Justice, Angela Zimmerman, Cyndy Zook
HWB 176 (blue) *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

Scripture Mark 1:1-8 Cheryl Zook Justice, Angela Zimmerman, Cyndy Zook
Sermon *Anticipating the Presence, Expectant With Hope* Terry Wible

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

STS 8 (purple) *Wild and lone the prophet's voice*

Confession & Words of assurance
HWB 183 (blue) *On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry*
Prayers of the people Rachel Nolt

LIVING AS COMMUNITY

Introduction of guests
Announcements

Wonder & Wisdom dialogue Bree & Carolyn Beyer
STJ 78 (green) *Sizohamba naye (We will walk with God)*
Benediction

Musicians Bree Beyer, Carter Burkholder, Patricia Martin,
 Esther Nolt, Gavin Shenk, Mara & Lisa Zimmerman
 Song Leader David Martin
 Worship Leader Rachel Nolt

Scripture next week: Isaiah 60:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46b-55; Rachel Nolt, 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: *The Christmas Story in Art and Song.* (Note that this replaces the previously announced class *Land Use – What will the future bring?* That class will be offered next Sunday). We will view slides of paintings of the Christmas story while singing related songs. In any remaining time we could share stories of unusual and particularly meaningful Christmas celebrations we have experienced. We will have guitar accompaniment for some songs, but none of our pianists were available for this Sunday; thus, while everyone is indeed welcome, we hope some of you strong singers will join those of us who just enjoy music. –Ron Guenter, Leon Myers, Mary Ellen Martin

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: Mike Sikore & Hibist Siyoum, Ann Zimmerman **Sound/AV Operator:** Bryan Beyer
Nursery Worship: As needed **Nursery DH:** As needed
Coffee Servers: Barry & Dawn Nolt **Mug Washers:** Lawrence & Melody Rupley
Ushers: Don Good (Head usher), Tim Langeman, David Frey, Linda Frey

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13 Luther Acres lunch gathering 12 – 1:30 pm

December 15 F.L.I.P. event: Journey to Bethlehem at Woodcrest Retreat @ 6 pm
 Please R.S.V.P. to Dawn Nolt (dks965@aol.com)
 December 17 AMC Christmas Program and Tea @ 6:00 pm
 December 18 Women’s Retreat Committee meeting @ 5:00 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 15 Cookie baking @ AMC 6:30 – 9 pm

PRAYERS

Continue to remember the extended family of Evie Gerstlauer in your prayers as they mourn her death and celebrate her life.

Flo Harnish’s health is slowly improving. She is no longer on hospice care and now is beginning rehab at home. Flo is grateful for cards and phone calls. Let’s hold Dave and Flo in our prayers.

Please pray for John Martin as he undergoes further medical testing next week.

Ruth Detweiler appreciates your prayers as she recovers from back surgery.

Esther Hostetter is grateful for healing after her injury and appreciates 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 four additional persons to read Scripture for the Christmas Eve Service on Sun., Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact her: (pmartin@akronmench.org)

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