

PASTORAL CARE COVERAGE during Christmas holidays: Ken and Marilyn Langeman are available if you have an emergency need for pastoral care December 20 – 25 (717-859-3840). Melody Rupley is available December 26 – Jan 2 (717-892-2982 or 717-509-3735).

WHILE COMMEMORATING the birth of the Prince of Peace, you are invited to express your opposition to the militarized drone command center at the Horsham (Pa.) Air Guard Station—part of the expanding international network of drone warfare operations. On Saturday, December 30, Lancaster County participants in this “witness amid endless war” will leave the Akron Mennonite Church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return by 4 p.m. Contact H.A. Penner at penner@dejazzd.com or 717-859-3529 so sufficient transportation can be arranged.

IF ANYONE KNOWS the whereabouts of a DVD entitled “Pleasure Unwoven” (about addiction) please contact Marilyn Langeman (ken.marilyn.langeman@gmail.com or 717-859-3840).

DURING THE FORMATION HOUR on Sunday, December 31, Malachy Kilbride, Executive Director of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, will present an overview of NCPTF’s grassroots advocacy for H.R. 1947, The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill. This federal legislation supports conscientious objection to the payment of those federal income taxes that underwrite war and militarism.

MOBILE GIVING HAS ARRIVED! Giving to AMC can now be done easily through your smartphone, either with credit card or direct debit from your bank account. Check your church mailbox for instructions.

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. The last day to bring items for the kits will be Sunday, December 31.

GIVING & BUDGET

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Weekly Budget</u>
	\$ 23,249	\$ 9,700
Year-to-date General Fund	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$ 489,710	\$ 490,800
January-December 2017:	\$ 510,000	2 weeks to go; \$ 20,290 to collect; \$ 10,145/week
Attendance Last Sunday:	185	

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 24, 2017
9:00 am
Advent 4 – Yes! Let it be now

GATHERING/PRAISING

Prelude music		Nathan Bontrager
Instrumental call	<i>The angel Gabriel</i>	Nathan Bontrager
Call to worship		
Words of invitation		
HWB 172 (blue)	<i>O come, O come, Immanuel</i>	
HWB 174 (blue)	<i>Bless'd be the God of Israel</i>	
Offering and offertory		Nathan Bontrager
Offertory prayer		

HEARING GOD’S WORD

STS 10 (purple)	<i>Come! Walk in the light</i>	
Children’s time		Jerry Shank
Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Donna Shenk & Dave Frey		
Scripture	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:26-38	Gerald & Marlene Kauffman, Lynne Brubaker
STS 11 (purple)	<i>No wind at the window</i>	
Sermon	<i>Let it be to me</i>	Dennis Ernest

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

HWB 189 (blue)	<i>To us a Child of hope is born</i>	
Confession & Words of assurance		
STS 114 (purple)	<i>God has chosen me</i>	
Moment in mission		Amela Puljek-Shank
Prayers of the people		Patricia Martin

LIVING AS COMMUNITY

Introduction of guests		
Announcements		
Wonder & Wisdom dialogue		Gavin & Charity Shenk
HWB 182 (blue)	<i>Oh, how shall I receive thee</i>	
Benediction		

Musicians
Song Leader
Worship Leader

Nathan Bontrager, Diane Gehman
Richard Crockett
Patricia Martin

Scripture next week: Psalm 48; Galatians 4:4-6; Luke 2:22-40; Christmas carol hymn sing

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)

Adult and youth formation classes will not meet today. Adult classes will resume next Sunday, December 31.

AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Doug & Joanne Dirks, Helena Dueck

Sound/AV Operator: Marv Horst

Nursery Worship: As needed

Nursery DH: As needed

Coffee Servers: Barry & Dawn Nolt

Mug Washers: Herman & Jeanette Bontrager

Ushers: Dale Herr (Head usher), Amy Herr, Lloyd Chapman, Nancy Chapman, Eileen Byler

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 **Tonight** Christmas eve service @ AMC @ 7:00 pm
January 2 Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
January 3 Library Committee Meeting @ 6:00 pm
January 3 Stewardship Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
January 4 Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7 am; Kevin King, presenter
January 5-7 Jr. MYF retreat @ Camp Hebron
January 10 Connect! @ AMC @ 6:00 pm
January 11 Garden Spot Village residents' lunch with Rachel Nolt @ 11:30 am
January 11 AMC Council meets @ 7:00 pm
January 14 Sunday Soup @ AMC
January 20 MYF Spaghetti Dinner 5 – 8 pm
January 21 Discernment Sunday @ AMC during second hour

Save these Dates:

March 24, 2018 MYF Auction

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

- January 14 Supper club at Karen & Kevin King's @ 5:00 pm
- January 20 Spaghetti Dinner 5-8 pm

PRAYERS

Geraldine Ebersole's brother, Dwight Hartman, passed away Sunday morning, December 17. His memorial service will be at Parkview Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA on December 30. Please remember Geraldine and the extended family in your prayers.

Irma Bowman is at Landis Homes Oregon House for rehab following successful surgery after she broke her leg. She appreciates cards, calls (717-509-5429), visits. Let's hold her in our prayers.

Bob Peifer remains in treatment at Lancaster General Hospital. He appreciates our prayers.

Nancy Drescher had knee replacement surgery at WECH on Wednesday. Let's hold her in our prayers.

Flo Harnish continues under rehab care at home. She appreciates cards, calls and visits. Let's hold her in our prayers.

Ruth Detweiler is awaiting test results to indicate next steps following her back surgery. She is grateful for visits, cards and prayers from the AMC family.

Sisters and brothers in the prayer network of Mennonite World Conference (MWC) remind us that "there is nothing so broken that God cannot fix it". As the body of Jesus Christ here on earth today, we embody hope for our world by being a global community that prays for each other, overcoming our economic, theological, cultural and political differences. –*Cesar Garcia, MWC General Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LECTIO DIVINA is cancelled for December 26 and January 2, and will resume on January 9.

THE PRAYER GROUP that has formed to pray for the congregation will not meet on December 28, but will resume meeting on January 4.

OUR WARM THANKS to Edgar Stoesz for sharing his lovely Christmas "Joy" woodwork creation which stands at the driveway entrance to AMC. All are welcome to get a closer view of the scene by stopping to see a smaller version he brought to the AMC office.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the Christmas Thanks Offering may be made through December 31.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS: If you are planning to make an end-of-year donation to AMC, please remember that it must either be received or postmarked by December 31 to be deductible in 2017. Checks that are received in the January 7, 2018 offering will be deductible in 2018, even if they are backdated to 2017.

AMC STAFFING during the Christmas holidays: Rachel Nolt is on vacation through January 2. Melody Rupley will be on vacation December 21 – 25. Pat Martin will be on vacation December 26. The church office will be closed Monday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. It will open at 9:30 am December 26 – 29. Because staff hours that week are irregular, it is best to phone beforehand if you are planning to come to the church office. Thank you.