

**Wherever you are in life's journey and your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here, where together we share God's love.**

SOUTHERN HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH
511 SE 37th Street, P.O. Box 5067, Topeka, KS 66605-0067
785-266-9403 Church@SouthernHillsMC.org

December 17, 2017

61:50

9:20 a.m. - GATHERING FOR WORSHIP - *Please enter the sanctuary quietly to pray, write a message of gratitude or prayer request on a card, light a candle, and spend time in reflection as you listen to the prelude.*

Prelude: "Dona Nobis Pacem" arr. McMichael
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" arr. McMichael
"O Holy Night" arr. Rocherolle

9:30 a.m. - WELCOME TO WORSHIP - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Introduction of Guests *(Please fill out the welcome pads.)*

Announcements

*Passing the Peace

*Musical Response

*Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11

*Call to Worship Back of Bulletin

*Invocation

*Hymn: "Hark! The glad sound!" HWB 184 (blue)

Lighting the Third Advent Candle Phyllis, Brooke, April Slipke

Song: "Hope is a candle" STS 15 (purple)
(stanzas 1, 2 and 4)

Invitation to the Children: "O come, little children" Screen

Time with the Children Mike Peters

Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's anointed" HWB 185 (blue)
(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery during the song.)

Presenting our Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Offertory: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" arr. Rocherolle
(Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plates.)

Sharing and Prayer

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

Cantata: "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest" Susa

With reflections by Raylene Hinz-Penner
I. Oh, mi Belén! *(Oh, Bethlehem)*

II. El Desembre Congelat *(On December's frozen ground)*

III. Alegría

Bradley Siebert, soloist

IV. A la nanita nana

V. Las Posadas *(Lodgings)*

Randall Schmidt, Tyler Shima, Jayce Yoder, Zach Shima, quartet

VI. Campana sobre Campana *(Bell after bell)*

VII. En Belén Tocan A Fuego *(There's a fire in Bethlehem)*

Miriam Krehbiel, soloist

VIII. El Noi de la Mare *(What shall we give to the child of the Mother?)*

Jill Siebert, Megan Siebert, Braden Unruh, Andrew Voth, quartet

IX. Chiquiriquitin

X. El Rorro *(The Baby)*

*Hymn: "Oh, how shall I receive thee" HWB 182 (blue)

*Benediction

*Organ Response

*Postlude: "Joy to the World" arr. Peterson

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*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*Hearing assist devices & large print bulletins are available from the ushers.*

*STJ = Sing the Journey (green); STS = Sing the Story (purple)*

*HWB = Hymnal: A Worship Book (blue)*

|                                            |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Pastor: Roger Neufeld Smith                | Cello: Carolyn Rich Voth                    |
| Associate Pastor:<br>Cynthia Neufeld Smith | Readers: Fayth Boucher and<br>Lois Grummert |
| Organist: Kathy Rich                       | Nursery Helper: Brooke Slipke               |
| Worship Leader: Doug Penner                | Greeters: Roger & Judy Krehbiel             |
| Violin: Donna Mealy                        | Usher: Monica Schrag                        |

**10:30 a.m. - Coffee and Conversation at the Holy Grounds Café.**

**10:45 a.m. - Sunday School classes for all ages.**

- The adult Advent Sunday School class continues today in the sanctuary with Glenna Lowry as the teacher.

**5:30 p.m. - The high school youth host a soup supper as a fundraiser for the youth fund. Everyone is invited.**

**6:30 p.m. - Intergenerational Christmas Program - Everyone is invited!**

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. - Worship Service - Christmas Eve Sunday. Roger will preach.

10:45 a.m. - Glenna Lowry will lead the last lesson in her Advent Sunday School class series. Children's classes will NOT meet.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. - Girl Scout Troop meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Mentor/Mentee Caroling

**Southern Hills Mennonite Church Mission Statement** (from the church constitution): *The purpose of this congregation shall be to live by and promote, through worship, study, giving and witness, the heritage of the Anabaptist-Mennonite expression of the Christian faith and life in contemporary form. We believe this to mean that a congregation is to be a body of Christians committed to the Lordship of Christ, who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live lives of discipleship, to practice the ethic of love and nonresistance in all human relationships, and to adhere to the historic peace position.*

*Southern Hills Bulletin Insert 12/17/17*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thanks** to the following people for their contributions to our **Advent worship series** this year: Lila Bartel, painted banners; Lyle and Zoe Burkholder and Lori Oesch, dramas; Mike Peters and Phil Esau, children's stories. Thanks also to those who decorated the sanctuary and the new tree: Sue Ann Funk, Raylene Hinz-Penner, and Karen Burkholder.

**Thank you** for the beautiful Poinsettia and the cards, thoughts and prayers after the passing of our dad and grandfather. They were all greatly appreciated.

Kevin & Sheryl Goering, Matt Goering, Lisa and Casey Schunn

**Thanks to Steve Funk** for work on updating the SHMC computer system.

The **mentee/mentor annual caroling party is this Thursday, Dec. 21**. We will meet at the Church at 6:30. After some great singing, we will head back to Church for cookies and cocoa. Mentors, please let Carolyn Voth know if you can drive. Also, let Carolyn know right away if you have a special someone you want to carol. ([voth.strings@gmail.com](mailto:voth.strings@gmail.com))

**SAVE THE DATE! February 18, 4 p.m.** - Hymn Sing/Fundraiser for MDS (Mennonite Disaster Service). More details to come in January.

**Every ministry of Southern Hills Mennonite Church is welcome to submit an annual report** of your work from this past year. This is your opportunity to tell the church what you've been doing and invite others to get involved. Reports are **due in the church office by January 2**. Beat the Christmas rush and write your report this week! Send it to [Church@SouthernHillsMC.org](mailto:Church@SouthernHillsMC.org).

The Church Council would appreciate **feedback on an initial draft of the SHMC 2018 General Budget**. Electronic copies were emailed to our SHMC contact list. Let the church office know if you didn't receive it. Paper copies are available on the south foyer table. Please make comments directly on your paper copy and place in Kerry Wedel's church mailbox or by email ([wed3004@hotmail.com](mailto:wed3004@hotmail.com)). Comments are due on Jan. 7 and will be shared at the council meeting on Jan. 11.

**Let's Finish Strong:** Last week we learned that we need \$50,127.82 in contributions during the month of December to meet our General Budget giving goal for 2017. That is \$32,037.55 more than our usual monthly giving goal of \$18,090.27. Please consider what you can contribute to a strong finish to our financial year!

### COMING EVENTS

December 25 and January 1 – Church office closed

January 2 – Annual reports due

January 28 – Annual congregational meeting

#### NURSERY SCHEDULE:

Dec 24 – Zoe Burkholder

Dec 31 – Gretchen Morelington

Jan 7 – Fayth Boucher

#### CLEANING SCHEDULE (New/Old):

Dec 23 – Yoder (N), Keckeisen (O)

Dec 30 – Seals/Schwanke (N), Bartel (O)

Jan 6 – Burkholder/Oesch (N), Bartel (O)

### ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS

- The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, Sun., Dec. 17 2:00-3:30 pm, at Avondale East Elementary
- "Mennonites provide food and shelter in DR Congo" – two articles
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Whose Dream Is It?" Jan. 15 at First Christian Church
- Thank you note from Richard Nichol
- "Behind the HAMMER," Mennonite Disaster Service/Fall 2017 (note article about Pine Ridge Indian Reservation—SHC youth were volunteers this summer)
- Thank you note from Bradley Kohlman, Bethel College, for hosting "Giving Tuesday". \$21,000 raised for Bethel College, 292 towels and \$3,000 for MCC.
- Christmas card & letter from Audrey & Aaron and Nadia Ratzlaff

### LAST SUNDAY MORNING

**Attendance:** 104    **Visitors:** Duane, Sara, Alice & Adam Adrian; Bill & Janet Buxton; Michelle Ewert; John & Valerie Klaassen; Joy Law; Ashley Lutz; Marc & Martha Lutz; Stephanie Rohr

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### **Last Sunday we prayed for:**

- college and graduate students finishing their final exams.
- churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who are experiencing a crisis of violence, destruction of churches and killings. Dozens of Congolese Mennonites have been killed (see article on bulletin board).
- those affected by the wildfires in California.
- continuing recovery efforts for those affected by hurricanes in the US this year.
- people who struggle during the Christmas season.

#### **We gave thanks:**

- that Sherrell and Larry Conklin were able to travel to Wichita to see Sherrell's mother over the weekend.

### WIDER NEWS AND NOTES

Looking for another giving project this Christmas season? **MCC is in need of thousands of relief kits** to help people around our world who have been displaced due to violence, natural and man-made disasters. Check the poster on the church bulletin boards for instructions on how to give a relief kit as a gift.

**ADVENT Sunday School Class  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

CANTATA PERSONNEL

SOPRANO

Sydney Bollinger  
Pat Esau  
Miriam Krehbiel  
Sophia Minder  
Natalie Moreland  
Vicki Penner  
Kaitlyn Shima  
Jill Siebert

ALTO

Carol Ingenthron  
Elvera Johnson  
Judy Krehbiel  
Rosalyn Robinson  
Michelle Shima  
Megan Siebert  
Jené Yoder

TENOR

Roger Krehbiel  
Randall Schmidt  
Randy Schmidt  
Tyler Shima  
Bradley Siebert  
Braden Unruh

BASS

Steve Funk  
Tom Goering  
Zach Shima  
Roger Neufeld Smith  
Guy Smoker  
Andrew Voth  
Tim Voth

REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST: Kathy Rich

HARP: Rob Banks

GUITAR: Brent Ferguson

MARIMBA/VIBRAPHONE: Daniel Albertson

REFLECTIONS: Raylene Hinz-Penner

DIRECTOR: Cynthia Neufeld Smith

December 17: **JOY**

With joyous expectation we watch for signs of God's coming.

December 24: **LOVE**

We trust in God's extravagant love.

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**Intergenerational Christmas Program  
Sunday Evening, December 17**

**Christmas Supper, 5:30 p.m.**

The high school youth will host a soup supper as a fundraiser for the youth general fund.

**Intergeneration Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.**

This year the Christian Education Board is planning an intergenerational Christmas program. The theme is **Ancestral Stories**, based on Psalm 78: "I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord..."

The Education board has asked various groups to help tell the stories of Christmas. The Women's Class will present a reading based on the biblical story of Elizabeth and Mary. The children will present the traditional story of Jesus' birth - though in an untraditional, humorous way. The youth will follow up their journey to the Pine Ridge Reservation this summer by presenting a Native American Christmas tradition.

**Christmas Fellowship, 7:30 p.m.**

Please bring Christmas "goodies" and snacks to share in a time of fellowship after the program.