

**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](mailto:Church@SouthernHillsMC.org)

December 10, 2017 61:49

**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: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" Bach  
"Savior of the Nations, Come!" Walcha  
"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Biery

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

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

Announcements

\*Passing the Peace

\*Musical Response

\*Call to Worship Back of Bulletin

\*Invocation

\*Hymn: "Comfort, comfort, O my people" HWB 176 (blue)

Lighting the Second Advent Candle Natalie and Gretchen Moreland  
Song: "Hope is a candle" STS 15 (purple)  
(stanzas 1 and 2)

Parent/Child Dedication  
Hymn: "Child of blessing, child of promise" HWB 620 (blue)

Invitation to the Children: "O come, little children" Screen  
Time with the Children Phil Esau  
Hymn: "Bless'd be the God of Israel" HWB 174 (blue)  
(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery during the song.)

Presenting our Offerings  
Offertory Prayer  
Offertory: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Leavitt  
(Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plates.)

Sharing and Prayer

Scripture Readings Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8  
Drama: Wisdom and Wonder

Meditation: "A New Way in the Wilderness" Roger

Confession and Assurance Back of Bulletin  
\*Hymn: "On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry" HWB 183 (blue)

\*Benediction  
\*Organ Response  
\*Postlude: "Comfort, Comfort, O My People" Hovland

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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<br>Associate Pastor, Organist:<br>Cynthia Neufeld Smith<br>Worship Leader: Rod Garman | Readers: Kristin, Cooper, and<br>Janson Garman<br>Nursery Helper: Kaity Shima<br>Greeters: Roger & Judy Krehbiel<br>Usher: Monica Schrag |
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**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.

- The youth will plan and practice their contribution for the Christmas program during Sunday School, then have lunch together to finish preparations for the program.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. - Worship Service - Third Sunday in Advent. The adult choir will present "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest" by Conrad Susa, with reflections by Raylene Hinz-Penner.

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

- Glenna Lowry will continue to lead the Advent Sunday School class.

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

NURSERY SCHEDULE: CLEANING SCHEDULE (New/Old):  
Dec 17 - Brooke Slipke Dec 16 - Hershberger Group (N&O)  
Dec 24 - Zoe Burkholder Dec 23 - Yoder (N), Keckeisen (O)  
Dec 31 - Gretchen Morelinton Dec 30 - Seals/Schwanke (N), Bartel (O)

THIS WEEK

Monday, 6 p.m. (eat at 6:30) - Women's Circle Christmas Supper

Tuesday, 6:15 p.m. - Taco Tuesday

Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir rehearsal (NOTE EARLIER TIME!)

Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - Senior Coffee Christmas Lunch

7:00 p.m. - Cantata instrument/choir rehearsal

Saturday, 9-10:30 a.m. - Cantata rehearsal

**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 12/10/17

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Megan and Daniel Klaassen** are dedicating **Eliza Sue** today, and **Sara Unruh and Jeremy Rohr** are dedicating **Adam John**. Let's support these families in many ways including our prayers.

We **thank** 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; and Mike Peters and Phil Esau, children's stories. Thanks also to those who have decorated the sanctuary and the new tree: Sue Ann Funk, Raylene Hinz-Penner, and Karen Burkholder.

To celebrate the Advent season this year, the Christian Education Board has asked **Glenna Lowry to teach an adult Advent Sunday School class** that explores the Scriptures that prompt us to celebrate Advent. **This class meets in the sanctuary after worship**. All adults are welcome to join this class, whether you regularly attend Sunday School or not. See the insert in the bulletin for the class outline.

**Any Christmas program prelude, or other performances should be communicated to Phyllis Slipke before Wednesday, Dec 13.**

**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

The **mentee/mentor annual caroling party is 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))

To continue receiving **The Mennonite magazine** SHMC folks will need to order their own subscription. **Go to The Mennonite website** and choose a subscription option. You can also call The Mennonite office (316) 281-4398.

**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 1**. 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 on . 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.

**Year End Giving Notice from the Church Council:** You will see in the Treasurer's report in this bulletin that we need \$50,127.82 in contributions during the month of December to meet our General Budget giving goal for 2017. Please consider what you might be able to do to help alleviate this shortage.

### COMING EVENTS

December 21, 6:30 p.m. – Mentor/Mentee Christmas Caroling  
December 25 and January 1 – Church office closed  
January 2 – Annual reports due  
January 28 – Annual congregational meeting

### ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS

-“Brass Christmas” and *GHS Elbiata Singers (Andrew Voth, Director)*, Dec. 10  
-25<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Whose Dream Is It?”  
Jan. 15 at First Christian Church  
-Janson Garman featured in The Capital-Journal article  
-Memorial Service program for Erna Nichol, First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson  
-“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.

### LAST SUNDAY MORNING

**Attendance:** 100 **Visitors:** Michelle Ewert, Tim & Lauri Hertzler, Elwyn & Kris Luber

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Last Sunday we prayed for:**

- Kevin Goering and family, in the loss of his father.
- all those affected by the tragic automobile accident near Holton in which three members of a Sabetha family were killed.
- a friend of Annette Bartel, who is dealing with cancer.
- a neighbor of Phil and Pat Esau who is dealing with cancer.
- all people who struggle during the Christmas season.

**We gave thanks for:**

- a new job for Deb Goering.

### 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.