

*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 24, 2017 61:51

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: "The First Nowell" Lasky
"Noel" Daquin
"Deck the Hall" Pasquet

9:30 a.m. - WELCOME TO WORSHIP - FOURTH 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: "Oh, how joyfully" HWB 209 (blue)

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle Tom, Deb, Henry, Anna Goering
Song: "Hope is a candle" STS 15 (purple)
(stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 3 - *in that order*)

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

Time with the Children Mike Peters

Hymn: "What child is this/Helpless and hungry" HWB 215 and STS 26

(Stanza 1 of "Helpless" then "What child," stanza 2 of "Helpless"

then "What child," then both together on stanza 3)

(No children's nursery offered today; Dianne has the day off!)

Presenting our Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Offertory: "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Means
(Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plates.)

Sharing and Prayer

Worship Music Mike Shima

Scripture Reading Luke 1:47-55

Hymn: "My soul is filled with joy" STJ 13 (green)

Scripture Reading Luke 2:4-14

Hymn: "Angels we have heard on high" HWB 197 (blue)

Drama: Wisdom and Wonder

Sermon: "The Christmas We Have Been Waiting For" Roger

*Hymn: "Joy to the world" HWB 318 (blue)

*Benediction

*Organ Response

*Postlude: "Fanfare on 'Joy to the World'" Hancock

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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                          | Reader: Pat Esau                |
| Associate Pastor, Organist:<br>Cynthia Neufeld Smith | Nursery Helper: Zoe Burkholder  |
| Worship Leader: Sharon Peters                        | Greeters: Roger & Judy Krehbiel |
|                                                      | Usher: Monica Schrag            |

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

**10:45 a.m.** - The adult Advent Sunday School class concludes today in the sanctuary with Glenna Lowry as the teacher. Children's classes will NOT meet.

THIS WEEK

Monday - Church Office closed for Christmas Day.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. - Worship Service - First Sunday after Christmas. Samuel Voth Schrag will preach about Simeon and Anna's blessing of Jesus. There will be NO Sunday School classes.

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

Dec 31 - Gretchen Morelinton

Jan 7 - Fayth Boucher

Jan 14 - Anna Goering

CLEANING SCHEDULE (New/Old):

Dec 30 - Seals/Schwanke (N), Bartel (0)

Jan 6 - Burkholder/Oesch (N), Bartel (0)

Jan 13 - Seals/Schwanke (N), Kilmer (0)

LAST SUNDAY MORNING

**Attendance:** 158 **Visitors:** Daniel Albertson, Marcy Anderson, Frances Baxter, Virginia Blain, Charles & Sheree Collins, Craig & Celia Collins, Jack & Polly Collins, Michelle Ewert, Brent Ferguson, Galen & Roberta Harms, Ty Hurla, Pam Kellim, Scott & Stephanie Mickelsen; Luke, Aaron & Sarah Myers; Nick Richardson; Kevin, JeriAnn, & Bryn Teel; Jan Tindell, Braden Unruh, Peter, Taylor & Eleanor Zemansky

**NOTE: We gave our regular nursery provider, Dianne Turnbow, this Sunday off to be with her family. Dianne will return next week.**

**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 12/24/17

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thanks** to the following people for their contributions to our **Advent worship series** this year: Lila Bartel, painted banners; Lyle, Zoe Burkholder and Lori Oesch, dramas; Mike Peters and Phil Esau, children's stories.

**Thanks** to all those who contributed to the adult choir Christmas cantata performance last Sunday: the choir, instrumentalists, readers, as well as technical assistance from Aaron Gragg and Virg Funk.

**Thanks** to everyone who participated in the Intergenerational Christmas Program in the evening, including all the children, the youth group and various adults. Special thanks to Phyllis Slipke, Lori Oesch, Raylene Hinz-Penner and Natalie Moreland who planned and led the service. It was a great day of celebration!

**Thanks to Glenna Lowry** who has been leading our Advent Sunday School study this Advent season. Today will be the last session of the series "**LOVE: We trust in God's extravagant love.**" The class meets in the sanctuary.

**Pastors' Whereabouts:** The pastors will be on vacation this week, spending time in Indianapolis with Cynthia's family and with their immediate family here. Sam Voth Schrag will preach next Sunday and Larry Dixon will lead the service.

**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**. Send 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.

**Two more weeks in this Giving Year:** Consider what you can contribute to the ministries of Southern Hills. 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.

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

### COMING EVENTS

January 2 – Annual reports due  
January 8, 5:30 pm – Youth and Young Adult Visioning Committee meeting  
January 11 – Church Council meeting to prepare for Annual Meeting.  
January 28 – Annual congregational meeting  
February 18, 4:00 pm – Hymn Sing/Fundraiser for Mennonite Disaster Service

### ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS

- "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  
-Christmas cards/letters from: Audrey & Aaron and Nadia Ratzlaff; Todd, Marcus, Kobie, Leah McAtee & Heidi Braun  
- Hesston College Church Relations Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2017

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Last Sunday we prayed for:**

- peace in Bethlehem today.  
- Carol Ingenthron, who was having surgery to repair a broken ankle.  
- Sherrell Conklin's mother, whose health is failing.  
- Alba Blocker's sister-in-law, who is struggling with cancer, suffering pain and extreme weight loss, and was having surgery Sunday.  
- Fayth and Chantse Boucher, who were in a car accident the previous week. Fayth suffered a minor concussion.

**We gave thanks:**

- for the many ministries of the Topeka Rescue Mission and the many staff and volunteers who make that ministry possible.

### WIDER NEWS AND NOTES

Looking for another giving project this Christmas season? **MCC needs 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.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** – As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us give thanks for the ways Christ's presence is made visible through WDC congregations.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel. May they be embraced by the global family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.