

**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 3, 2017

61:48

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: "Carols of the Field and Plain" Hughes
"Christmas Fantasia" Mueller
"O Holy Night" Adam

9:30 a.m. - WELCOME TO WORSHIP – FIRST 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: "O come, O come, Immanuel" HWB 172 (blue)
(stanzas 1, 3, 6)

Lighting the First Advent Candle Blocker family
Song: "Hope is a candle" STS 15 (purple)
(stanza 1)

Invitation to the Children: "O come, little children" Screen
Time with the Children Mike Peters
Hymn: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" HWB 178 (blue)
(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery during the song.)

Presenting our Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Offertory: "The Quiet Carol" Macklin
(Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plates.)

Sharing and Prayer

Scripture Readings Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Drama: Wisdom and Wonder

Meditation: "Waiting in Hope" Cynthia
Confession and Assurance Back of Bulletin

*Hymn: "O Savior, rend the heavens" HWB 175 (blue)

*Benediction from Isaiah 64 and I Corinthians 1

*Organ Response

*Postlude: "Wondrous Tidings" Simone

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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, Worship Leader:<br>Roger Neufeld Smith<br>Associate Pastor:<br>Cynthia Neufeld Smith<br>Organist: Michelle Shima | Violin: Kaitlyn Shima<br>Readers: Zaka Blocker, Tom Goering<br>Nursery Helper: Zaka Blocker<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 begins today in the sanctuary. Glenna Lowry is the teacher.
- The youth will be visiting the Islamic Center of Topeka this morning during the Sunday School hour.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Worship Service – Second Sunday in Advent. Roger will preach.

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

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

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

Dec 10 – Kaity Shima

Dec 17 – Brooke Slipke

Dec 24 – Zoe Burkholder

CLEANING SCHEDULE (New/Old):

Dec 9 – D.Burkholder (N), Strahm (O)

Dec 16 – Hershberger Group (N&O)

Dec 23 – Yoder (N), Keckeisen (O)

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. – Church Council meeting

6:15 p.m. – Taco Tuesday

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

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – Diaconate meeting

LAST SUNDAY MORNING

**Attendance: 80**

**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 12/3/17*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, children's stories. Thanks also to those who have decorated the sanctuary this week, especially 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 starts today in the sanctuary after worship.** All adults are welcome to join this class, whether you regularly attend Sunday School or not. The Women's Class and the "What Do You Think?" class have already decided to join this Advent Class. See the insert in the bulletin for the class outline.

Families with children: Today is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of our **Advent worship series "Yes, Let It Be!"** MennoMedia has produced a free downloadable guide that follows the **"Yes, Let It Be!" Advent series for family worship** from December 3 - January 6. Pick and choose the activities that work best for your family. Find it at [www.anabaptistfaithformation.org](http://www.anabaptistfaithformation.org).

We still need one more volunteer to **provide a meal for Sara Unruh and her family** on December 8. If you are on the Meal Train email list, check the link on the email you received. If you are not on the list but would like to help, contact the church office, 266-9403.

If you want to receive a **group discount on your Mennonite World Review subscription**, you must give Diana Hershberger a check payable to Mennonite World Review for **\$43.20 TODAY**. You may contact Diana by phone (217-7764) or by email ([dianajoy.phil@gmail.com](mailto:dianajoy.phil@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.

### COMING EVENTS

December 11, 6 p.m. (eat at 6:30) – Women's Circle Christmas Supper

December 14, 11:00 a.m. – Senior Coffee Christmas lunch

December 17 – SHMC Christmas Programs

December 21, 6:30 p.m. – Mentor/Mentee Christmas Caroling

### ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS

- "Our Health, Our Faith," participate in community health forums, Dec. 4 & 7
- "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
- Anabaptist Disabilities Network newsletter, "CONNECTIONS"
- FOCUS, Mennonite Disaster Service newsletter
- Thank you cards from: Rebekah Wheaton, Greg & Lynn Tipton

### ON THE FOYER TABLE

- "Rejoice!" Devotional Readings for Dec., Jan. & Feb.
- "Schweitzer Salt," Swiss Mennonite Cultural & Historical Assoc. newsletter
- Obituary for Vernon Goering

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

- Kevin Goering's father, whose health was declining rapidly.
- Rachel Schmidt's great-granddaughter, who was critically ill with juvenile diabetes and returns home to a struggling family situation.
- our sister congregation, Monte Horeb in Dallas, Texas.
- Topeka JUMP as they meet to plan activities for the coming year.

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

- the witness of Monte Horeb Church in their Dallas neighborhood, including the distribution of meals to homeless people.

#### **Update:**

- Kevin Goering's father, Vernon, died on Monday, November 27. The funeral was Friday at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS.
- Contributions to the SHMC General Budget are running behind our giving goals by a considerable amount. Please consider an extra contribution during December.

### WIDER NEWS AND NOTES

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** As we anticipate holiday celebrations, let us pray for WDC's Hispanic pastors in Dallas, TX, as they gather this week for a Christmas dinner.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Asher and Lindsey Fast, serving through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, are helping to build the after-school program at the Mother Theresa Resource Centre in Botswana. They are also assisting in a local elementary school. Pray for wisdom and energy, and healing for Lindsey's back and neck.