

Announcements

Today – You are invited to a Blue at Christmas service at 2:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1700 Crescent Dr., Champaign. The service is designed to acknowledge that the holiday season can be difficult. All are welcome at this service of prayer, music, and emphasis on the love of God.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, January 10th - Noon fellowship lunch followed by final LGBT discernment meeting, for listening and speaking into the circle.

Sunday, January 24th - Noon potluck followed by annual congregational meeting.

Saturday, January 30th - Retirement dinner for Pastor Cindy.

Sunday, January 31st - Worship service celebrating Cindy's ministry.

CHURCH GIVING SHORTFALL

Our giving for the year thus far has been running considerably behind both our budget and past giving patterns. As of the end of October, we were behind budget by \$27,300. We always count on end-of-the-year generosity to make our budget. This year, with an even larger deficit and a stressed economy, we ask you prayerfully to consider how much extra you can give in the three remaining weeks of December.

GIFT IDEAS- Check out Mennonite Mission Network catalog for some great gift ideas. You can find it on their home page or click there to order a printed copy.

You can also get a copy by emailing resources@mennonitemission.net.

Thirdway media also has some great ideas for gifts at this link:

<http://store.thirdwaymedia.org/s-2-third-way-media.aspx>

THE EXHIBIT, "WHEN A PARENT IS IN PRISON," will continue to be open seven days per week through Wednesday, December 16. The exhibit also includes a display of information about the Books to Prisoners program. For more information, contact Conrad Wetzel, phone 217-352-8603 or email mc-wetzel@hotmail.com.

WE HAVE A GENTLE, SWEET RABBIT that we would like to give to a family who would like a low maintenance pet. Sheree & Samuel Flannigan

December 13th AT FIRST MENNONITE: 9:15 AM Preaching Text: *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sermon – Janet Elaine Rasmussen

Worship Leader – Phil Martens

Song Leader– Cindy Breeze

Piano– Phyllis Croisant

Children's Story – Lynne Sancken

Scripture – Oleta Miller

Prayer & Sharing – Janet Elaine Rasmussen

Greeters – Mel Fros, Rosalee Otto, Chuck Gibson

Worship Nursery – Jan Sabey, Jasmine Schreiber

Refreshments – Biddle Family

SS Nursery – Knit & Nurture

\$tewards – Bob King, Scott Bidner



A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

First Mennonite Church

902 W. Springfield Avenue | Urbana, IL 61801

Website: www.fmc-cu.org

Phone: (217) 367-5353 | Email: fmc-cu@sbcglobal.net

Pastor / Janet Elaine Rasmussen

Email: janetr-fmc@sbcglobal.net

Associate Pastor / Cindy Breeze

Email: cindyb-fmc@sbcglobal.net

Church Office Hours: 9:30-12:00 and 12:30-3:00

(Tuesday – Friday)

Administrative Assistant / Melissa Larson

Email: fmc-cu@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER 6, 2009 WORSHIP SERVICE

Advent 2: Bursting in and breaking out!

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE SOLIDARITY LAMP *The oil lamp at the front of the sanctuary symbolizes our Sister Church relationship with El Divino Redentor Church in Bucaramanga, Colombia.*

*GATHERING HYMNS

#3 (purple)

"Come, light of the world"

#11 (purple)

"No wind at the window"

WELCOME

PRAYER

WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP – LUKE 3:4-6

Leader:

Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Men and Boys:

Prepare for the One who breaks the darkness, frees the prisoners, gives sight to the blind, and preaches the gospel.

Leader:

Prepare for the One who heals the sick, calms the storms, and feeds the hungry.

Women and Girls:

Prepare for the One who blesses the children, drives out demons, and offers life giving water to the parched.

ALL:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #1 (purple)

"Praise the One who breaks the darkness"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CHILDREN'S STORY

OFFERING (*Children's offering will go to Mennonite World Conference's Global Church Sharing Fund*)
OFFERTORY PRAYER "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" – Robert MacGimsey

GOSPEL READING (*page 933*) Luke 1:5-24

***HYMN #172** (*hymnal*) "O come, O come, Immanuel"

GOSPEL READING (*page 934*) Luke 1:59-79
SERMON "Mercy sunrise"
***HYMN OF RESPONSE #54** (*green*) "Longing for light"

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (*please pass the welcome pads*)

SHARING PRAYER

Unison: Creator God,
we thank you for the gift of Creation;
for your mercies which are new every morning.

Redeemer God,
we thank you for the gift of Jesus, our Savior.
Give us the strength and wisdom to live in joyful Advent expectation.

Sustainer God,
we thank you for the gift of the Spirit, our Comforter and Guide.
We pray for your sustaining presence with those we care about,
for those requests spoken and those requests known only to you.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN #202** (*hymnal*) "The virgin Mary had a baby boy"

BENEDICTION – 1 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13

Unison: Now may our God and Father and our Lord Jesus direct our ways.
May the Lord increase our love for one another and for all.
May the Lord strengthen our hearts in holiness
that we may be blameless before our God
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.
Amen.

POSTLUDE "Mary's boy child"

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

Sermon – Janet Elaine Rasmussen
Worship Leader – Earl Kellogg
Musicians – Worship Band
Offertory – Gina Reynolds, *soprano*; Deb Sutter, *piano*
Candle lighter– Jasmine Schreiber
Children's Story – Martha Moore
Scripture – Milton Otto, Janet Fros

Prayer & Sharing – Janet Elaine Rasmussen
Greeters – Mel Fros, Janet Fros, Chuck Gibson
Worship Nursery – Mary Miller, Alex Bidner
Refreshments – Rebecca Bare, Laurence Koehn
SS Nursery – Knit & Nurture
\$tewards – Randy Nelson, Greg Sancken

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

10:45-11:15 Fellowship Time downstairs for all
11:00-11:15 Children's Singing, pre-K to 5th grade **11:15-12:00** Sunday School

Christian Education Classes for Adults

Biblical Study: The Apocrypha - Sanctuary
Book & Topical Study: The Treasure Principle – Room #6 (*downstairs*)
Coffee and Conversation – Library
Knit and Nurture – Nursery
Young Adult Fellowship –Room #13 (*downstairs*)

Children/Youth Classes (downstairs)

Pre-School – Room #6
Middle School – Room #3
Multi-age – Room #11
High School - Room #7

Today

We are completing the forms to affirm new council members. Extra ballots are in the office and may be left in the box in the office by Sunday, December 13th.

12:30-2:00PM ADVENT CHOIR REHEARSAL

This Week

Monday, December 7th – *The Vine Deadline*

If you have any articles for our monthly newsletter, please email them by Monday, December 7th to Kaye Massanari at: kmassanari@yahoo.com

Tuesday, December 8th – 6:00pm-8:30pm- church used for piano recital

Wednesday, December 9th - 6:45pm Peace and Justice Initiative

Thursday, December 10th - 8:30am - Pastor Peer Meeting in Normal

Thursday, December 10th - 5:30pm – Service and Outreach

Friday, December 11th - 6:30-8:00pm - Venture Club Christmas party at Lubienski's.
705 W. Michigan, Urbana. (Kids, bring a swimsuit and towel)

Saturday, December 12th - 5:00pm - Progressive Dinner. Details for those who have signed up are in the mailboxes today. If you have questions, you may contact Martha Moore, Bev Hertle or Kathy Anderson.

Upcoming

Sunday, December 13th – 5:30pm – MYF Christmas Party at the Breeze home

Thursday, December 24th 6:30pm - Christmas Eve Service- All are invited to this candle light service.

