

**Steel City Mennonite Church**  
**Mid-Week Connection**  
**November 27, 2019**

There will be a Pizza Dinner for **Good News Club and Youth Group** families tonight (Wednesday) at 5:45 p.m. **Good News Club and Youth Group** will begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Light Up Night** - Come join in the festivities this Friday evening (5-9 pm) at Dimmick Park. SCMC will be there building new relationships with the community.

This weekend begins the **Advent season**. The **Advent season** encompasses the four weekends before Christmas. During this time, we are invited to prepare our hearts and lives to receive the Christ-child. There are many good seasonal devotionals on the YouVersion Bible app that will lead you into God's presence this season.

**Saturday Night Alive** gathers every Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. for one hour of worship and teaching from scripture.

**Discovery Bible Study** will be meeting this Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at the **Hellertown Diner**.

There will be a **Sunday School Teacher/Helper Appreciation Breakfast** this coming Sunday, December 1, at 8:30 a.m. for all who are currently teaching Sunday School. Please RSVP to Tara today if you plan to attend.

**Parents Night Out!!** On Friday, December 6 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. parents can drop off kids of all ages at church and enjoy a night out together! There will be pizza, popcorn, milkshakes, and cookies. Kids should wear their PJs and bring blankets, pillow, sleeping bags etc. to be comfortable while watching a movie. There will be games, crafts and other activities to keep them busy all night. Please sign up by Wednesday December 4.

The **Congregation** is invited to attend **Jim Brunstetter's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Open House** held at SCMC on Saturday, December 7, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

There is a **Sunday School teacher needed for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade** for the winter quarter which begins on December 8. Please contact Tara Willard if you would like to serve in this way.

**Rachel Godshall's Experience:** "The past 2 weeks, Rachel spent quite a bit of time at both Columbia Medical Center in NYC, & the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. The Dept of Neurology at Columbia invited Rachel to participate in a research study to collect extensive data that will help improve the diagnosis of Mitochondrial disease, as well as to inform future potential treatments. Rachel volunteered to participate and spent an exhausting 18 hours over the course of two days in various exams, MRIs, neuropsychological assessments, muscle tests, blood tests, sweat tests, and more. Upon returning home the study continued with additional exams, & at-home samples, over the course of several days. This was beyond exhausting for Rachel! She knew going into the study that it would be a sacrifice, of "no personal benefit" - as the contract stated, however, she was committed and grateful to be contributing to something that may in the future benefit others suffering from Mito disease! The Columbia study is expected to conclude in roughly two years. This past Tuesday, Rachel spent 7 hours at CHOP in a comprehensive evaluation with their Mitochondrial team. She met with genetic counselors, a nutritionist, a Neuro physician, a leading/well known Mitochondrial physician, a social worker, etc. We learned of the latest genetic testing capabilities (which have improved significantly since Rachel's last biopsy testing 15 years ago in Atlanta) which they will be performing on her samples to understand the extent of her Mito deletions. We learned more about the "Mito cocktail" supplements, specifically those that have been tested on CHOPS infected Mito lab animals & which have proven to be helpful with symptoms. We gained insight into the likely causes of her chronic stomach pain & nausea, and a plan of action for helping to treat her symptoms. She was connected with their pharmacy partner that will convert the supplements (which she is unable to swallow due to her weakening throat muscles) to a liquid formula that she can manage. The social worker was also helpful in understanding some of the future options for Rachel as her independence continues to decline. This was overall a very informative, comprehensive, (and exhausting) 7 hours for Rachel! There are many items for her to follow up on, additional appointments to make with specialists, additional supplements to take, and so on. The very heavy and emotional aspect of these exams is the 'reaffirming' of Rachel's declining condition, both physical and cognitive. That said, we are so grateful to live in a place where we have access to these doctors and specialists who dedicate their life to helping people like Rachel! We ask that you continue to lift up Rachel in prayer as she navigates all of this information, the realities of her disorder, and for strength as she manages her symptoms as they continue to progress. We thank you so much for your love and support and prayers! ♡"

Local churches around the Lehigh Valley maintain the **Bethlehem Emergency Shelter** providing a warm place to sleep and food during the coldest months of the year for needy adults. Our church has agreed to partner with our local bodies of Christ in serving this winter. We have chosen one date a month - December, January, February, and March to serve the shelter from 4:00pm - 7:30am. Please view the link below for sign up details and explanations of assignments. Please understand that NO CHILDREN under age 14 are permitted at the shelter due to safety. Teens age 14 to 18 need to be supervised by adults at all times. Every volunteer will need to complete a volunteer application and view an online training of procedures. For questions, please contact Tara Willard. Visit the link below to sign-up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AAEAC22AAF49-bethlehem>

Meet for **Weekly Koffee and Konversation** at the Hellertown Diner on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Come and enjoy a great time of fellowship together!

**Next Week's Bible Reading Plan:** Week 49: - Esther 7-10; Revelation 3; - Ezra 7-10; Psalm 97; Revelation 4; - Nehemiah 1-3; Revelation 5; - Nehemiah 4-6; Psalm 98; Revelation 6; - Nehemiah 7-9; Psalm 140; Revelation 7.

**This Week: Nursery Staff,** Sue Reed, Kylie Schmidt; **Worship Team Leader,** Robert Bergey.

**Please Pray For . . . Phillip & Betsy Rhodes Fisher,** as they serve in Morocco; **Bart & Jessica Tossenou,** and their work in China; **Nicolas & Jennifer Haddad,** serving in Lebanon; **Rolando & Andrea Zelaya** serving in Spain; Those in **authority over us** (government leaders); **Mim Brunstetter, Cliff Brunstetter and Jim Brunstetter.**

**REACH** those far from God  
**RELATE** to those near to God



**RETURN** blessing as blessed  
**RENEW** a right spirit within