

**Steel City Mennonite Church**  
**Mid-Week Connection**  
**December 20, 2017**

Put family worship on your holiday "To-do" list! There will be no awkward "office party" moment or tension-filled gathering, just WORSHIP focused on our Savior's birth. Join us this coming Sunday for the **Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service** at 6:00 p.m. (December 24).

Our **December Lunch Bunch** will be Wednesday, December 27, at 12 noon. We will be going to Cactus Blue Mexican Restaurant in Bethlehem. The restaurant is located at 2915 Schoenersville Road in Bethlehem. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer or on the SCMC App.

Dave Kempf will be having the Children's Message on Sunday, December 31, and will be giving the children and adults the opportunity to **Present their Coins for Penny Power** through Mennonite Central Committee. Remember to bring your coins!

**Fasting 2018** - With all the holiday goodies and plans for great meals, it is difficult to even entertain the idea of fasting. Over the last several years, the call of a 21-day congregational fast has been the source of tearing down strongholds, experiencing breakthroughs and seeing the presence of God with great clarity. Our next 21 day congregational fast will begin on Sunday, January 7 and conclude after nightfall January 27. The scripture focus for this upcoming fast is Joel 2:12-13a: "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments." (ESV)

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus makes the assumption that His followers would pray, give and fast. These are spiritual disciplines that bring a vibrancy to one's life with God.

There are a variety of fasts referenced in the Bible. Here are two to consider for 2018:

A "Complete Fast" where one consumes only water. This is only done for a short period of time.

The "Daniel Fast" where one limits their food intake to only fruits and vegetables. This can be done for longer periods of time. Since this type of fast can be done for longer periods of time, the Daniel Fast is the one encouraged this January.

If, for medical reasons, you cannot participate in a food fast, consider "fasting" in other areas of life. For example, giving up social media for 21 days. Or giving up watching television. Or giving up a certain food group like desserts.

To be clear, this is a spiritual practice or discipline. One should begin now asking God if this is a discipline He is calling you to do. As you are seeking God's leading, ask also what the focus of your fast should be.

**Vision Statement:**

*Steel City Mennonite Church (SCMC) will invite **everyone, everyday, everywhere** to journey together in developing a life-changing relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

**Mission Statement:**

*Steel City Mennonite Church (SCMC) is a Bible-believing community connected by a common need for a Savior with the passion of cultivating Christ-followers in the Lehigh Valley and to the ends of the earth.*

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 Let's Read the Bible Together Plan:** December 24, Isaiah 43-45; December 25, Isaiah 46-48; December 26, Isaiah 49-51; December 27, Isaiah 52-54; December 28, Isaiah 55-57, Psalms 65; December 29, Isaiah 58-60; December 30, Isaiah 61-63.

**This Week:** **Nursery Staff**, Val Newcomer, Rachael Litke; **Greeter**, Ryan & Naphtali Walters; **Worship Team Leader**, Kelly Schoch; **Ushers**, Rob Ibach, Greg Feenstra, Bobby Kempf; **Children's Message**, Kelly Schoch.

**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; Those in **authority over us** (government leaders); **Bob & Betty Kemmerer**, **Bobby & Britney Kempf** and **Dave & Susie Kempf**.