

Steel City Mennonite Church
Mid-Week Connection
December 30, 2020

Please join us for worship either this **Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.** These two options provide you the opportunity to gather for worship in a Covid safer environment and as your schedule mandates.

For the last decade, the **SCMC community of faith has been invited to actively participate in a season of prayer and fasting.** Many of you have taken advantage of this corporate time of prayer and fasting. You have received numerous blessings and breakthroughs in various areas of life. The post-fast sharing revealed powerful testimonies of God's power and faithfulness.

This year, **the desired outcome for our 21-day prayer and fasting is to experience greater intimacy with the Father.** We will be choosing to go without food or some other important thing in order to draw closer to our Father God. While fasting from food or certain foods (meat, bread, sweets) is the most common type, there are other things we can choose to abstain from during our 21-day fast.

Our season of prayer and fasting **will begin on Monday, January 4 and you will break the fast on Monday morning, January 25, 2021.** Obviously, you can adjust the dates to best suit your schedule. However, it would be good not to deviate far from this schedule. There is strength knowing others are doing what you are doing and you are being prayed over during this time.

You will be provided a weekly prayer/study guide to shape your prayer and fasting for these 21 days. As you work through these daily readings and activities, remember the "**Law of Return.**" This Law, simply stated, means you "get" in proportion to what you invest in an endeavor.

There is nothing mystical or magical about fasting itself. **The true blessing of fasting comes from a heart that is willing to abstain from food or something else so that we can cultivate a greater intimacy with God.**

Hopefully, you will join this year's call to prayer and fasting.

Before you begin this 21-day journey of prayer and fasting, prayerfully answer these questions:

1. What type of fast* will I do? How will I accomplish this?
2. When/where will I spend time in prayer with God?
3. What are my personal focuses of breakthrough or blessing? (loved one, finances, health, healing, etc.)
4. What is the desired outcome of my season of prayer and fasting? Be specific. (intimacy with God, breakthrough, blessing, etc.)

* If you are choosing to do a Daniel Fast, make sure you are prepared with foods on the list. Nothing will derail your fast quicker than not being prepared. Use the week prior to stock the necessary items and to use up any leftovers, especially meat and sweets.

There will be an **Elder's Meeting** on Monday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Church Council will be meeting on Monday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Any weather-related delays and/or cancelations affecting **SCMC worship services or events** will be posted on the SCMC Facebook page, WFMZ-channel 69 and emailed out. Decisions to delay or cancel will be made not later than one hour prior to gathering.

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, homeless people still need shelter and food during the cold months of winter. Therefore, the **Bethlehem Emergency Shelter** will be again providing shelter and meals to people out of Christ UCC Church, 75 E. Market St. Bethlehem. **As we have partnered with them in the past, we have chosen 4 dates this winter (Dec. 30, Jan. 27, Feb. 17, and March 31)** to provide dinner and a light breakfast that you can take with you that staff can serve the next morning. They are only allowing 5 ADULTS in the kitchen at one time and no one under 18 is allowed.

If anyone would like to contribute money to help in the purchasing of the meals, please put in offering and mark it BES Dinners or you can contribute online through Pushpay.

Please see the Sign-Up Genius link below to sign up for an available slot. If you cannot attend the full time, please write in the comments the hours you can attend.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AAEAC22AAF49-bethlehem1>

Any questions, please ask Tara Willard

Our devotional booklets, "**The Upper Room**" and "**Our Daily Bread,**" are available upon request. Due to COVID-19 precautions, they cannot be placed out for self-pick-up.

We will be using the **Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan for 2021.** This plan provides two readings for each day, and each month consists of 25 readings so you will have time to meditate or catch up on missed readings.

Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan: January 1 – Genesis 1-2, Psalm 1; **January 2** – Genesis 3-5, Psalm 2; **January 3** – Genesis 6-9, Psalm 3; **January 4** – Genesis 10-11, Psalm 4; **January 5** – Genesis 12-14, Psalm 5; **January 6** – Genesis 15-17, Psalm 6.

Church Elders: Bill Litke, Joel Mohler, Scott Richards, Bob Walters, Randy Willard.

Please Pray For . . . Those in **authority over us** (government leaders); **David & Yen Truong, Bob & Emily Walters,** and **Lee & Danette Walters.**

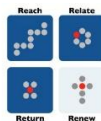
Offering 2020: \$300,508.73

Budget 2020: \$285,000.00

Happy Birthday Wishes To: Naphtali Walters – December 31.

Happy Anniversary Wishes To: Lee & Danette Walters – January 3.

REACH those far from God
RELATE to those near to God



RETURN blessing as blessed
RENEW a right spirit within