

Today

Welcome to our third Sunday of Advent 2017. Today, we light the candles of joy, peace and hope.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor," Isaiah 61:1-2a

Reflect: Joy is bigger, deeper, brighter and more sustained than happiness. Today's scripture speaks about this experience. For many Christians, these words from Isaiah are familiar because Jesus quoted them at the beginning of his ministry (see Luke 4:14-21). What are some examples of joy from the life and ministry of Jesus? What in your life brings you joy? How is being a follower of Jesus a joyful experience for you?

Do: In the coming week, look for ways that God is bringing good news to the oppressed, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives and releasing prisoners. When you encounter God's work in the world this week, pray a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Pray: Open us to joy this Advent season, O Lord. Help us to see your love as it springs up around us. Amen. (Advent Worship Litany from the Upper Room)

2:00 p.m. Iglesia Evangelica Hispana Luz Y Verdad Service
4:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling
6:30 p.m. Dessert Fellowship

This Week

December 18 - 23

TUESDAY

8:00 a.m. Koffee & Konversation, Hellertown Diner

THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Worship Team Practice

This Week's Let's Read the Bible Together Plan

December 17 Isaiah 22-24
December 18 Isaiah 25-27
December 19 Isaiah 28-30
December 20 Isaiah 31-33
December 21 Isaiah 34-36
December 22 Isaiah 37-39
December 23 Isaiah 40-42

Announcements

We have **Hearing Assist Units** available for those who may have difficulty hearing the service. Please speak to the person in the sound room to receive your unit for the morning.

We have a **Staffed Nursery** to care for your children through age three. In addition, there is a **Cry Room** at the rear of the sanctuary to attend to the needs of infants.

We have **Sunday School** for all ages. Please refer to the back of your bulletin to see where each class will be meeting.

Christmas Caroling tonight at 4:30 p.m.! Please meet at the church for an evening of Christmas Caroling. This is a great opportunity for our neighbors to be introduced to us. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight!

4 Nights 4 Fellowship - Only one evening remains, **tonight** at 6:30 p.m.! Don't miss this opportunity to get in the holiday spirit as we fellowship together around some yummy treats. This is a wonderful time to make new friends. Children are most welcome to attend.

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 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.

If you have not already done so by e-mail, please check out the **Church Directory** on the table in the foyer and make any changes if necessary, or initial if correct. Thank you!

Ministry Opportunities & Events

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)

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. More information about the different types of fasts will be shared in this week's Midweek Connection.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Vaughn Miller – December 17
Josh Richards – December 19
Joren Lesser – December 21
Connor Mangione – December 21
Keira DeToma – December 23

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Denis & Meghan Cela – December 17

Attendance and Giving

OFFERING ON DECEMBER 10: \$5,798.32

ATTENDANCE ON DECEMBER 10: 135

Serving Others

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK: (Dec 24)</u>
Nursery	Becky Brooks Kylie Schmidt	Val Newcomer Rachael Litke
Greeters	Ryan & Naphtali Walters	Tim & Lisa Walters
Worship Ldr.	Sandy Faust	Kelly Schoch
Ushers	Tim Walters Chip Shimko Bob Kemmerer	Rob Ibach Greg Feenstra Bobby Kempf
Children's Message	Tara Willard	Kelly Schoch

Information

CONTACT

STEEL CITY MENNONITE CHURCH
2137 Mixsell Avenue ♦ Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610) 865-4899 ♦ scmc4.me

PASTORAL TEAM

David K. Kochsmeier, Pastor
610-730-8008

Tara Willard, Director of Youth Ministries & Christian Education
610-866-3078

CHURCH SECRETARY

Sheryl Richards, 610-216-4596

ELDER TEAM

Ron Faust, 610-428-1904

Kevin Olsen, 610-554-5851

Mark Walters, 610-691-5324

Bob Walters, as Pastor Emeritus, 610-865-3316

Randy Willard, 610-297-5083

Sunday School Information

2 & 3 YEAR OLDS

Led by Aleta DeToma
Upstairs Nursery

PRE – K

Led by Nancy Walters
Helper, Jenny Forero
Room B6

KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

Led by Marc Newcomer
and Lois Halsel
Room LL 1

GRADES 2 & 3

Led by Katrina Schmidt
Room LL 2

GRADES 4 & 5

Led by Randy Willard
Room LL 4

JUNIOR HIGH

Led by Jess Bergey
Room LL 3

SENIOR HIGH

Led by Deanna Olsen
Youth Room

ADULT CLASS

Led by Joel Mohler
Chapel



“Choosing Joy”

Isaiah 55:12-13
Pastor David K. Kochsmeier



STEEL CITY
MENNONITE CHURCH
BETHLEHEM, PA

December 17, 2017

Everyone. Everyday. Everywhere.