

Today

Welcome to our worship for the fourth Sunday of Advent 2017. Today, the candles of love, joy, peace and hope are lit.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47).

Reflect: Mary, excited to be pregnant with Jesus, rejoices in God and gives thanks for God's having chosen her. Mary's praise expands from personal to universal. Her words describe God's love for the lowly, the powerless, and the hungry. Mary will bear a child whose name shall be Emmanuel - God with us. This is love.

Do: Who are the lowly, powerless, and the hungry people in your community? Consider calling a local homeless shelter or food pantry to ask what they need. How can you offer assistance during this Advent season as a way of welcoming Christ?

Pray: Our spirits rejoice in you, O God. Thank you for the love you continually show us. May your love work through us as we strive to show your love to others. Amen.

2:00 p.m. Iglesia Evangelica Hispana Luz Y Verdad Service
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

This Week

December 25 - 30

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Worship Team Practice

This 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

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.

Sunday School will not be meeting today or next Sunday, December 31.

Join us tonight for the **Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service** at 6:00 p.m.

Our **December Lunch Bunch** will be this 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 next 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!

Reminder! 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!

As **SCMC approaches the end of our financial year**, we are expecting a large deficit (\$20,000+/-). Throughout the year, it was necessary to address some maintenance and improvements of the facility and that required non-budgeted expenses. Also, in a desire to equip families to navigate challenging times, Jonathan McKee was brought in to lead a seminar on "Parenting the Smart Phone Generation". These expenditures account for the projected deficit. While SCMC historically doesn't see large year-end gifts, this becomes an opportunity to provide for the ministry of SCMC.

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)

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Shirley Liedig – December 24
Harold Lehman – December 26
Kirsten Rockstroh – December 27
Dan Reed – December 28
Ron Faust – December 29

Attendance and Giving

OFFERING ON DECEMBER 17: \$5,227.29

ATTENDANCE ON DECEMBER 17: 151

Serving Others

TODAY

Nursery Val Newcomer
Rachael Litke
Greeters Ryan & Naphtali Walters
Worship Ldr. Kelly Schoch
Ushers Rob Ibach
Greg Feenstra
Bobby Kempf
Children's Message Kelly Schoch

NEXT WEEK: (Dec 31)

Lisa Walters
Jaylen Lesser
Bob & Mary Jane Bergey
Robert Bergey
Scott Richards
Lee Walters
John Cressman
Dave Kempf

Information

CONTACT

STEEL CITY MENNONITE CHURCH
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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 Love”

Matthew 1:18-25
Pastor David K. Kochsmeier



STEEL CITY
MENNONITE CHURCH
BETHLEHEM, PA

December 24, 2017

Everyone. Everyday. Everywhere.