



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual **budget ballot** can be found inserted in this bulletin. Votes will be collected next Sunday, December 19.

MYF invites you to go **caroling** with them on Tuesday, December 14 from 7-9pm in the neighborhood behind our church. They will be passing out candy canes with a note attached sharing the meaning and symbolism behind it. If you would like to join, please meet at the church at 6:45pm.

The church council has decided to dedicate **December offerings** to missions once again this year. A list of suggested groups to support has been placed in your church mailbox. If you wish to support a specific group, please write the group's name on your offering envelope. Undesignated offerings in December will be distributed equally to those groups.

Mark your calendars! The **children will be singing** during the morning worship on December 26.

Diane Keeler is looking for **prize donations for the Jr SS department**. The children earn points by learning their Bible memory verses, then shop at the Sunday School store at the end of each quarter. Prizes can be crafts, puzzles, markers etc. Stuffed animals are not needed at this time.

TMC is having a **Live Nativity** on December 17 & 18 from 6:30-8:30pm. Sign up sheets for cookie donations and volunteers for the nativity and caroling are on the sides of the mailboxes! See Larissa or Eileen for more information.

The **Men's Retreat at Spruce Lake** will be held from January 13-14. Erik Kratz, a local MLB player, and Dr. Tony Beckett, central PA director for Christian Business Men's Connection will be the speakers. The cost is \$124. Please sign up or see Loren Parmer for more information.



DECEMBER 12, 2021

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us today! As we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to extend God's healing, hope, and forgiveness to all. Our prayer is that you receive grace and peace from Jesus Christ as we worship together.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY:
Sewing Circle | 9:30 AM
Caroling | 6:45 PM
Church Council Meeting | 7 PM

WEDNESDAY:
AWAKE Prayer Meeting | 7 PM

LOOKING AHEAD

Live Nativity | December 17 & 18



TODAY'S WORSHIP

Gathering: The Church as Community
Song of Worship | Loren Parmer
Greeting | Wendell Weaver

Singing: The Church Worshiping God
Songs of Worship

Learning: The Church Studying God's Word
Scripture Reading: Daniel 6:19-28 | Jack Bilboe
Advent Candle: Isaiah 9:6-7 | The Eppolito Family
Sermon: "Message" | Matt Raley

Responding: The Church Ministering
Song of Response
Offering
Congregational Prayer (call or text requests to 267-380-0402)

Sending: The Church Going Out on Mission
Benediction

Today's Nursery Care:
Alyssa (Service)
Jolene (Sunday School)



JUST PASSING THROUGH...

By Gina Canaviri

"They do not belong to this world any more than I do." John 17:16

A few weeks ago, Pastor Matt mentioned in his sermon that he was feeling a bit like he was living in an in-between place. He and his family needed to leave what had been home and familiar to them. They are here with us now, but still not feeling quite "settled" or like they have "arrived."

Ponci and I (and our children) also know quite well this feeling of not knowing where home is. After living more than half of my adult life in Bolivia, it grew to feel quite a bit like home, but not truly the home I had always known or remembered. When we returned to PA, even what had once been familiar seemed foreign and strange. Most missionaries need to learn how to live in this tension and come to realize that truly this world is not our home. Our only true home is in heaven.

All of us, as we mourn Shayna's passing, are catching a glimpse of this reality. We all know she is in a better place, a place we all should be longing for (see Hebrews 13:14 & 1 Chronicles 29:15).

As we live life in this fallen world, we are called to live as salt and light, to be different, to live in such a way as to bring God glory. If we are feeling safe and comfortable and successful in this present world, maybe we have not yet realized where our true home is. Paul challenges us to set our sights on heaven and not on the things of this earth (see Romans 12:2 & Colossians 3:1-4).

So as we pass through this in-between place, let us set our minds and passionate love on Him. Let us lean on Him and trust in Him to be our guide through life's complexities.

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33



PRAYERS AND PRAISES

Praise the Lord for a **congregation that is full of Christ's love** for those suffering trials. We have seen so many examples of giving towards those who are grieving this week, from meals and rides to prayer and counsel. Give thanks to God for his goodness through the body of Christ!

As **the Bergey family** holds a viewing and memorial service for **Shayna** today, please pray for Jesus's power and comfort to uphold them. A large gathering is expected at Franconia Mennonite Church, with a viewing time from 1-3pm and 4:30-7pm followed by the service at 7pm. Please ask the Lord to glorify Christ's name in those who don't know him. Pray also for **the Raley family** as they mourn the loss of **Dylan's** anticipated fiancée. Shayna's passing touches every person in our church, so this is a moment to bear one another's burdens from youngest to oldest.

Ken Gehman would like to thank the congregation for their continued prayers for **baby Nolan**. He is once again stable and has returned home from the hospital.

Please continue to lift **Curt and Gladys Nice's daughter Kathy** in prayer for healing.

Let's remember **Harold and Esther Kratz** and Harold's hospice journey. Please pray for continued quality time together as the family celebrates the holidays.

Pray for **the family of Sallie Sperry** as Sallie was laid to rest this week. Ask the Lord Jesus to comfort them and restore their joy.

On December 22nd, little **Hendrick Hagen** will have a kidney scan. **Dunne and Natasha** appreciate your prayers and ask that you pray for the resolution of his kidney stones.

Our fellow Mosaic Conference ministry this week is **Perkasie Mennonite Church**. Please pray for the Lord's blessing and power to be shown in their love for each other and their community.



MESSAGE ADVENT 2021

Daniel 6
December 12, 2021

I. Survivor (6:1-5)

II. Threat (6:6-24)

A. Prayer

B. Defiance

C. Deliverance

III. Savior (6:25-28)