

PIES NEEDED: Every Thursday evening an Ephrata Church prepares and serves a meal to elderly and lower income residents in the Ephrata area. We, Akron Mennonite Church, will be responsible for the meal on February 8th, we will need donations of 18 pies. If you are willing to donate a pie or are willing to help with prep, serving and/or clean up contact Jean Buchen.

THANK YOU: Peter Wise sends his thanks for the personal gift that AMC makes to all voluntary service workers from the Christmas Thanks Offering. He writes, "How blessed I have been to have grown up in such a large and supportive community!"

VIDEO PREMIER INVITATION: Everence and the family of Lila and Daryl Garber invite you to the introductory showing of a short video presentation exploring the importance of end of life planning. Please join us on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 3:00 PM in the Westview Community Room at Landis Homes. This new presentation, based on the journey of Daryl Garber, a former resident in the Akron community reflects the value of making one's wishes known about one's final days. Everyone is welcome.

AMC COUNCIL will meet on January 11. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary in 2018, please sign up on the new sheet that has been posted on the bulletin board.

CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM GERMANY: Ursula and Jürgen Heigh, who visited AMC on October 1 and participated in the liturgical breakfast, sent this message: "Dear Sisters and Brothers of Mennonite Church in Akron! We wish you a merry, peaceful, and blessed Christmas and a New Year 2018 full of conscience and trust in God. We remember thankfully your Sunday service on 1 October. We enjoyed your "experiment" of communion in a new way with little groups and felt very well accepted in your midst. Thank you very much! Ursula and Jürgen Heigh"

PAYING DOWN Christmas debt? LSS Financial Counseling can help you work through your bills and decide how to address them. LSS offers free services thanks to a partnership with faith-based Everence Financial. Visit everence.com/lss.

GIVING & BUDGET

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Weekly Budget</u>
	\$ 16,844	\$ 9,700
2017 General Fund	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	\$ 540,593	\$ 510,000

With your help, AMC exceeded its 2017 income budget. Thank you!

Attendance Last Sunday: 112

Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
Church Office: (717) 859-1488 || 1311 Diamond Street || Akron, PA 17501

AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH
January 7, 2018
9:00 am
Epiphany – Yes! Let it be declared

GATHERING/PRAISING

Prelude music		Patricia Martin
Instrumental call	<i>We three kings</i>	
Call to worship		screen
Words of invitation		
HWB 214 (blue)	<i>Morning Star, O cheering sight!</i>	Anna Clemens, leader
STS 32 (purple)	<i>Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem</i>	
Offering and offertory		Patricia Martin
Offertory prayer		

HEARING GOD'S WORD

STS 10 (purple)	<i>Come! Walk in the light</i>	
Children's time		Sandra Richard Wood
Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Linda Frey, Jim Shenk, Esther Nolt		
Scripture	Isaiah 60:1-6	Lynne Brubaker
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12	Christopher Hershberger
Sermon	<i>Arise, Shine, for your Light has Come</i>	Rachel Nolt

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

STS 30 (purple)	<i>Arise, your light is come!</i>	
Confession & Words of assurance		
HWB 401 (blue)	<i>This little light of mine (stanza 1)</i>	
Prayers of the people		Grace Weber

LIVING AS COMMUNITY

Introduction of guests		
Announcements		
Wisdom and Wonder dialogue		Milo & Aaron Smee
Choral invitation	<i>Go light your world</i>	Anna Clemens
Insert	<i>We are marching in the light of God</i>	
Benediction		

Musician
Song Leader
Worship Leader

Patricia Martin
Herman Bontrager
Grace Weber

Scripture next week: John 1:35-51; Karyn Nancarvis, preacher

PLEASE JOIN US (10:15 – 10:40)

Everyone is welcome to participate in coffee/tea fellowship following the worship service. Guests, please sign the guest book in the foyer next to the Welcome Desk.

SECOND HOUR FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (10:40 – 11:40)

Adults

Come hear the story of how Lancaster Mennonites caught the mission bug, how the scouts found Tanzania by accident, and how, by God’s grace, the seeds they planted resulted in a large Mennonite church in the heart of Africa. It is gripping story and our own Ruth and Richard Weaver were a part of it. It was life changing for both those who went and those who received them. The hospital where they worked for 7 years was one of the recipients of our Christmas thank offering. Come promptly and be prepared to hear a story you will long remember. Class meets in the Assembly Room.

Koinonia Class: This class is studying Richard Rohr’s book Immortal Diamond. Don and Lin Good, facilitators. Meets in Room 222.

Children and Youth

Taught by members of the church who graciously volunteer their time. See below for locations.

Nursery age - - - - -	Nursery
Ages 2 -4 - - - - -	Rooms 16/18
Kindergarten-5th Grade - - - - -	Rooms 131, 132, 133 (lower level)
Jr. MYF (6-8 th Grade Youth) - - - - -	Room 122/124 (lower level)
MYF (High School Youth) - - - - -	MYF Room

AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY

Greeters: Sanela & Nebojsa Gligorevic, Marilyn Langeman
Nursery Worship: as needed
Coffee Servers: Dale & Dot Hershey
Ushers: Steve Hartzler (Head usher), Marvin Nolt, Helena Dueck, Jane Hartzler, Clyde Martin

Sound/AV Operator: Marv Horst
Nursery DH: as needed
Mug Washers: Dave & Linda Frey

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5-7 Jr. MYF retreat @ Camp Hebron
January 10 Connect! to attend the Forest Hills Winter Bible study and meal @ 6:00

January 11 Garden Spot Village residents’ lunch with Rachel Nolt @ 11:30 am
January 11 AMC Council meets @ 7:00 pm
January 14 Men’s Choir rehearsal @ 8:00 am, sing for 9:00 am service
January 14 Sunday Soup @ AMC
January 16 Women’s Brown Bag Luncheon 11 am – 1 pm @ Dottie Nolt’s
January 20 MYF Spaghetti Dinner 5 – 8 pm
January 21 Discernment Sunday @ AMC during second hour
January 28 F.L.I.P. roller skating at Mt. Gretna 2 – 4 pm

Save these Dates:

March 24, 2018 MYF Auction

Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF - Grades 9-12):

- January 14 Supper club at Karen & Kevin King’s @ 5:00 pm
- January 19 Set-up for Spaghetti dinner 6-9 pm
- January 20 Spaghetti Dinner 5-8 pm

PRAYERS

John Martin is scheduled for surgery on January 12. Please keep him in your prayers.

Linda Helmus will have knee replacement surgery on Jan. 8 at LGH and welcomes the prayers of the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR NEXT SUNDAY SOUP is in one week—January 14th! Yikes! Please take time today to sign up on the bulletin board for what you might bring and how you could help! Thanks in advance! -- Sally Wise

FOREST HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH, 100 Quarry Road, Leola, invites the public to its annual 4-week Winter Bible School Bible series focused on *Fruit of the poisonous tree: Conversations on race, faith and reconciliation*. Beginning January 10, Wednesday evening sessions, led by local pastors and community service leaders, will begin with a shared meal at 6 p.m., followed by teaching for adults and activities for children in grades K through 8 at 7 p.m. Please call the church at 717-656-6227 or email fhmc@foresthillschurch.org to reserve your space at the shared meal or register your child for participation. Further details can be found on the church's website at www.foresthillschurch.org.

PLANS for Connect! on January 10 have changed. Instead of meeting at Rick and Joyce Hallers’ games, Connect! will instead attend the first session of the Winter Bible School at Forest Hills (see above announcement) beginning with the meal at 6 pm.

LECTIO DIVINA will resume on Tuesday, January 9.