

Nelson and Susan Blessing are grateful for our prayers as they prepare for Nelson's radiation and chemo treatments, beginning on March 19.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will continue their listening opportunities during coffee hour. Council members will be available today after the church service in the coffee area.

**OUR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** is March 29 at 6:30 pm. On this evening we eat a simple meal together, wash hands or feet, contribute to the Agape fund of the congregation, and share communion. This year we will have a vegan soup, and one of the tables will have gluten-free bread. To help us prepare, please sign on the bulletin board if you are planning to attend.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Rev. Matt Lenahan, Zion Lutheran Church in Akron, and Rachel Nolt will be hosting a forum regarding racial discrimination in state education funding. The forum will be held on March 18 at 11am in the sanctuary. We will be joined by members of the Zion Lutheran Church.

**AMC WOMEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20th. We plan to meet at the home of Helena Dueck (Directions to her place are in mailboxes). We meet between 11 am and 1 pm. Helena will provide water and hot beverages and hospitality. Come and join in the conversations!

**MY COINS COUNT:** Every coin counts! The containers are in the foyer for your generous donations until April 1.

**THE ANNUAL AMC DIRECTORY UPDATE** is in process. Please send information changes to Rebecca ASAP. Lloyd Chapman is willing and available to take your photo **today** during fellowship time. If you are interested in having printed copies of your photograph for your personal use, please check with him to discuss details.

*Please see insert for additional announcements*

**GIVING & BUDGET**

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 4,420	\$ 66,150
2018 Budget Goals	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 9,800	\$ 88,300

2018 Income Budget: \$ 510,000

Attendance Last Sunday: 175

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

**AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**March 11, 2018**  
**Covenant: God's Story of Love**  
**Lent 4 - Between Me & You & Darkness in View**

**Chapter One - God initiates covenant with us**

Prelude music Patricia Martin

Chime & lighting the peace lamp  
Welcome & call to worship screen

HWB 167 (blue) *For God so loved us*  
STJ 97 (green) *The Lord is my light*

**Chapter Two - God woos us with covenant**

Scripture John 3:14-21 Seraphina Thorpe

(screen) *God's love is for everybody*  
Children's time Rachel Nolt  
Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Lynette Meck, Ethel Shank, and Lydia Nolt

Scripture Numbers 21:4-9 Chris Martin  
Sermon *It Started With a Look* Karyn Nancarvis

(screen) *Between me & you*

**Chapter Three - We respond to God's covenantal love**

Confession  
**We struggle to comprehend the expansiveness of your covenant.**  
**Nothing is left out -**  
**Not us,**  
**Not our darkness or our fear,**  
**Not our pain or our faults.**  
**We struggle to comprehend that kind of love never mind joining it and living it.**  
**To make it more manageable,**  
**we hide our darkness and protect it so others can't see,**  
**we harm rather than heal.**  
**We limit love.**  
**Have mercy on us.**

Words of assurance *God so loved the world*  
Adult Choir

## Chapter Four – We join God’s covenant sharing God’s story

Offering and offertory  
Offertory prayer

*Flashlight*

Seraphina Thorpe

STJ 101 (green)  
Prayers of the people  
STJ 101 (green)

*La ténèbre (Our darkness)*  
*La ténèbre (Our darkness)*

Rachel Nolt

Introduction of guests & Announcements

STJ 95 (green)  
Benediction

*I want to walk as a child of the light*

**We are covenant people.  
We go in God’s love  
to extend God’s love  
and live in God’s love.**

+++++

Musicians  
Song Leader  
Worship Leader

Patricia Martin & Leon Myers  
Herman Bontrager  
Rachel Nolt

**Scripture next week:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Rachel Nolt, 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

A Safe Church presentation, *How Sexual Offenders Groom Children: What Every Adult Needs to Know*. All adults in the congregation who want to protect children and teens in the church, family and community from sexual harm are invited to this session. Bethany Smith will provide an overview of the 5-step grooming process offenders often use to engage children in a trusting relationship prior to sexually exploiting the child. We will view the video “It’s Not Just Jenna,” based on a true story of a teen sexually abused by a family friend. Meets in the sanctuary.

The class facilitated by Terry Wible based on The Sin of Certainty will resume March 18.

#### Children and Youth

DSECC teachers and MYF will provide child care during second hour so that adults who normally teach AMC’s youth can participate in the Safe Church presentation. Nursery and Preschool will be combined and will meet in the Preschool Room. KG – Grade 8 will meet in

the Jr. MYF Room following the service. Parents, please pick up your children from the Jr. MYF Room after second hour.

### AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY

**Greeters:** Delores & Marvin Nolt, Ann Zimmerman

**Sound/AV Operator:** Bryan Beyer

**Nursery Worship:** as needed

**Nursery DH:** as needed

**Coffee Servers:** Delores & Marvin Nolt

**Mug Washers:** Jim & Donna Shenk

**Ushers:** Don Good (Head usher), Tim Langeman, David Frey, Linda Frey

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11	<b>Today</b>	Safe Church presentation during second hour
March 13		Play “ <i>This Evil Thing</i> ” to be presented @ AMC @ 7:30 pm
March 14		Connect! @ AMC 6:00 – 7:30 pm; supper followed by Bingo with prizes
March 18		Men’s choir rehearsal at 8:00 am; sing for 9:00 am service
March 18		Campus Chorale from LMHS @ 4:00 pm @ AMC
March 18		FLIP event: Laser Dome & walking the rail trail; time TBA
March 20		Women’s brown bag luncheon 11 am to 1 pm @ Helena Dueck’s
March 21		Landis Homes residents gathering; 10- 11:30; Hybrid #1 Community Room
March 24		MYF Auction; meal at 4:30, auction at 5:45 pm
March 29		Maundy Thursday meal and service
April 1		Easter Breakfast @ AMC @ 7:45 am

*Lectio Divina meets each Tuesday at 7:30 am, and the Congregational Prayer Group meets each Thursday at 12:30 pm. Both meetings are in Rachel’s office.*

#### **Save these Dates:**

April 14	AMC Women’s Retreat
October 26-27	ACC Fall Assembly @ AMC; details to be announced

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

- March 23 Set-up for auction, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- March 24 MYF Auction
- June 17-23 DOOR service project in Denver, CO

### PRAYERS

Al Claassen spent some days in rehab, but is back home and doing well. He is grateful for our prayers.

Irma Bowman is at the Oregon House rehab facility in the Landis Homes neighborhood as she recovers from a broken ankle. She is grateful for our prayers and welcomes visitors and cards.

Grace Brubaker was hospitalized at LGH last week for treatment of a broken leg. She expects to be discharged this weekend. She appreciates our prayers and cards.