



FRIENDSHIP MENNONITE CHURCH

Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ

December 2, 2007

First Sunday of Advent



Take heart! In a world that seems troubled, barren and devoid of hope, God offers an unexpectedly upside-down message of promise and fruitfulness.

Connecting with Others

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Offering

Living by Faith

- Worship in Song
- Advent Visitor – Isaiah
- Lighting of the Advent Candle – Joseph & Marjorie
- Prayer
- Song: *My Soul Is Filled With Joy*

Hearing the Word

- Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44
- Sermon: *Watch, and Be Ready!*

Sending to Serve

- Pray and Act for Peace
- Benediction
- Song: *We Are One in the Spirit*

Guest Speaker: Vern

Worship Leader: Rachel
 Song Leader: Rachel
 Greeters: Melvin & Parsilla
 Worship Nursery: Maria

Pianist: Rhonda
 Usher: Tim
 Children's Church: Starla
 Advent Visitor: Harvey

Upcoming Events & Meetings

- TODAY** Agape Group at Jonathan & Maria's 4:30pm
 Wed. Dec. 5 Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm
 Thr. Dec. 6 Women's Time Out Christmas Dinner at Marjorie's 6pm
 Sun. Dec. 9 Food for Thought Group at Church 4:30pm
 Sun. Dec. 9 Prayer Time at Church 6:00pm
 Thr. Dec. 13 Southgate Group at Isaac & Jean's 11:00am
 Church Council Meeting 6:30pm

Giving for November 25, 2007

Church Offering:
\$197.00

Mission Month:

	\$1125	Goal: \$2000
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November was Mission Month at Friendship. The Church Council set a goal of \$2000 in November for church-wide support and missions. The money is to be allocated evenly between Ohio Conference, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Mennonite Mission Network (MMN).

Announcements:

- We thank **Vern** for bringing us the message this morning. Rick will be speaking next Sunday.
- Many thanks to Shirley and the others who beautifully **decorated our sanctuary** for Christmas.
- **Women's Time Out** will meet this week, December 6, for their annual Christmas dinner. They will not be meeting during January.
- There is a **large chalkboard** in one of the rooms at the front of the sanctuary. If you are interested in this or know of someone interested, please contact Sue.
- Please keep the **Pastoral Search Committee** in your prayers as they continue the search process.

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Congregational Counselor: Gizella
 Elders: Dean, Tim,
 Bill, or Maria.

- If you have an **announcement for the bulletin**, please leave a message on the church voicemail or contact Julie via phone or e-mail (bulletin@friendmc.org) by Thursday morning.



**Advent Readings
Week One**

As we begin the Advent season, we are invited to repent, to turn, to take a posture of yielded openness to God. Advent is a wonderful opportunity to have a focused time of prayer, listening for God’s voice amidst the craziness of our daily round. But the weekly Advent themes also get us ready to be both witnesses and participants in fulfilling God’s vision. We are commissioned each week to be transformed into the image of Jesus. This week’s Advent readings are:

- Isaiah 2:1-5 See how the life of God’s people attract not only those born into the faith community but also neighboring people and nations. God has always intended for all people to be invited into His kingdom.
- Romans 13:11-14 In v. 14 we are told to clothe ourselves with the presence of Jesus. What would that look like? Our clothes wrap around us, become part of us, even sometimes make a statement of who we are. Do what we believe and how we live as easily reflected?
- Matthew 24:36-44 We tend to think we always have more time. Here we are encouraged to be ready for Jesus’ return, to clean ourselves up. What do you need to ‘take off’? What should you put on?



Teaching

2. Pray for Carol Bornman, Senegal, that she will inspire her middle school students as she teaches literature at Dakar Academy, a school for missionary children and others.
3. Pray that Wayne Larson and his colleagues will have opportunities to hold weekly after-school events in Arab high schools in the Persian Gulf region. Pray for wisdom for his wife, Jeannie, in discerning where to teach life skills through music to young children.
4. Pray that the seven teachers at Connexus, the Korea Anabaptist Center language institute, will be energized in building relationships with students and providing quality language education.
5. Mission associate Martine Audeoud in Niger requests prayer for students at a Bible school in Naimey, where she teaches a course on leadership each semester. Many students have personal and financial challenges.
6. English teachers are urgently needed to serve with Mennonite Partners in China. Pray that qualified persons, from college graduates to retired people, will accept this opportunity to have an impact on Chinese students and teachers.

Centers and Community Outreach

7. Pray that details will be worked out and funds secured for the London Mennonite Centre to complete the purchase of the remaining portion of its building.
8. Pray for Mennonite Voluntary Service participants Udo Behm, Fred Schroeder and Ryan Troyer who work with refugees and at-risk children and youth in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Prayer Request for week of December 2

Thank God for three new Instituto Bíblico Anabautista study centers of the Mennonite church in Puerto Rico. Pray for the students as they study the first course, “Introduction to the Bible.” Ask God to form new leaders who will be a blessing to the church there.