



FRIENDSHIP MENNONITE CHURCH

Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ

December 16, 2007

Third Sunday of Advent



Connecting with Others

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Offering

Living by Faith

- HWB #191 *O little town of Bethlehem*
- Advent Visitor – Shepherd
- Children’s Christmas Program
 - HWB #197 *Angels we have heard on high*
 - HWB #194 *Away in a manger*
 - HWB #318 *Joy to the world*
- Lighting of the Advent Candle – Bill & Karen Family
- Prayer

Hearing the Word

- Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20
- Sermon: *The Messiah’s Birth*
- HWB #176 *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

Sending to Serve

- Benediction
- HWB #318 *Joy to the world*

Guest Speaker: Vern

Worship Leader: Keven
Song Leader: Rachel
Greeters: Isaac & Jean
Worship Nursery: Julie

Pianist: Rhonda
Usher: Chris

Advent Visitor: Keven

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Sun. Jan. 6 Agape Group at Ben & Rachel’s 4:30pm

Giving for December 9, 2007

Church Offering: \$807.45 Sunday School: \$13.00
 Meals on Wheels: \$10.00

Mission Month:

	\$1295 Goal: \$2000
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Announcements:

- We thank **Vern** for bringing us the message this morning. Dean will be speaking next week.
- Please keep the **Pastoral Search Committee** in your prayers as they continue the search process.
- If you have an **item for the monthly calendar**, please leave a message on the church phone or contact Julie via phone or e-mail (calendar@friendmc.org) by Wednesday, December 26.
- 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.

Christmas Program

Angels: Eric, Ratu, Abby, Mary, Ashley
Wise People: Kyle, Chris, Will, Philip, Amelia, Quinn
Shepherd: Matthew
Sheep: Jacob, Luke, Jacob, Kyra
Cows: Jaylen, Charlotte
Star: Jacob
Holy Family: Keven, Elizabeth & Will
Narrator: Jonathan
Piano: Ted
Director: Rachel

Thank you to all the parents for your help making this possible!

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



**Advent Readings
Week Three**

Don't give up! In our world that seems troubled, barren, and devoid of hope, God promised to make a way through the wilderness. God promises us hope--a gift that has nothing to do at all with one's circumstances but everything to do with God's love. God's unfailing love...and our willingness to trust that love to cast out our fears.

Isaiah 35:1-10 Verses 5-7 depict abundant life, healing of body, promise of provision of needs. What situations in your life do you need to apply these words of hope and promise? Let these words of hope sink into your soul and mind.

Psalms 80:1-10 The psalmist calls on God to turn us to Himself three times. When we turn to God we also have to turn away from our sin that breaks relationship with God. To restore any relationship, repentance is an important element to full restoration and healing. Use this week to listen, to pray, to ask God to turn you towards himself and turn you away from that which would cause a division between yourself and God.

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More readings on hope:

* Ps. 118:14; Ps. 3:18; Ps. 42:5; Ps. 62:5; Is 40:31; I Cor. 13:13

Too often we pray out of our fears instead of our trust in who God is and His resources.



Centers and Community Outreach

16. Please pray that members of the Service Adventure unit in Anchorage, Alaska, will bring mercy to people as they work with social service agencies: Naomi Graber, Jacob Potsander, Mary Simmering, Matt Thomas, Jenna Weaver and Craig Miller, leader.

17. Thank God that the Toussian people in Burkina Faso have welcomed Julia Smucker among them to learn and support the speaking of their native language. Pray for continued validation for the Toussian people and their language.

Christmas Ministries

18. Please pray for mission worker Kathy Thiessen, an elder at the Wood Green Mennonite Church in London, as she leads in planning church activities this Christmas season.

19. As English teachers with Mennonite Partners in China, Julie and Phil Bender can share the secular and sacred aspects of Christmas. Pray that students who hear about Jesus' birth for the first time may want to learn more about the true meaning of Christmas.

20. Pray that the Christmas performances of the bell choir that Mary Beyler leads at Obihiro Mennonite Church in Hokkaido, Japan, will provide opportunities for not-yet-Christian spouses to attend church events.

21. A worker in Senegal asks prayer for the distribution of thousands of "shoe box" gifts contributed by Samaritan's Purse for the underprivileged children of Senegal. Pray that the children will come to know the best gift, Jesus.

22. Believers in rural Chinese congregations work hard to prepare for Christmas celebrations. Jeanette and Todd Hanson request prayer that these celebrations will speak to people who attend and encourage believers.

Prayer Request for week of December 16

Mennonite Mission Network workers Amanda and Gamaliel Falla are returning to Barranquilla, Colombia, to continue developing church work. Pray that they will have wisdom and vision to motivate pastors and leaders, encourage churches to grow and to open new churches in that region.