



FRIENDSHIP MENNONITE CHURCH

Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ

December 21, 2008

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Although the strong and proud appear to be in control, God overshadows us and lifts up the lowly. Like Mary, we open ourselves to God’s face being born within us.”

Coming to God

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to Worship
- Opening Songs
- Offering

Learning about God

- Songs of Advent
- Children’s Time
- Children’s Song: STS #16 *Peace Before Us*
- Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38
- Creative Movement Dance
- Sermon: Nan Kanagy “Expect the Indwelling Face of God”

Responding to God

- Song of Response STJ #105 *Don’t Be Afraid*
- Congregational Response
- Congregational Prayer
- Closing Song
- Benediction

Serving Today:

Worship Leader: Shirley Coblentz *Piano:* Rhonda Savage
Song Leader: Jonathan Witmer-Rich *Children’s Time:* Rhonda Savage
Usher: Matt Savage *Worship Nursery:* Kayley Nickless
S.S. Nursery: Alice “Pat” Patton *Greeters:* Mel & Parsilla Honsaker
Creative Movement Dancers:
 Jean Nham, Tabbatha Ruffin, Nan Kanagy

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Today Blue Christmas Worship at South Haven UCC
 Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - Caroling, Candles, & Cookies 6pm
 Dec. 29-Jan 5 Pastors Kevin and Nan on vacation
 Sun. Jan 11 Communion during Worship

Giving for December 14, 2008

Church Offering: Songbooks:
 \$436.01 \$20.00

Announcements:

- Please join your church family for a time of **Caroling, Candles and Cookies** on Christmas Eve. We will have a time of singing, scripture, and candlelighting in the sanctuary. We will then have a fellowship time together to celebrate Christ’s birth. Please bring a plate of cookies to share!
- The **finance committee** will be meeting on January 6 to prepare the **2009 budget**. If you have any input about the budget, please see Sue Schmucker Coblentz before Jan. 6.
- **Pastor Kevin and Pastor Nan will be taking a week of vacation** December 30-January 6. They will return to the office on January 7. Part of this time will be spent with Nan’s family in Orrville. The rest will be spent working on projects at home. Please call an elder (Dean Burden, Maria Witmer-Rich, or Bill Speight) if a need arises during this time.
- The holidays can be difficult for many who have lost loved ones. As a way of connecting with God and remembering our grief, we are invited to South Haven UCC’s “**Blue Christmas Worship**” this evening, December 21 at 5:30 p.m. South Haven is a sister church in Bedford at 415 Northfield Rd, right next to the high school. Pastor Nan is planning on attending and would love to have others join her.
- If you have an **announcement for the bulletin**, please contact Cara Speros via phone or e-mail (secretary@friendmc.org) by Wednesday morning.

Advent Readings – Week 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

We are invited to let God's face shine on us and be
born within us.

Do you feel God's healing?
Do you yearn to live God's truth?

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you this week what it
is to have God's face shine on you.

God, we ask you to be born in us and reside in our
lives. We live in hope, for nothing is impossible
with You!

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Caroling, Candles, and Cookies

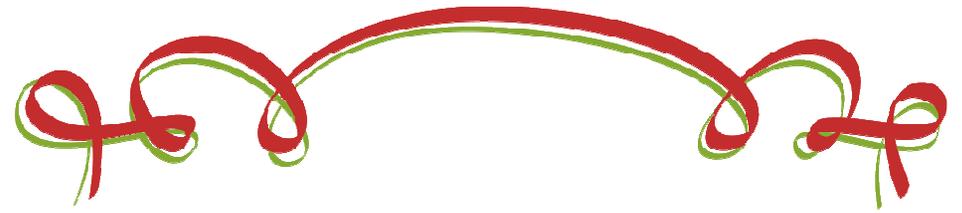
Please bring your family and join us on Christmas Eve as we share in a time of scripture, singing, and candlelighting.

This will be the perfect time to take a breath and reflect on the meaning of Christmas, and all that our Savior has done for you!

Following the service, we will gather in the fellowship hall for cookies and a time to visit with one another.

Please bring a plate of cookies to share!

December 24 at 6:00pm



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