

Please pray...

If you have a prayer request or praise that you would like to share, contact Cara Speros. secretary@friendmc.org.



Friendship Mennonite Church

Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ

December 18, 2011

*We serve a God who lifts the lowly,
fills the hungry, and chooses an unwed teenage girl
for a role of greatest honor. God's shalom overturns the world's
assumptions about what matters and what doesn't.*

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

Praising

Songs of Praise

Offering

Penny Power Offering

Hearing

"Do you Hear What I Hear?" - FMC Preschoolers

"Flashback to Christmas" - FMC Children

Responding

Responding Song

Congregational Responding & Prayer

Sending

Blessing for Meal & Sending Song

Join us for a Potluck after church today!

Welcome to Friendship Mennonite Church!

Visiting this week?

We are so glad you've joined us for worship! We hope you find a place to belong here. We together are searching for Jesus in our lives. Come visit again soon!

Announcements

- **Thank you** to the kids of FMC for bringing our annual Christmas Program this morning! "Flashback to Christmas" was written by Eric Miller and Anita Hooley Yoder. Participants in the play are: Jacob Coblentz, Luke Coblentz, Tara Griffin, Hannah Kanagy, Eric Miller, Kellen Prough, Ashley Speight, Jaylen Speight, Callie Speros, Sami Stock, Kennedy Weaver, Amelia Witmer-Rich, Charlotte Witmer-Rich Phillip Witmer-Rich. Thanks also to Pastor Nan for organizing the program and the countless grownups to helped with preparations as well!
- **Worship with us on Christmas!** Next week, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior together at 10:45. We will not have Sunday school on December 25 or January 1.
- **As you think about year-end giving**, won't you consider giving to Friendship Mennonite Church? Our mission and purpose is "Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ" Many lives are touched by our ministries and mission projects. You could give to a specific ministry, or to the building fund for property improvements. Thank you in advance.
- **Additional Giving for last Sunday:** Sunday School: \$11.00.
- **Penny Power Offering:** This morning, we will collect our Penny Power offering. The Penny Power offering is sent to Mennonite Central Committee to be used where needed around the world.
- **Women....** mark your calendars for our upcoming **FMC Women's Retreat!** It will be May 4-6 at Asbury Camp and Retreat Center in Hiram, Ohio. Our retreat speaker will be Mattie Marie Mast and activities will include singing, crafts, games and time with God alone and with others.
- **Save your egg cartons and extra canning jars!** MCC Connections in Kidron collects them to sell to local farmers. **Joe Kotva** will take them down once a month to donate. Joe also will collect Campbell's soup labels for education to give to Central Christian Schools.
- A **lost and found box** for FMC items is located outside the office in the bookshelf. Please place any items you find, OR look for items you have lost. Thank you!

Serving Our Church Today

Worship Leader: Anita Hooley Yoder

Song Leader: Rachel Miller

Piano: Rhonda Savage

Usher: Todd Miller

Sunday School Nursery: Kayley Nickless

Greeter: Chris Coblentz

Sound & Powerpoint: Ben Speros *Worship Nursery:* Sharon & Jim Thomas

Serving Next Sunday

Worship Leader: Dean Burden

Song Leader: Nan Kanagy

Usher: Tim Savage

Greeter: Melvin & Parsilla Honsaker

Sunday School Nursery: None

Worship Nursery: Ryan Claassen

Looking Ahead

TODAY

Wednesday, December 21

Saturday, December 24

Sunday, December 25

Potluck Meal after Worship

Christmas Caroling 6:00 pm

Administrative Team Meeting 7pm

Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

Celebrate the birth of Jesus! 10:45 am

Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:
\$1741.35

Weekly Budget:
\$1371.00

Friendship Mennonite Church

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Pastors: Kevin Kanagy (kevin@friendmc.org) Cell: (440)591-4072
Nan Kanagy (nan@friendmc.org)

Secretary: Cara Speros (secretary@friendmc.org)

www.friendmc.org

Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ!

Reflections from our Advent Artist, Jessica Stock

Is there any place more familiar to the Christian experience than waiting? Which is why I am somehow comforted by the Advent season of waiting. I can easily identify with the various forms of waiting we find in the Christmas story. There is the groaning waiting of Mary. The curious waiting of the wise men. The dull, dailiness the shepherds must have experienced. Doubting Zechariah. Anna's faithful waiting. Maybe there is even a kind of embarrassed waiting, as Joseph.

In this series I hoped to convey a sense of these waiting places.

Waiting can feel like a barren, empty space. Sometimes waiting feels heavy and dark. It can feel like banging your fists against a cavern wall; our prayers, it seems, bounce back. Often in waiting we feel a desperate sense of separation from God. Is He there? Does He hear? How long O Lord?

However our experience of waiting, it seems to last far longer than we think that it should; longer even than we think we can bear. Finding the same canvas with such minor variations week after week may have felt awkward, uncomfortable, even exasperating. Surely, God, if you do not show up soon I will be completely undone. I cannot wait any longer.

And then in our dark night, in a way that we do not expect, we meet Jesus. It is a miracle that explodes before us with angelic voices, or maybe a faraway promise that we treasure and follow. Either way, our eyes were looking up, expecting. God is with us.

Often after our experience with God life returns, again, to a kind of normal, and a new waiting resumes, just as believers have been waiting for 2000 years for Christ to come again. We carry the memory and promise of that night and the star with us. As we wait we remember God's faithfulness, it gives us faith to know that He is with us now though we cannot see Him; to search the sky expecting Him to come, once again, in a way that we do not expect.

Worship Committee wishes to thank Jessica for sharing herself and her talents with us at FMC! This special series of art draws us to wait for Jesus in a new way. May God be praised and sought in all of our lives in this coming year.

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Christmas Happenings at FMC

TODAY Sunday, December 18

10:45 a.m. –Children’s Christmas Program

12:15 p.m. – Christmas Potluck Meal

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 p.m. – Christmas Caroling to our Elderly |
RSVP/Contact Maria Witmer Rich



Saturday, December 24

6:00 p.m. –Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:30 p.m. – Christmas Cookie Fellowship

Bring a plate of cookies to share!

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day!)

No Sunday School

10:45 a.m. –Birthday Celebration for Jesus

Sunday, January 1 (New Year’s Day)

No Sunday School

10:45 a.m. –Worship



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