

# Yes! Let it Be!

We celebrate Advent for the four Sundays before Christmas. "Advent" is a version of a Latin word that means "coming." We set aside this time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus to the world. For many people Advent (like Lent) is a time of spiritual renewal and refocusing. It can also be a time of repenting, as John the Baptist called people to do to "prepare the way of the Lord."

**This year's Advent theme is, "Yes! Let it Be!" We are invited to express a sense of prayerful desire to participate in God's activity.**

**This week's Advent Scriptures:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Focus statement:** Rejoicing in God's comfort, we catch God's vision of shalom. We choose to join the Spirit that is already at work restoring creation.

As you travel through the Advent season, look for the ways in which God is calling you to participate in God's activity. Listen for the times when you are called to do God's work.



**Happy Birthday!**



*Keep these people in your prayers as they celebrate another year of life!*

**\*Contact the church office for a list of upcoming birthdays\***



## **Friendship Mennonite Church**

**December 17, 2017**

Welcome  
Opening Song  
Call to Worship  
Advent Candlelighting  
Songs of Praise  
Children's Moment  
Scripture Reading  
"Happy Birthday, Jesus"  
Presented by the Children & Youth of FMC  
Responding Song  
Congregational Sharing & Prayer  
Offering  
Announcements  
Benediction  
Sending Song

**Visiting this week?**

**Welcome to Friendship Mennonite Church!**

We are so glad you've joined us for worship! We hope you find a place to belong and consider joining us in God's mission. We are looking for people to join us who are interested in learning more about Jesus, becoming a disciple and finding out God's purpose in life!

## Announcements

- **Christmas program:** Thank you to Maria Witmer-Rich for writing, organizing and directing this morning's Children's Christmas program! And a big THANK YOU to all of the youth and children for participating and sharing the joy of Christ with us today!
- **Christmas Caroling** Join us this Thursday, December 21, at 5:00 at the church for Christmas Caroling! We will visit several locations of church friends during the evening, ending with a time of fellowship – bring a plate of cookies to share! Please let Brother Dan or Cara Speros know if you will be attending.
- **December Schedule** There will be no Sunday School next Sunday, December 24. There will be a time of fellowship during the Sunday School hour on December 31.
- **Church agencies** A variety of church agencies send us updates on a regular basis. These publications are available in your mailbox or in the magazine rack in the foyer. This month, see a new edition of "Toolbox" from Everence in your mailbox and "Behind the Hammer," from Mennonite Disaster Service, in the foyer.
- **"Confessing the peace of Jesus in a terroristic world"** is a statement and appeal from Eastern Mennonite Mission's Christian-Muslim Relations Team. In about a page, the statement includes history, current actions, and "transformative steps" as resources for our discussions about Islam. The statement is posted on the lobby bulletin board.
- **Giving from December 3:** Church offering: \$2067.00; MCC Meat Canner: \$40.00; Meals on Wheels: \$30.00; Love Fund: \$30.00.
- **Additional giving from last Sunday:** MCC Meat Canner: \$40.00; Meals on Wheels: \$20.00; Love Fund: \$20.00.

## Serving Our Church Today

*Worship Leader:* Shirley Coblentz     *Song Leader:* Jonathan Witmer-Rich  
*Piano:* Rhonda Savage     *Usher:* Todd Miller  
*Sunday School Nursery:* None     *Greeter:* Ryan Hurley  
*Worship Nursery:* Sue Schmucker Coblentz     *A/V Team:* Eric Miller  
*Sunday Building Trustee:* Miller Family

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### Serving Next Sunday

*Worship Leader:* Cara Speros     *Song Leader:* Rhonda Savage  
*Usher:* Elizabeth Jones     *Greeter:* Ian & Elliot Speros  
*SS Nursery:* None     *Worship Nursery:* Robin Arn  
*A/V Team:* Ben Speros     *Sunday Building Trustee:* Speros Family

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### Looking Ahead

TODAY	Christmas Breakfast 9:30 am
	Christmas Program 10:45 am
Thursday, December 21	Christmas Caroling 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Morning Worship 10:45 am

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### Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:  
\$2098.00

Weekly Budget:  
\$1463.00

#### Friendship Mennonite Church

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**Interim Pastor:** Dan Hooley (friendhooleydr@gmail.com)  
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**Secretary:** Cara Speros (secretary@friendmc.org)

**www.friendmc.org**