

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 14, 2014

Good Morning! Welcome to our service of worship and celebration. We invite you to sign our register and to worship with us whenever you can. We welcome everyone without regard to race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and economic or other life circumstances. Information about our church and about the Mennonite faith is available on the brochure racks near the side entrances to the sanctuary.

Our ushers are **John Mueller and Mary Redmon**; our greeters are **George Melby and Will Moore**. Please ask any of them if you need assistance with seating, would like to use a large-print hymnal, or if have questions about the location of Sunday School rooms or the restrooms.

The nursery is located on the second floor of the education wing. It is provided during church and Sunday school for children three years of age and younger. Today's nursery workers are **Aaron and Caitlin Linscheid and Will Moore**.

Closing Trustee: **Clif Hostetler**

Please remember Darin, Erica, Adeline, Emory, Rosi, Mitch, Marina, and Danny in **prayer** as they mourn the loss of Lawrence Penner (Darin's dad and Rosi's brother) who passed away on Monday. A memorial services was held on December 12.

Don Moeller wants to thank everyone for the kind gestures of concern during his hospitalization. The prayers, cards, visits and messages were all very meaningful and appreciated.

If you are not on call or have some other pressing need for your cell phone could you **please turn it off** or put it in airplane mode during the worship service. Our wireless microphones transmit over wifi frequencies, if the bandwidth is clogged with other signals the microphones can cut out. Thank you.

Tonight at 6:30pm, Rainbow will "**Celebrate Jesus in Word, Gift, and Song.**" It will be a service that that includes the preschool through high school, and the adult choir will offer a Christmas Cantata by Daniel Pinkham, accompanied by brass quartet and organ. Everyone is invited to bring treats to share for a time of fellowship afterwards. The offertory designation will be the Rainbow Outreach Fund.

Now is the time to renew/add/delete your subscription to *The Mennonite*. Be a part of our congregation's group plan and receive it for **\$35/yr.** Contact Kathy Kaufman to be added, or to make any change. **And**, you can donate to the church general fund to cover the cost. One check will be sent via the church general fund to cover all subscriptions that are made now.

For those planning to make donations to **the pulpit fund**, we have set a **deadline** for accepting donations and pledges at Jan. 18, 2015. Please plan to either make a donation labeled "Pulpit Fund" by the deadline or submit a pledge by the deadline for the amount you pledge to donate over the next 6 months. At the annual congregation meeting on Jan. 25th, we will summarize the contributions and discuss how to proceed based on contributions and pledges made to that date. Ask Keith Jantz if you have questions.

Youth Updates

Senior High Youth will be meeting for **youth group lunch** today. Soup and salad will be provided. We will be following up our conversation about convention so think about the discussion held on December 7th and bring your questions. No parents this time :)

Christmas time is here! All Junior High youth are invited to our Christmas party TONIGHT. We will be having a white elephant gift exchange so find something interesting laying around your house to exchange with others. There will be chips and dip and other snacks to munch on during the party. The fun times will begin at 4pm at church and go until the church wide Christmas program.

Senior high youth find your tackiest Christmas sweater for our Christmas party on Friday, December 19th from 7-9pm. We will be having a white elephant gift exchange with one another so find an extra special item lying around your house to exchange with others (no purchase necessary). Please bring your favorite board or card game to donate to the youth space and we will try and guess who brought what game. Delicious snacks and holiday music will be provided!

December 7

Attendance.....	146
Visitors (included in attendance count)	5

This Week

Sunday	December 14	Youth Group	12:00 pm
		Christmas Program	6:30 pm
Wednesday	December 17	Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm
Thursday	December 18	Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Friday	December 19	Sr High Christmas Party	7:00 pm
Saturday	December 20	Hays Family Breakfast	9:00 am

Next Week

Wednesday	December 24	Christmas Eve Service	6:30 pm
Thursday	December 25	Office Closed	
Friday	December 26	Office Closed	

Winter Education Classes

***The Book of Forgiving*.....Wesley Room**
A discussion of *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* is written by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, offering a manual on the art of forgiveness—helping us to realize that we are all capable of healing and transformation.

***Why I Am an Atheist Who Believes in God*..... Room 110**
This class will discuss *Why I am an Atheist Who Believes in God: How to Give Love, Create Beauty, and Find Peace* by Frank Schaeffer. Schaeffer once stood near the top of conservative Christian evangelicalism but is now one of its strongest critics. He is an “atheist” who still talks to Jesus—in spite of everything.

***Worship Response Group*.....Pastor’s Office**
This will be an opportunity to discuss the purpose and experience of worship at Rainbow. We will consider questions such as “What helped us worship today? What interfered with our worship? What inspiration, challenge, question will you take with you this week?” **Location change:** The Worship response adult Sunday school class will meet in the Pastor’s Office today due to the Christmas program rehearsal happening during Sunday school today in the Sanctuary.

***The Wired Word*.....Sunflower Room**
This modern Bible study uses headlines to illustrate each week's adult lesson. This week’s lesson is an issue for Maryland Churches concerning "run-off" water on their church property. The core issue for this lesson is environmental stewardship.