

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 21, 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 **Darin and Jacob Kaufman**; our greeters are **George Melby and Laura Schmidt**. 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 **Jeff and Emma Janzen**.

Closing Trustee: **John Mueller**

We invite prayers for:

- **Tracy Long** as she recovers from surgery. More information will be shared during Community Building time today.
- **Bernita Boyts**, Hesston, KS, as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.
- **Verlin Bartel and his daughters Olivia and Heather** as they make plans for Elaine Bartel's memorial service scheduled for Saturday January 3 at 2 pm at Rainbow.
- **Gilberto and Alison Flores** as they grieve the sudden death of Alison's brother, Graham Schmidt. A memorial service was held Saturday December 20 in Newton, KS.
- **Aaron, Andrew, and Ben Voth**, whose brother Chris Breen passed away Tuesday morning, December 16. Services were held Friday, December 19 at 2:00pm at Harvey Oaks Baptist Church, Omaha, NE.

Darin, Erica, Mitch and I would like to **thank the congregation** for all the kind words and for holding our families in your prayers during this time of grief following the death of our father and brother, Lawrence Penner. It's at times like this that we especially feel the care of our community. Thank you. --Rosi Penner Kaufman

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.

Come bask in and spread some light! For those in the Northern Hemisphere, the longest night of the year/winter solstice occurs TODAY. Many churches will host a Longest Night or Blue Christmas service of lament and longing. Here at Rainbow we will not have a formal service. Rather, we will have the sanctuary open from 5-7 pm tonight. Come and leave anytime during that block of time. Come to pray, light candles or sit in silence as we hold our personal pains and the pain of others in the presence of God.

Rainbow will be having a **Christmas Eve** service on December 24 at 6:30 pm

WOMEN: SAVE THE DATE!

Several women have been interested in starting a lunch restaurant group. We are proposing a lunch meeting on Thursday, January 15, 11:00 a.m. at First Watch, 11112 Shawnee Mission Parkway. (North side, between Quivera and Nieman Rd.) Under discussion would be place, day of week, expectations, frequency of meeting and other details. In order to reserve a place, please RSVP by January 8 to Bonnie Beachey or Phyllis Carlson. We welcome your feedback.

Endowment Fund. If you have questions or would like written information regarding donating to the Rainbow Mennonite Church Endowment Fund or setting up your own Donor Advised Fund, you may contact Keith Jantz for further information. If you want to make a donation, simply send a check payable to the RMC Endowment Fund and send it to the church office.

Staff Updates

The office will be closed December 24-26, 31, and January 1.

Announcements for the newsnotes for December 28 need to be to the office by 9 am on December 23.

December 14

Attendance.....	177
Visitors (included in attendance count)	4

This Week

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

Next Week

Wednesday	December 31	Office Closed half day	
Thursday	January 1	Office Closed	
Saturday	January 3	Elaine Bartel Memorial Service	2:00 pm

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?”

***The Wired Word*.....Sunflower Room**

This modern Bible study uses headlines to illustrate each week's adult lesson.