

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 25, 2016

Good Morning and Merry Christmas! 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 David Stewart**. Our greeters are **Becca Claassen and Georgy Melby**. Please ask any of them if you need assistance with seating, would like to use a large-print hymnal, need a hearing assistance device or have questions about the location of the restrooms. The nursery is located on the second floor of the education wing. Today's nursery workers are **Alison and Gilberto Flores**.

Closing Trustee: **Mitch Kaufman**

Stewardship Update – as of December 19, we need **\$80,000.00 to meet our 2016 budget**. The importance of meeting the budget is in covering our expenses for the year and having the cash on hand to continue with the church's mission and daily expenses in 2017. The generosity of the members of the church is always greatly appreciated. Please consider the church in any giving decisions to be made before the end of the year.

Contributions can be counted toward 2016 as long as they are received by the church by December 31. For contributions that are mailed, please make sure they are postmarked by December 31. Online contributions made through the church website or through the EasyTithe mobile app can be made up until 11:59 PM on December 31.

Next Sunday, New Year's Day, worship will begin an hour later at 10:30 am. After worship, already made New Year's cookies will be available. Please feel free to bring any leftover Christmas treats to share during this fellowship hour. Sunday school classes for all ages will resume January 8.

Thank you to the entire congregation for your love, support, and prayers for my sister, Chelsea, the past few months. After being diagnosed with stage 4b clear cell carcinoma cervical (a rare form of cervical cancer) in May, her PET scan came back clear last week and she is cancer free! I welcome your prayers for her to remain cancer free and am so thankful for this loving community. ~Ashton Wells

Tracy Long has moved to KU's rehab facility (39th and Rainbow). Her family has posted the following update on the CaringBridge website: "Doctors estimate she will be in the rehab facility 3-4 weeks. She's got a lot of ground to make up, but we know she can do it! Thanks for the continued thoughts and prayers!"

Please remember in prayer Rainbow congregant Betty Bodine and her family, including Betty's brother-in-law Joe Duerksen. Betty's daughter, Diane Reese of Kansas City, died unexpectedly last week. Memorial service information is unknown at this time.

Please remember in prayer David and Kathy Becker. David's brother, Eugene of Stevens, Pennsylvania, passed away recently.

Youth Updates

All **jr high and sr high youth** are invited to a special Epiphany Celebration on Friday, January 6th beginning at 6:00pm. Dinner will be served, guests have been invited, and amazing things will happen until 8:00pm! RSVP to renee@rainbowmennonite.org

Staff Updates

The church office will be closed on Monday December 26th for the holidays. It will be open through noon on December 30th and then will be closed through January 2.

Pastor Ruth will be out of the office December 26-December 30.

Music Ministries Director Rosi Penner Kaufman will be out of the office December 27 and 28.

Youth Program Director Renee Reimer will be out of the office December 26-29.

Member Updates

Dan's Retirement Party—You are all invited to Dan Duncan's retirement party on Friday, January 6, 2017 at the George Meyn Center in Wyandotte County Park at 126th and State Ave. Enter the park and follow the brown signs to the George Meyn Center. We will start about 5:30 pm, food about 6:00 pm and music about 7:30 pm. Since our memories aren't what they used to be, please RSVP by phone or text to Dan (816-223-3863)—or LeeAnn (816-223-3486) by January 2. No gifts please! We'd love to see you there!

Baby Calvin is coming soon!

Please help celebrate the impending arrival of Nick Hawkins and Dawn Araujo-Hawkins' little boy with a baby shower during fellowship time on January 8th. They are registered at babylist.com/araujo-hawkins. A money tree will also be available.

Community Updates

Inspirational readers needed for RISE week, Jan. 17-20, 2017! Following MLK Day, Rosedale Development Association will be mobilizing volunteers to read stories of civil rights and social justice in Rosedale public school classrooms as part of RDA's annual RISE week of service. Volunteer reading sessions last for as little as 30 minutes, but make a lasting impression through stories and discussions. To get involved, RSVP for our **RISE volunteer orientation at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11 at 1401 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS**. To learn more or sign up to volunteer, please contact Kimberly Hunter at [913-677-5097](tel:913-677-5097) or email kimberly@rosedale.org.

December 18

Attendance.....	120
Visitors (included in attendance count)	6

This Week

Monday	December 26	Office Closed	All day
Friday	December 30	Office Closes at noon	

Next Week

Sunday	January 1	Worship	10:30 am
Monday	January 2	Office Closed	All day
Tuesday	January 3	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
Wednesday	January 4	Women's Luncheon	11:00 am
Friday	January 6	Youth Epiphany Gathering	6:00 pm