

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

January 1, 2017

Good Morning and Happy New Year! 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 **Brad and Nancy Gritman**. Our greeters are **Bob and Phyllis Carlson**. 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.

Closing Trustee: **Robert Kaufman**

Please join us after worship for New Years cookies and other goodies in the Fellowship Hall.

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!"

There will be **no choir rehearsal** on January 4, and the choir is not singing for worship on January 8. We will resume our regular schedule on January 11.

The Women's Luncheon on Wed., Jan 4, 11 AM will be at Sherie Neufeld's house, 12421 Long St. Overland Park, KS 66213.

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 rener@rainbowmennonite.org

Staff Updates

The office will be closed Monday in observance of New Year's Day.

Music Ministries Director Rosi Penner Kaufman will be out of the office this week.

Member Updates

Dear Congregation: I'm sorry to announce that the annual black-eyed pea party at casa Yarwood on January 1 **must be cancelled** this year. While we were away over Christmas break the water line to the icemaker came loose and the house flooded. Keith, Carl Dean, Karma and I are living in a Marriott at insurance expense. Oddly, the black-eyed peas are supposed to bring good luck. Perhaps the bowl I ate last year had an expiration date of December 26. Sigh. ~Debra Sapp-Yarwood

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 25

Attendance.....	85
Visitors (included in attendance count)	4

This 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
Saturday	January 7	Youth Sponsor Meeting	5:00 pm

Next Week

Sunday	January 8	Baby Shower for Dawn and Nick	10:50 am
		Welcoming Committee Meeting	12:00 pm
Monday	January 9	Social Worker Gathering	7:00 pm
Tuesday	January 10	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
Wednesday	January 11	Trustees Meeting	10:00 am
		Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm

Adult Education Classes starting January 8

Creation Care and Climate Change

Facilitators: Aaron Barnhart and Kent Lichty

Natural resources are not only vitally important to the economy of Kansas, they have contributed mightily to the quality of life for generations of Kansans. As these resources face unprecedented challenges, people of faith are leading efforts to advocate for what they call “creation care.” Leaving behind the old debate over “who caused climate change,” these faith communities are looking for common ground to respond to what they agree is a threat to the world that they believe God entrusted to them as stewards. This class will feature discussions and readings for a program being developed for statewide presentation by the Kansas Humanities Council.

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Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion by
Alain de Botton Facilitators: Kenn Goertz and Clif Hostetler Cost of
book: \$11.37

What if religions are neither all true nor all nonsense? The long-running and often boring debate between fundamentalist believers and non-believers is finally moved forward by Alain de Botton's inspiring new book, which boldly argues that the supernatural claims of religion are entirely false—but that it still has some very important things to teach the secular world.

Religion for Atheists suggests that rather than mocking religion, agnostics and atheists should instead steal from it—because the world's religions are packed with good ideas on how we might live and arrange our societies. Blending deep respect with total impiety, de Botton (a non-believer himself) proposes that we look to religion for insights into how to, among other concerns, build a sense of community, make our relationships last, overcome feelings of envy and inadequacy, inspire travel and reconnect with the natural world.

For too long non-believers have faced a stark choice between either swallowing some peculiar doctrines or doing away with a range of consoling and beautiful rituals and ideas. At last, in *Religion for Atheists*, Alain de Botton has fashioned a far more interesting and truly helpful alternative.

The Fire This Time, Part Two

Facilitator: Joshua Chittum

We continue to learn, analyze, challenge, and dissect racial identities, power, misuse of power and their interplay. But we also act. Now is the time. We must work within our church walls and outside of them. Please join us if you are ready to help chart a path forward.

To be or not to be an Anabaptist Mennonite?

Facilitator: Ruth Harder and Friends

This class, facilitated by Pastor Ruth and friends, will compliment the January-February worship series where we will learn more about the gifts and challenges of belonging to a Mennonite denomination and global Anabaptist movement. If you've ever wanted a chance to learn more about the historical and contemporary realities Mennonites face, join us!