

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

January 15, 2017

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 usher is **Dan Duncan**. Our greeters are **Laura Schmidt and Lori Lichty**. 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. Our nursery workers today are **Stan and Carol Buller and Liberty Brigman**.

Closing Trustee: **Eric Jantzen**

We thank Sarah Klaassen, pastor of Rock Bridge Church Church in Columbia, MO, for loaning us the Peace and Service banner at the front of the Sanctuary. Here is a note from the designer, Bob Regier of North Newton, KS: "Perhaps there is no more familiar symbol of service within the Mennonite church than the logo of the Mennonite Central Committee. So I have given this symbol, composed of the cross and dove, a prominent position in the upper third of the banner. There is a circular motion around this symbol that alludes to the orb, or world. This witness through service is not restricted, but extends to the entire world. An olive branch forms the lower part of the circle. This symbol, as you recall, has its origins in the story of Noah and the flood. The dove returning to the ark with this branch has become a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and new life.

The bright curved band at the upper right corner of the banner helps further define the orb and suggests a portion of a rainbow emerging from the darker left side. The rainbow is another symbol of God's reconciling action after the flood. Reference to this is made in the ninth chapter of Genesis. Placed below the symbols I have mentioned are the basin and towel. The towel sweeps to the very bottom of the banner and forms part of the bottom contour. Rooted in the account of the Passover supper, the towel and basin have become longstanding symbols for humility and service.

Please continue to pray for **Tracy Long and her family**. Tracy has returned home, and will require around the clock care. If you would like to sign up to spend some time with Tracy or to take the family a meal, please contact the church office.

Please pray for Rainbow congregants John and Kay Schmidt, Ray Reimer and Rosi Epp (Renee's parents) and Ryne Preheim (former Rainbow intern) as they travel to Israel/Palestine as part of the Bethel/Tabor College learning trip.

Thank you so much to everyone who showered Baby Hawk with love last week. We are blessed to have such a supportive and caring church family! — Nick and Dawn

The conversation that was scheduled with Stephanie Krehbiel has been postponed due to the weather.

We're updating the church directory! Paper copies are available to edit in the Fellowship Hall.

Save the date! Our annual congregational business meeting will begin sharply at 12:30 pm (following potluck) on January 29. Major agenda items will include 1) Discussion and vote on 2017 budget, 2) Vote on Gifts Discernment nominations, 3) Review of annual reports meeting 4) MVS Update, and 5) SCR update. The Annual Report is available today.

The holidays are over, but that doesn't mean the celebrations end! **Join in celebrating** the October wedding of M'Baliala Thomas and Scott Cossel after the worship service on January 22. There will be a basket for cards and a money tree.

New members will be recognized during worship on January 29. If you are interested in joining this group and becoming a member, please talk to Ruth asap (ruthh@rainbowmennonite.org).

A group is planning to attend **The Women's March in Kansas City** on January 21st. We will meet at the church at 10:30am, carpool to City Market, enjoy a quick lunch together and then ride the streetcar to Union Station and the rally, which will begin at 1 pm. If you are interested in additional information regarding the rally, google Women's March on Washington in KC. Men are certainly invited to attend as well. RSVP to me at -kristakaufman41@gmail.com. – Krista Kaufman

Youth Updates

There will be a **sr high lunch** discussion on Sunday, January 15th from 11am-12:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

SR HIGH DEPOSIT DUE: Sr high youth interested in attending MCUSA Convention in Orlando, FL this summer will need to turn in their \$250 deposit and registration form to Renee today.

January 8

Attendance.....	163
Visitors (included in attendance count)	5

This Week

Sunday	January 15	Jr High Breakfast	8:30 am
		Sr High Lunch	12:00 pm
Tuesday	January 17	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
Wednesday	January 18	Women's Luncheon	11:00 am
		Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm
		Park Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Friday	January 20	Jr High Snow Camp	All day
Saturday	January 21	Jr High Snow Camp	All day

Next Week

Sunday	January 22	Jr High Snow Camp	All day
Tuesday	January 24	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
Wednesday	January 25	Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm
Thursday	January 26	Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Saturday	January 28	Worship Committee Retreat	9:00 am

Adult Education Classes

***Religion for Atheists* Room 110**

This class will be a discussion of the book *Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion* by Alain de Botton. Botton 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.

***The Fire This Time, Part Two* Library**

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..... Wesley Room

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!