

# RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

## December 24, 2017

Welcome to our service of worship. 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. After the worship service, the Welcome Committee invites you to the designated Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall (lower level) to connect with other attendees.

Today's greeters **John and Pat Bertsche** and ushers are **David Becker and Darin Kaufman**. 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 **Alison Flores, Gilberto Flores and Abigail Gritman**.

Closing Trustee: **Scott Weast**

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### Remembering in Prayer...

Please continue to pray for Betty Bodine. She is now receiving rehab care at Bishop Spencer Place and is accepting visitors.

*Dearest Rainbow Family,*

*Thank you so much for the many thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement during this "cancer" journey. The poinsettia is beautiful! Your strength and support mean the world to us. Enjoy the holidays! Love, Kent and Lori Lichty*

We share the sad news that Rainbow neighbor, Pablo Escareno, recently passed away unexpectedly. Many will remember him for his jovial, mischievous spirit and for the ways he looked out for others. He volunteered many hours working to make this a safer, more beautiful Rosedale neighborhood, and we always knew when our parking lot lights weren't working thanks to him. May he rest in peace.

### Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Services

Please come back tonight for our 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Remember that next Sunday's morning worship service is on New Year's Eve day and will begin at 10:00am. There will be no Sunday School or WorshipArts this morning or next week. These classes will resume in the new year on Sunday, January 7.

The welcome banners hanging in the east entry were designed and created by children who were part of an art interest group for the Christmas program. They were inspired by the ever-changing hanging cloth displayed in our sanctuary and were created as a representation of that first, and ongoing, invitation to "Come, all ye faithful."

## **Year End Reminders**

**Budget Update** - contributions during November and December have been significantly below budget and it will now be a challenge to make our 2017 budget. As of December 19, we project requiring \$63K in contributions during the remainder of December to meet our budget commitment for benevolences as well as our internal programs. In addition to giving on Sundays, contributions can be made online via the church website and by mail to the church office. Any mailed contributions will need to be postmarked by December 31 to count toward 2017. Thank you for your continued generosity and for remembering the church's financial needs as the end of the year approaches.

This past Thursday a letter was emailed to the congregation from the Stewardship Committee announcing the starting of a **Rainbow Endowment**. Please refer to your email for this announcement or find hard copies of the letter in the east and west foyers this morning for your review.

**Online Giving** - if you set up automatic contributions in November or December of 2016, your giving schedule may be expiring or already has expired. Please log in to Online Giving from the church website to check your automatic deductions schedule to renew, if necessary. Whether or not you have automatic deductions, anyone can make contributions to the general fund or any of the other funds we have, including Crosslines Christmas. Please contact Mark Unruh with any questions.

## **Announcements**

Come join the fun on **Tuesday, December 26th at 1pm for Nursery Cleaning Day!** There will be "a toy cleaning to be had" and all are welcome to attend. Youth that need any service credit can enjoy this activity of post-Christmas toy cleaning. See Natasha VanDyke for questions.

**Rainbow Retreat Planning - January 25th @ 7pm in Sunflower Room.** This will be the first planning session for Rainbow's 2018 church retreat. Keeping in line with proposed congregational goals, classic anti-racist concepts of power, privilege, and identity will be the retreat's focus. Our learning will help further the goal of dismantling racism at individual and institutional levels. There will be a variety of planning tasks that can be chosen based on interest and level of time commitment. If

you would like to help, but are not able to attend this first session, or if you have any other questions, contact Joshua Chittum.

In the event of **inclement weather**, church-related cancellation notices will appear on the home page of our church website. An email will also be sent to the congregation and the church facebook page will be updated.

### **Youth Updates**

Jr High and Sr High youth group will be held on Sunday, January 7th from 6-8pm at the church. Come prepared for a New Year of food, fun, and fellowship!

### **Staff Updates**

Ruth will be out of town December 26-January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Deacon Chair, Amy Kliewer.

Please note that the church office will be closed at the following dates and times:

- Monday, December 25 thru Wednesday, December 27 – Closed for Christmas
- Friday, December 29 – Closing at noon (New Year's Eve Holiday)
- Monday, January 1 – Closed for New Year's Day

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*December has been a full month at Rainbow. People have helped out in so many generous ways--everything from raking leaves in the Playground, setting up Christmas trees and decorations, sharing music and art, passing out food at the Cross-Lines Christmas store, donating items for Mennonite Central Committee relief kits, and opening and locking the building for various events and services. We cherish the opportunity to learn, worship and serve alongside all of you. Now let's have ourselves a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*RMC Staff: Terry, Rosi, Renee, Carrie and Ruth*



**December 17**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Attendance.....                               | 124                |
| Visitors (included in attendance count) ..... | 3                  |
| General Fund .....                            | \$ 7,011.00        |
| Other Donations .....                         | \$ 2,343.75        |
| <b>Total Offering .....</b>                   | <b>\$ 9,354.75</b> |

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**This Week**

|           |        |                                      |        |
|-----------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Sunday    | Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service    | 6:00pm |
| Monday    | Dec 25 | Christmas Day – Church Office Closed |        |
| Tuesday   | Dec 26 | Church Office Closed                 |        |
| Wednesday | Dec 27 | Church Office Closed                 |        |
| Friday    | Dec 29 | Church Office Closes at noon         |        |

**Next Week**

|           |        |   |         |
|-----------|--------|---|---------|
| Sunday    | Dec 31 | New Year's Eve Morning Worship          | 10:00am |
| Monday    | Jan 1  | Church Office Closed for New Year's Day |         |
| Tuesday   | Jan 2  | Staff Meeting                           | 1:30pm  |
|           |        | Worship Committee Meeting               | 7:00pm  |
| Wednesday | Jan 3  | Women's Luncheon                        | 11:00am |
|           |        | Choir Dinner                            | 6:15pm  |
|           |        | Choir Rehearsal                         | 6:45pm  |