

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 16, 2018

Welcome to our worship service. We welcome everyone without regard to race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and economic or other life circumstances. For information about our church or the Mennonite faith, literature is available in the east and west foyers outside the sanctuary.

We invite you to sign our friendship register when it is passed during the offering. Between the worship service and Sunday school, please join us for coffee and donuts downstairs in the fellowship hall. Visitors and newcomers, please look for the Rainbow Connections Table!

This morning's ushers and greeters are **Ken, Carrie, Eva and Owyn Parsons**. Please ask 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, for children birth to age four, is located on the second floor of the education wing. Our nursery workers today are **Barbara Baumgartner, Leah Schwartz and Abigail Gritman**. Closing trustee is **Clif Hostetler**.

Remembering in Prayer...

Please continue to remember Dave, Hannah and Larissa Schrag in prayer as they grieve the loss of their beloved wife and mother, Janelle. If you would like to give in memory of Janelle, please make contributions in care of Rainbow Mennonite Church.

This Morning at Rainbow ~ Third Sunday of Advent

- **WorshipArts (K-5th Grade) & Jr / Sr High Women's Ensemble 10:25am**
- **2nd Hour Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:50 – 11:40am in Sanctuary**
- **2nd Hour Neighborhood Christmas Caroling: 10:50 – 11:40am**

Enjoy cider and hot chocolate provided by the outreach committee inside and then meet at the west doors of the fellowship hall to begin our singing in the neighborhood. We also have a dove ornament for each neighbor we'll be visiting.

- **Christmas Program 5:00pm**

"Who will come to Bethlehem?" We hope you'll join us to find out! A time for fellowship will follow; please bring treats to share. Tonight's offering will be divided between the Deacons' Fund and Mennonite Central Committee.

Next Sunday, December 23, a worship prelude will begin at 9:30. All are invited (children and adults), to share a Christmas solo or small ensemble piece. Contact Rosi Penner Kaufman to sign up. And be sure to join us **Monday, December 24** at 6:00pm for our Christmas Eve Service.

This morning we welcome several guests from the wider Mennonite church

- **Nathan Toews and Leidy Muñoz** are full-time service workers with Mennonite Central Committee in Cochabamba, Bolivia. They were previously working in Bogota, Colombia, where their assignment was to assist churches in their efforts to provide psycho-social and pastoral support to members in their church communities living in vulnerable and/or violent situations.
- **Lizzy Diaz** is the Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) Program Director. She has been in Kansas City all weekend visiting our local MVS'ers and their places of work (Migrant Farm Workers, Connecting for Good, and Jewish Vocational Services).

Announcements

This past Tuesday we hosted over 350 people at Rainbow for Janelle Schrag's memorial service. The family appreciated all the careful planning that went into this gathering. Thank you to those who helped with the meal (grocery shopping, baking, making coffee, serving, cleaning up). Thank you to those who helped with audio visual needs. Thank you to the ushers, greeters, and parking attendants. Thank you to those who led through music. And thank you to those who arranged flowers, as well as those who did other necessary, impromptu tasks. Last but not least, a special thanks to Rainbow staff for all the coordination and set up that was performed with such love and grace. A video of the service is available upon request. Email the church office.

Stewardship Update (12/12) – As of December 12, we are forecasting that we will require \$75K in contributions before the end of December to meet our 2018 budget commitment to fund all of the missions of the church. This averages to \$25K per week. Please keep church finances in mind as we head toward the end of our business year. If you would like to give and cannot be at church a particular Sunday, remember the online giving option at our church website. Thank you.

A note from Rainbow Deacons: On January 1, 2019, Ruth will begin a three-month sabbatical. She will be away from Rainbow this whole time, as she plans to travel, rest, and study. In the coming weeks, she will share more about her sabbatical goals. In the meantime plans are underway to have Deacons rotate being on-call for pastoral and congregational care concerns during this three month stretch. That information will be shared in the coming weeks as well. Let's join in prayer for Ruth and the Rainbow congregation as we mutually prepare for Ruth's time away. ~ Amy Kliever (chair), Mike Peters, Richard VanDyke, David Stewart, Marsha Rhoads, and Leah Schwarz

We recently received word that A.C. Cuppy, longtime member of Rosedale Christian Church and the Sharing Community in Rosedale, passed away on November 27 at age 100. A.C.'s vision and work helped shape the early years of the Rainbow congregation's work in the Rosedale and Argentine neighborhoods.

Thank you to Clif Hostetler and Rod Kliewer for their work on repairing the first platform of the Fish structure in the Whitmore Playground this past week. The platform was damaged earlier this fall. Thank you also to the many others on the Playground Committee who take such good care of this community resource.

Youth Updates

Peppernut Sale Results: Thank you for all those who so generously supported the peppernut fundraising sale last Sunday. We raised \$1,210.00 which will be used to reduce the cost for youth attending the MC USA convention. Thanks also to the families and youth sponsors who provided dough. And a special thank you to Ashton Wells for coordinating the peppernut “factory”, Christian Buller who baked them, and Ben Parker Sutter who lead the rolling and cutting. It was heartwarming seeing 14 youth and 4 adults working together so well as a team.

Please save the date on your summer calendars for the **Mennonite Church USA convention on July 2-6** in Kansas City. Senior high youth will spend the whole week together and stay in the convention hotels. Junior high youth will attend the convention programming during the day from 8am-5pm, with a lock-in at the church on Friday night. Junior highers will need to be picked up after programming each day. More information about registration cost and deadlines will be coming soon.

Mennonite Voluntary Service News

Eba Lemessa, one of our Mennonite Voluntary Service workers, will be ending his term to go back to school at the beginning of January. He had planned to take online classes and finish here at the end of February, but his school has made it mandatory to attend classes in person. Eba has been a wonderful addition to KC MVS, the Rainbow community, and his placement at Connecting For Good. His final Sunday with us will be January 6.

Community Events

Rosedale Development Association is celebrating 40 years! Join RDA at Vox Theatre on Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30pm to celebrate the milestones and stories from the past 40 years and look ahead to the next 40! Enjoy light fare, beverages, raffles and more. RSVP to the RDA office at 913-677-5097.

December 9, 2018

Attendance.....	204
Visitors (included in attendance count)	7
General Fund	\$ 16,471.42
Other Donations	\$ 1,484.85
Total Offering	\$ 17,956.27

This Week

Sunday	Dec 16	Neighborhood Caroling	10:50am
		Christmas Program Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	10:50am
		Christmas Program	5:00pm
Monday	Dec 17	Stewardship Meeting	6:00pm
Tuesday	Dec 18	Staff Meeting	10:30am
Wednesday	Dec 19	Women's Luncheon	11:00am
		Choir Meal	6:15pm
		Choir Rehearsal	6:45pm
Saturday	Dec 22	Private Family Meal in Fellowship Hall	8:30am

Next Week

Sunday	Dec 23	Christmas Prelude	9:30pm
Monday	Dec 24	Church Office Closed	12:00pm
		Christmas Eve Service	6:00pm
Tuesday	Dec 25	Christmas Day – Office Closed	
Wednesday	Dec 26	No Choir Rehearsal	

Rainbow Mennonite Church is the host congregation for Kansas City's Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) unit. Currently we have three volunteers living in the MVS house, serving with local nonprofits, while also plugging into the Rosedale neighborhood and Rainbow. These temporary volunteers are joined by an associate MVS resident and longer-term house residents/managers Kimberly Hunter and Je'Taime Taylor.

Sarah Tomas Morgan ~ Jewish Vocational services (sarah.tomasmorgan@gmail.com)

Hanna Hochstetler ~ Migrant Farmers Assistance Fund (hannakathleen.h@gmail.com)

Eba Goshu ~ Connecting for Good (elemes200@caledonian.ac.uk)

Paul Zehr, Associate ~ Heirloom Bakery (paul.zehr74@gmail.com)