

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 11, 2016

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 ushers are **Dave and Hannah Schrag**. Our greeters are **Janelle and Larissa Schrag**. 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 **Michelle, Kendric, Gabby and Delaney Beachey**.

Closing Trustee: **Gary Kaufman**

Tracy Long continues to receive hospital care at KU Medical Center following brain surgery. Many unknowns remain regarding ongoing treatment and surgery options. Please pray for Tracy, her husband Gary, their family, and the medical team as they face the days ahead. The family has posted the following note on Caring Bridge website: "We think rest is the best thing for her. Please keep the prayers and good thoughts coming her way. We will let everyone know when she is up for visitors."

Please pray for Russel Yoder as he continues to receive rehab care at Kansas City Transitional Care Center.

Chat with Neil! Mennonite Voluntary Service Director Neil Richer will be available to talk about MVS at 11 am in the Sunflower Room.

Today following the youth peppernut fundraiser, there will be a recital and carol sing in Fellowship Hall. Children will perform first and then go to their Sunday School classes. The recital/carol sing will take the place of Adult Education.

From the RMC library: Books with our advent theme of nighttime and darkness have been placed in the children's book rack in the Wesley Room. Among other Christmas books, please also note the advent books for children.

Western District Conference Minister Heidi Regier Kreider will be worshipping with us on Sunday, December 18. If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the wider conference and denomination, please consider attending a small group luncheon on the 18th with Heidi and her family as our guests. To learn more or to RSVP, please email Pastor Ruth (ruthh@rainbowmennonite.org)

Rainbow's Christmas program is next Sunday, December 18 at 6:30. It will be a festive program including the Sunday School classes from preschool through high school. Interspersed with the children and youth, the Rainbow choir will be singing Christmas favorites accompanied by a jazz big band. Come early to experience the lighted prayer walk around the outside of the building, and stay afterwards for a potluck feast of Christmas goodies. An offering will be received for the Deacons' Fund, an above-budget benevolence fund administered by the Deacons for the primary purpose of assisting church and community members in need.

In conjunction with the Christmas Program on December 18th, the worship grant will be providing a **lighted meditation walk** for folks to enjoy either before or following the program. Renee is looking for 4-5 volunteers to help set-up the walk beginning at 4pm on Sunday, December 18th. A light supper will be provided for those helping! Please email Renee (reneer@rainbowmennonite.org) if you are interested in helping.

Special events coming up

- **December 18, 6:30 pm** Christmas Program featuring children, youth, and a Jazz Cantata led by the Rainbow choir and area musicians
- **December 21, 6:30-8 pm** Longest Night Outdoor Carol Sing, with soup served starting at 6:30 pm, followed by carol singing at 7 pm
- **December 23, 12:30 pm:** Rainbow Choir performs a brief *a cappella* concert at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Bring your friends and family!
- **December 24, 6 pm** Christmas Eve service
- **A note about Christmas Day and New Year's Day:** Since both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sunday, we will begin those services an hour later at **10:30 am**. An extended fellowship time both Sundays will replace the usual education hour for both children and adults.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS! Save the date for a Progressive Dinner Saturday, December 17th. We will begin at 5:30pm at Ruth and Jesse's and move to Aaron and Caitlin's home.

Youth Updates

Jr high breakfast for the month of December will be on Sunday, December 18th beginning at 8:30am.

A special sr high lunch will be held following Sunday School on Sunday, December 18th in the youth rooms beginning at noon. Lunch will be provided for youth and parents. This lunch discussion will focus on MCUSA convention which will be held in Orlando, FL July 4th-8th, 2017. We will discuss the changes that are happening at convention this year, travel date options for our sr high youth, and an additional activity in conjunction with convention. If you are interested in attending convention, please plan to attend this meeting with a parent.

Staff Updates

Church Administrator Ashton Wells will be out of the office on Thursday December 15. A volunteer will be in the office from 9-2.

Pastor Ruth will be out of the office on Friday December 16.

Stewardship Update

As of 12/4, we have received \$83K in 4th quarter contributions, leaving us with **\$115K still needed** by the end of December to meet our 2016 budget. This is \$23K (20%) more than we received during the same period in December 2015. Please take this into consideration in your giving decisions in these last three weeks of the year. If you are not able to give at church, you can also give online at the church website (www.rainbowmennonite.org). Thank you for your support of the church and its many missions.

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 or LeeAnn by January 2. No gifts please! We'd love to see you there!

December 4

Attendance.....	190
Visitors (included in attendance count)	7

This Week

Sunday	December 11	Youth Peppernut Fundraiser/ Recital and carol sing	10:50 am
		Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	11:50 am
		MVS Support Board Meeting	12:00 pm
Tuesday	December 13	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
Wednesday	December 14	Trustees Meeting	10:00 am
		Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm
Thursday	December 15	Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Saturday	December 17	Hayes Family Breakfast	9:00 am
		Choir Rehearsal	10:00 am

Next Week

Sunday	December 18	Jr High Breakfast	8:30 am
		Sr High Discussion	11:00 am
		Sr High Convention Lunch	12:00 pm
		Christmas Program	6:00 pm
Tuesday	December 20	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
		Youth Support Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday	December 21	Soup Dinner	6:30 pm
		Longest Night Carol Sing	7:00 pm
Friday	December 23	Choir Performance at Nelson	12:30 pm
Saturday	December 24	Christmas Eve Service	6:00 pm