

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 18, 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 **Brad and Abigail Grittman**. Our greeters are **Dick and Brenda Tatro**. 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 Jeff and Emma Janzen and Brianna Yoder.

Closing Trustee: **Richard Crabb**

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."

A note from Russel Yoder: "Thank you for all the visits, cards, flowers, thoughts, prayer, and transportation provided during my continued stay at Kansas City Transitional Care Center. Your support is very much appreciated and has been helpful in my recovery. I expect to continue receiving rehab care at the same location for the foreseeable future."

Today we welcome Western District Conference (WDC) Minister Heidi Regier Kreider. Heidi's son Mark is also here today and will lead the Adult Education hour. Mark, a Conservation Photographer, will help us further explore our Advent theme of finding joy in the darkness as he shares nature photography from Kansas, Colorado, and Alaska.

All are invited to TONIGHT's Christmas program at 6:30 pm. 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 (6:00 pm) 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.

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, the **Longest Night of the year** is Wednesday, December 21st. In order to bring more "light" to this day and season, and thanks to a worship grant we received, we are hosting a **Longest Night supper and outdoor carol sing.** Come for soup (at no charge) beginning at 6:30pm and carol singing in Whitmore Park at 7:00pm. All are invited to attend! And for those who want to stay just a little longer, we will be playing a 20 minute Advent sound meditation in the Rainbow Sanctuary following the carol sing.

Special gatherings coming up

- **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.

Youth Updates

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Peppernut Fundraiser last Sunday!

The youth group raised over \$1200 which will go to help fund the 9 jr high youth attending Snow Camp in January and the sr high youth attending MCUSA Convention in Orlando this summer.

A special sr high lunch will be held TODAY following Sunday School 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

The church office will be closed on noon on Thursday through December 26th for the holidays.

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!

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 11

Attendance.....	177
Visitors (included in attendance count)	8

This 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

Next Week

Tuesday	December 27	Staff Meeting	1:30 pm
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