

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 23, 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 **Kent Moore, Jana Graham, Will Moore and Andrew Moore**. Greeters are **Nick Schroeder and Laura Schmidt**. 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 located on the second floor of the education wing. There will be no nursery volunteers today, but the room is available for parents with small children.

Closing trustee is **Brad Gritman**.

Remembering in Prayer...

Please continue to remember Dave, Hannah and Larissa Schrag in prayer as they continue to grieve the loss of their beloved wife and mother, Janelle. If you would like to give in memory of Janelle, please send contributions to the Rainbow office in care of Rainbow Mennonite Church. A video of the service is available upon request. Please email the church office.

This Morning at Rainbow ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

There will be no WorshipArts or Sunday School this morning or next Sunday, December 30.

Announcements

Later this afternoon, the family of Joyce Mills will have a private gathering in the Rainbow Remembrance Garden to place an engraved brick in Joyce's honor, as well as in remembrance of her late husband, Ralph Mills.

Tomorrow is our annual Christmas Eve Service at 6:00pm is a quiet, more contemplative service of scripture and song (lessons and carols). It ends with everyone gathered in a circle around the sanctuary for the candlelit singing of *Silent Night*.

Stewardship Update (12/19) – As of December 19, we are forecasting that we will require \$62K in contributions before the end of December to meet our 2018 budget commitment to fund all of the missions of the church. Please keep church finances in mind as we head toward the end of our business year. If you would like to donate and cannot be at church on the 23rd or 30th, contributions may be made using the online giving option at our church website, mailing your contribution to the church (must be postmarked by December 31), or bringing it to the church during office hours. Additional updates on the status of our giving will be sent via email as we approach the end of the year. Thank you.

A note from Rainbow Deacons: This morning we will participate in a sabbatical-send off and blessing for Pastor Ruth as she will be away January 1-March 31, 2019. During these three months, Rainbow Deacons will rotate being on-call for pastoral and congregational care concerns. 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

Thank you to Clif Hostetler and Rod Kliever 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

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.

Staff Updates

The church office will be closed on the following days for Christmas and New Years: December 24 (Close at noon), December 25, December 31 (Close at noon) and January 1.

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.

December 16, 2018

Attendance.....	200
Visitors (included in attendance count)	7
General Fund	\$ 12,074.00
Other Donations	\$ 3,477.41
Christmas Program Offering	\$ 1,235.00
Total Offering	\$ 16,786.41

This Week

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

Next Week

Monday	Dec 31	Church Office Closes at Noon	
Tuesday	Jan 1	New Year's Day - Church Office Closed	
Wednesday	Jan 2	Women's Luncheon	11:00am
		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)