

# RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

**December 22, 2019**

Welcome to our worship service. We strive to 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 are **Darin and Kennedy Kaufman**. Greeters are **Bob and Phyllis Carlson**. Please ask them if you need assistance with seating, use of a large-print hymnal, hearing assistance device or have questions about the location of the restrooms. The nursery, available for children from birth to age 4, is located on the second floor in the education wing. There are no assigned nursery workers this morning, but the nursery is open to parents who would like to be there with their kids. Closing Trustee is **Brad Grittman**.

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## **Remembering in Prayer...**

Lia Uhlenhuth will undergo jaw surgery on Friday, December 27th. Prayers are requested for a successful surgery and quick recovery.

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## ***A Way Through ADVENT 2019***

"Prepare the way of the Lord," cried prophet John in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah's cry centuries earlier: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." -Isaiah 40: 3-4.

It's no wonder early followers of Jesus were known as the **People of the Way** (Acts 9:2). From the earliest of times, wending the path pioneered by Jesus consisted of lives built on transformative practices of **hope, peace, joy, and love in the world**. These practices have included forming countercultural communities of economic sharing or mutual aid, participatory worship, scripture study, compassion for society's most vulnerable, and subversion of the idolatries of the empire. This is the ancient path that calls us as we anticipate and celebrate Jesus' arrival, an arrival that has already happened, and yet is always on its way.

## **This Morning at Rainbow: Advent 4: A Way Through—Love**

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**Worship 9:30am**

**Second Hour 10:50am – 11:30am** Sharing Christmas music by and for all ages in the Sanctuary, followed by outside caroling around the neighborhood

**Post Second Hour 11:30am** Caroling at Rosedale Congregational Church



**Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 6pm**

A contemplative candlelight service of lessons and carols

### **Announcements**

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There are no assigned nursery workers to assist in the nursery this morning or on Sunday, December 29. Parents and their kids are still welcome to utilize the nursery on these mornings.

Thank you to everyone for their support of the Cross-Lines Christmas Store again this year! We raised over raised \$10,000 for Cross-Lines this year and we were able to purchase \$12,500 worth of wholesale food for the store. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, brought food items for the store and made financial donations to make this event a success! Thank you also to Keith Jantz and Annie Jones who helped the Outreach Committee organize our part in this event again this year. We're so grateful for the generosity of this congregation.

Historical note: In December 1969, Rainbow Boulevard Mennonite Church moved from its location on Rainbow Blvd to the Rosedale Methodist Building (our current location on Southwest Boulevard). This means we have been in our current location for exactly 50 years! Let us give thanks to God for all the people through the centuries who have been good stewards of this place. May we have another 50 years of stewarding, worshipping, learning, serving, and growing as disciples of Jesus!

**Attention committee chairs!** Annual reports are due in the office by 9am on Monday, January 6. Please email your report to [office@rainbowmennonite.org](mailto:office@rainbowmennonite.org) in doc format or within the body of the email.

### **Youth News**

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**Sunday, Jan. 5th,** Ice Skating at Crown Center, 6-8 pm

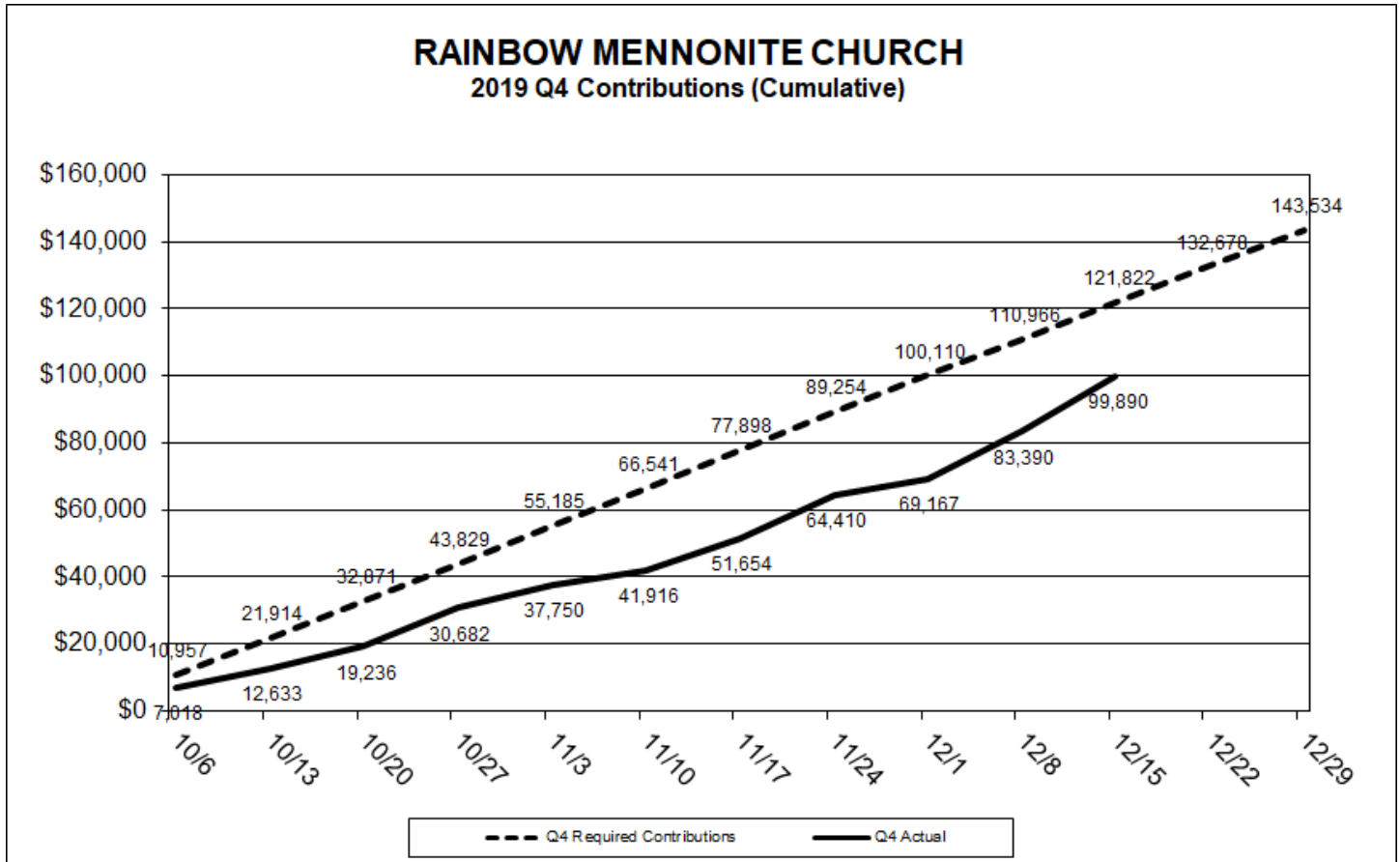
**Sunday, Jan. 12,** Jr. High Winter Retreat, 12-7:30 pm

**Saturday, Jan. 18-19th,** Senior High Winter Retreat, 9:30 am

**Sunday, Jan. 19th,** Junior High Breakfast, 8:30 am

**Sunday, Jan. 26th,** Soup Fundraiser, 8:30 am

**Stewardship Update:** As of 12/15/19, we are forecasting that we will require \$43.6K in contributions in the final 2 weeks of the year to meet our 2019 commitment to fund all the missions of the church and break even for the year. This averages out to \$21.8K per Sunday beginning 12/12. See the chart below which illustrates our actual vs. needed giving during the 4th quarter. Please keep church finances in mind as we head toward the end of our business year. Thank you.



## Staff Updates

- The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will be closed all day on Christmas Day.
- During the week of Christmas, Mark Bartholomew, Sarah Neher and Ben Parker Sutter will be out of the office. Rosi Penner Kaufman will be out of the office December 26-27. Carrie Parsons will be out of the office December 26-30.
- Pastor Ruth will be out of the office starting December 26 and returning January 2. Please contact Marsha Rhoads (913-526-4431), the deacon on call, if in need of pastoral care.
- Please note that hours will be limited on December 26, 27 and 30, so please call ahead if you need to access the building on these days.
- The church office will close at noon on New Year's Eve and will be closed all day on New Year's Day.

**December 15, 2019**

Attendance.....	155
Visitors (included in attendance count) .....	0
General Fund .....	\$ 16,968.48
Other Donations .....	\$ 2,733.00
<b>Total Offering .....</b>	<b>\$ 19,701.48</b>

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**This Week**

Tuesday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve - Church Office Closes at Noon Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	6:00pm
Wednesday	Dec 25	Christmas Day – Church Office Closed	
Thursday	Dec 26	Church Office – Limited hours, please call ahead	
Friday	Dec 27	Church Office – Limited hours, please call ahead	

**Next Week**

Monday	Dec 30	Church Office – Limited hours, please call ahead	
Tuesday	Dec 31	New Year’s Eve – Church Office closes at noon	