

**WELCOME TO  
STAHL MENNONITE CHURCH**

1201 Soap Hollow Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905

**Pastor:** Jayne Byler

**Lay Leaders:** Glenn Lehman, Bill Hunsberger, Sonya Horsley

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**September 26, 2021**

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 A.M.**

**THEME:** Joy Empties

**Worship Leader:** Neil Lehman

**Music Leaders:** Rachel Allen

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Peace Lamp**

**Gathering Song**

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 30:4-5, 11-12

**Prayer:** (congregation reads in unison)

Open our ears to hear your word.

Open our eyes to see your presence.

Open our arms to the embrace of community.

Open our minds to the beauty of truth.

Open our hearts to the joy of new life.

(Voices Together 866)

**Sharing the Joy Virtual Style**

**Sharing Our JOYS and Concerns:** *“God of Love, Hear our Prayer”*

**Music**

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-11

**An Illustrative Moment**

**Message:** “Defiant Joy” – Jayne

**Response:**

You call us to be your light in the darkness,  
your voice in the wilderness,  
your hope for the hopeless,  
your joy for the despairing.

You give us strength in our weakness,  
peace, joy and gentleness,  
words and boldness,  
to proclaim more of you and of us, less.

~ written by John Birch

**Sending Music**

**Sending Words:** *Based on Philippians 2:2-5*

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**Bulletin Editor for October:** Shana Lichtenfels – 814-288-0171

**Church Sign for October:** Rod & Cindy Lehman

**Front Table for October:** Shana Lichtenfels

**St. Francis Sharing & Caring Item for October:** Toilet Paper

**Offering:** 09/19/2021 – \$598.70 = Regular

\*\*\*\*\* **COMING EVENTS** \*\*\*\*\*

**September Mission Offering:** Saturday’s Kitchen Meal Supplies

**Sun., Sept. 26, 12:00 noon:** Church Council

**Tues., Sept. 28, 6:30 pm:** Lay Leaders

**Wed., Oct. 6, 6:30–7:30 pm:** Racism Discussion – Whiteness 101

\*\*\*\*\* **NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS** \*\*\*\*\*

**Happy Birthday:** Wish the following a Happy Birthday today or send them a card this week: TODAY, Sun., Sept. 26 – Lila & Grayson Mishler; Fri., Sept. 1 – Cole Telenko

**Jayne will be in the office this week on Wed. and Fri. afternoons.** She is available via texting or phone at any time by calling 330-224-3944 or send an email to [stahlmennonite@gmail.com](mailto:stahlmennonite@gmail.com).

**An updated address and birthday list is printed on the table in the foyer. Please check it and see if it is correct for you and your household.** Please make corrections as needed or write OK beside to indicate no corrections needed. Thanks!

The study of racism got off to a slow start. We will try again to see if there is enough interest with a series called **“Be the Bridge: Whiteness 101: Foundational Principles Every White Bridge Builder Needs to Understand”**. We will meet on Wed, Oct. 6 at 6:30-7:30 pm in the basement. Even if you weren't a part of the previous study, you are welcome to come check it out! If you have any questions, see Jayne.

**Shelly** came home a week ago. She still has a fair amount of limitations so one way to support her and Tracy is to **provide meals**. You can schedule a mealtime on Meal Train by following this link: <https://mealtrain.com/k19z82>. Or, if you prefer, you can arrange a time with Shelly personally. Her contact information is: 814-691-0393, 809 Olim St. Johnstown Pa. 15904. Shelly and Tracy eat a vegetarian and plant-based diet. Legumes, pasta dishes like lasagna, tofu, eggs, cheese and other dairy are welcomed.

**Thank you for supporting the local MCC TriState Relief Sale** by attending, donating items, purchasing items, making homemade baked goods, lending your muscle and making the event a success. Because of your generosity, \$22,433 was raised and is reaching around the world to bring hope to those in need.

Over the summer months when many of us are traveling, our offerings trend down. In order to remain financially stable, **we look forward to the generous giving that comes with fall attendance.** You can give in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. You can also give electronically on our website. (Remember that you have the option to cover the cost of processing the donation as well.)



# STAHL MENNONITE CHURCH



Johnstown, Pennsylvania

We commit to love and obey God, and through the power of the Holy Spirit follow Jesus, sharing the story of God's love, forgiveness, and grace, making God's kingdom of peace and justice more present on Earth.

In these times of upheaval and great loss, many of us ask ourselves: What is my part to play? How do we respond faithfully? How does a person choose where to direct limited energy and caring, when there's so much happening and so many ways and places to engage? We long for a deeper connection to our Creator's loving guidance in the big and small choices of our lives. If you'd welcome the opportunity to participate in a small group of people paying attention to where they feel most strongly drawn by the love of God, consider joining one of three online groups starting on September 27. **Samantha E. Lioi, Mennonite spiritual director, writer, and retreat leader, will facilitate Trusting the Voice of Love: Discerning Inner Wisdom, a 5-week online spiritual formation group designed to nurture trust in God and among each other. The groups will run once a week from Sept 27- Oct 25 with options in the morning, evening, and afternoon. This group will include:**

- silence in centering prayer teaching on discernment in the Ignatian tradition
- sharing and listening with others in the group
- guided, embodied prayer and inward listening practices
- time for reflection and journaling
- opportunities to become more aware of how the Divine is drawing you, what is yours to do, and what might be distractions along the way

Samantha is ordained in the Mennonite Church and brings 11+ years of experience ministering within a variety of church and community contexts. To register or learn more, visit [samanthaelioi.com/groups](http://samanthaelioi.com/groups), and feel free to email Samantha at [samanthalioi@gmail.com](mailto:samanthalioi@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Covid 19 protocols are constantly changing. Because of the increase of cases and the Delta variant, the CDC is recommending increased use of masks when inside public spaces, even if vaccinated.** Lay Leaders discussed this change and recommend complying with these new guidelines. We know it is not convenient or popular to do so. However, we choose to err on the side of caution guided by medical professionals. Please visit outdoors following worship, weather permitting, where you can remove your mask. Thanks so much for your patience and willingness to care for the safety and health of one another. We will continue streaming our worships via Facebook Live.

**Nehemia Chigoji, a Mennonite Pastor, will be at Kaufman Mennonite Church** to share about the *Nigerian Anabaptist Peace Center* and to lead us in a series of Renewal Meetings. You and your neighbors are invited to join us as he shares at an informal breakfast on Saturday, October 2 at 8:00 am. Please RSVP (for the breakfast) by calling the office at 814-479-7813 or [email info@kaufmanchurch.com](mailto:info@kaufmanchurch.com). After the meal, Nemi will share details about the work. Kaufman is partnering with Nemi and the *Anabaptist Peace Center* by purchasing and sending a new tractor to Nigeria for relief work to aid Christians who experience extreme violence. We will also share a series of Renewal Meetings, led by Nemi, Saturday evening at 6:00 pm, Sunday morning at 10:30 am and Sunday evening at 6:00 pm. Come to be encouraged and challenged in your faith. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

\*\*\*\*\* PRAYER REQUESTS \*\*\*\*\*

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|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Tracy & Shelly       | Beth Hillegass         | Gail Cover     |
| Mark Blasko          | Linda Gindlesperger    | Riley Allen    |
| Louise Pugliese      | Loveda Liechty (COVID) | Hunter Bergman |
| Becky Mishler        | James (Skeets) Gates   | Terrie Wyar    |
| Dan Gates            | Deb's Mom & Nephew     | Jacob Horsley  |
| Shelly Kerchner      | TayLee Bush (COVID)    | Ryan McGowan   |
| Whitey Gindlesperger | Afghanistan Crisis     | Virginia Moyer |