WELCOME TO

STAHL MENNONITE CHURCH

1201 Soap Hollow Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905

Pastor: Jayne Byler

Lay Leaders: Sonya Horsley, Joy Cotchen, Neil Lehman

Pastor Cell Phone: (330) 224-3944 Church Phone: (814) 288-5523 E-Mail: stahlmennonite@gmail.com

December 3, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 A.M.

Theme: First Sunday of Advent "How will we know....How long?"

Worship Leader: Carol McKool Music: Stahl Musicians

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Summary Statement

Gathering Songs: "Wait for the Lord" – VT 228

Words from the Prophets: Isaiah 64:1-5, 8

Call to worship:

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down

so that the mountains would quake at your presence!

Women: No one has heard,
Men: no ear has perceived,

People: no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for you.

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

People: How long must we wait?

(pause)

All: Together we wait.

Opening Prayer:

Singing

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns: "God of Love, Hear our Prayer"

Drama

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Message: "It's Time!" – Jayne

Response

Sending Song: "What Child is This" – VT 267

Advent Candle Lighting/Sending Words:

Leader: Together we wait.

Congregation: How long must we wait? (as candle is lit)

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

So, go! Keep alert, strengthened by God's

faithfulness to you.

Bulletin Editor for December: Norma Alwine – 814-421-1782

Front Table for December: Worship Committee

Outdoor Sign for December:

St. Francis Sharing & Caring Item for December: Toilet Paper

Offering: 11/26/2023 – \$1,333.70 – General Fund 170.00 – Highland Clinic

\$1,503.70 = TOTAL

December Mission Offering: Mennonite Disaster Service

Wed., Dec 6, 4:30-6:30: Soup Night Wed., Dec 6, 6:30: Advent for All

Thur., Dec 7, 5:00: Personnel Committee

Wed., Dec 13, 7:45: Lay Leaders Tue., Dec 12, 6:30: Church Council

Sun., Dec 24, 11pm: Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

Happy Birthday: Wish the following a Happy Birthday today or by sending them a card this week: Wed., Dec 6 – Saffron Barrett-Ross

Happy Anniversary: Wish the following a Happy Anniversary today or by sending them a card this week: Today, Dec. 3 – Dwight and Linda Gindlesperger

Jayne hopes to be in the office on Wed and Fri. She can be contacted at any time by calling or texting 330-224-3944 or emailing stahlmennonite@gmail.com.

Hearing assistance headphones are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Help a local family in need have a blessed Christmas. We will collect gift cards to help them take care of their needs. Please bring gift cards from places where gifts might be purchased by Dec. 3. Then bring gift cards from places where food and household needs might be purchased by Dec. 17. Share some of the blessings you have received this year with a family who has had a difficult time. A box will be available to place them on the table in the foyer. Thank you.

A new version of The Soil and The Seed devotional and CD for Advent and Christmas is available at the mailboxes. If you would prefer a digital copy, go to thesoilandtheseedproject.org.

Stahl Mennonite Church Advent 2023

How will we know?



December 3, 2023

ADVENT FOR ALL, a four week small group adventure for all ages. Each week you will be invited to bring some item from home to help focus on the theme, using the 4 Advent candles of hope, peace, joy and love. Prepare for Christmas with this time of gathering to share, read scripture and light the Advent candles. The-next will be **Wednesday**, **Dec 6 at 6:30** following Soup. The theme is "**Peace**". Come ready to share a Christmas song that for you brings the peace of Christmas.

Forms to volunteer or suggest someone for a position in the congregation for 2024, are available on the table in the foyer. Please take a look at the positions that are open for the coming year and consider whether you might be willing to step into one. Or, perhaps you have someone in mind to suggest who is gifted in one of these areas. They are due back to the Personnel Committee (Shana Lichtenfels or Joyce Telenko) by Dec 3. Thanks!

Don't forget about the **Activity Table located in the back of the sanctuary, just under the nursery windows.** There are supplies there for children as well as other creative folks to use to help engage the morning worship with paper, color, or other art supplies. Anyone of any age is welcome to see what is there to enhance your worship. Please return any unused supplies to the table after worship ends.

Our December Mission Offering is Mennonite Disaster Service.

MDS recruits, organizes and empowers volunteers to repair and rebuild the homes of those impacted by disasters in the United States and Canada. As they respond with Christian love to serve people who would not otherwise have the means to recover, their goal is to restore hope and bring people home. Following hurricanes, floods, tornados, and wildfires, MDS is currently working in 13 locations throughout the US.

The fiscal year is coming to an end. Thanks to all for the continued faithful financial giving to the work of this congregation. Electronic giving has proven to be a helpful way to continue regular offerings, even if you are unable to be here in person. See our website to get started if you haven't used this yet. (Remember that you can cover the cost of processing the donation as well.) As always, you are also welcome to give through the Sunday morning offering plate in the back

of the sanctuary. Without the continued sharing of your gifts, financial or in your participation among us, this congregation would not continue.

Covid numbers are rising again. If you feel more comfortable masking to avoid possible exposure, please feel free to do so. We can all support one another in our efforts to remain healthy.

****** PRAYER REOUESTS***********

Matt & Linda Scislowicz Rachel Allen (travel) Ron Telenko Jerry & Lisa Thomas Riley Allen Gerry Fix Dan & Deb Gates Tracy Tredenick Shelly Kerchner Dan's Mom & Family Merle McDaniel Lydia Lehman Abe Lehman & Family Gaza/Israel War in Middle East Sonya Co-Worker's Baby & Family Baby Noah Gabriel Nginyo/Dusack Family (Death)