

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

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December 10, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 A.M.

Theme: First Sunday of Advent

“How will we know.... What Now?”

Worship Leader: Pat Cotchen

Music: Stahl Musicians

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Summary Statement

Gathering Song: “Wait for the Lord” – VT 228

Words from the Prophets: Isaiah 40:1-11

Call to Worship:

Leader: Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with God one day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like one day.

Women: God is not slow, as some think of slowness,

Men: but is patient with us,

People: not wanting any to perish, but all to come to
repentance.

Leader: The word of our God will stand forever.

People: **How shall we live while we wait for salvation?**

(pause)

All: ***Together we wait.***

Opening Prayer: by Henri Nouwen

Singing

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

Drama

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Message: Joy Cotchen

Response

Sending Song

Advent Candle Lighting/Sending Words:

Leader: Together we wait.

People: **God is patient with us, but how do we
prepare while we’re waiting?**

(as Advent Candle is lit)

Leader: Go, beloved, and while you wait for these things,
strive to be found by God at peace.

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our
God.

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: 12/03/2023 – \$1,968.70 – General Fund

125.00 – Highland Clinic

115.00 - Mennonite Disaster Service

\$2,208.70

*****COMING EVENTS*****

December Mission Offering: Mennonite Disaster Service
Tue., Dec 12, 6:30: Church Council
Wed., Dec 13, 4:30-6:30: Soup Night
Wed., Dec 13, 6:30: Advent for All - Joy
Wed., Dec 13, 7:45: Lay Leaders
Sun., Dec 24, 11pm: Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

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

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.

We will again have a Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service at 11pm, Dec 24. If you would like to help in this service by reading scripture or providing music to lead or perform, please let Jayne know in the coming weeks. Hoping that the electricity stays on this year, and we can gather to celebrate!

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 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 10, 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 13 at 6:30** following Soup. The theme is **“Joy”**. Come ready to share a favorite cookie recipe that brings you joy this Christmas. (And if you want to bring some cookies to share, that would be great too!)

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 REQUESTS*******

Lydia Lehman Lisa Pace Family (Death) Mark Mishler
Joel Lehman Family (Death) Kay Hostetler Family (Death)
Dan Ross (Traveling) Rhonda Baldwin Shelly Kerchner
Ron Telenko Dan & Deb Gates Matt & Linda Scislowicz
Baby Noah Sonya Co-Worker's Baby & Family
Gaza/Israel War in Middle East