

WELCOME TO
STAHL MENNONITE CHURCH

1201 Soap Hollow Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905

Pastor: Jayne Byler

Lay Leaders: Dave Miller, Joy Cotchen & Glenn Lehman

Pastor Cell Phone: (330) 224-3944

Church Phone: (814) 288-5523

E-Mail: stahlmennonite@gmail.com

December 15, 2019

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30 A.M.

Uniform Series – Upstairs Sunday School Class

Bible Study – Basement Kitchen Class

MORNING WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

Worship Leader: Neil Lehman

Song Leader: Stahl Singers

“What Are You Waiting For?”

Third Sunday of Advent: Kept Waiting by Fear

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Gathering Song - “God of grace” HWB 366

Call to Worship:

One: Oh God, my God, I cry out to you.

Many: Asking, when will I start rejoicing that you are coming?

Will I trust your faithfulness to your creation?

One: Can I be patient enough to trust in your time, instead of my own?

All: God, what am I waiting for?

Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle: Isaiah 35:1-10

Song: “Hope is a candle” (insert in back of HWB)

Responsive Reading

Leader: The Lord our God will come and save us.

People: We will let go of our fears.

Leader: God will strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

People: We will find our strength in the Lord.

Leader: The redeemed shall walk in the way of the
Lord.

**All: We shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God!**

Offering – “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” HWB 185

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

Singing - “The Lord is my light” SJ 97

Scripture: 11:2-11 (Ellen Lehman)

Message: “When the Questions Get Harder” – Jayne

A Confessional **haiku**

The dark of my tru(e)th
Is suspicion without fact
Forgive my fearing

Sending Song - “Just a closer walk with thee” SJ 106

Benediction

Greeters for December: Glenn & Martha Lehman

Bulletin Editor for December: Shana Lichtenfels – 288-0171

Front Table Arrangement for December: Worship Committee

Church Sign for December: Jeanette Hunsberger

Offering Holders for December: Glenn & Martha Lehman

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

Offering: 12/08/2019 - \$1,242.11 – Regular

140.00 – Jayne’s Deductible
 \$1,382.11 = TOTAL

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

Sun., Dec. 15, 6:00 p.m. – Children's Christmas Program

Wed., Dec. 18, 5-7:00 p.m. – Soup Night

Wed., Dec. 18, 7:15 p.m. – "The Bible Unwrapped" Study
(last one until February)

Thurs., Dec. 19, 8 a.m. - Lay Leaders

Fri., Dec. 20, 9 a.m. - Worship Committee

Tues., Dec. 24, 11 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service
Missions Offering for MDS at Christmas Eve Service

Thurs., Dec. 26 - Jayne having knee replacement surgery

Wed., Jan 15, 7 p.m. - Church Council

Sun., Feb 23 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting

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

Happy Birthday: Wish the following a Happy Birthday today or send them a card this week: Fri., Dec. 20 – Sarah Barrett

Jayne will attempt to be in the office this week on Wednesday and Friday. She will be off on Monday and Tuesday. She is **always available** via phone (330-224-3944).

Under the table with the bulletins in the foyer are **Activity Bags for the kids.** Feel free to take one and use it during worship then return it before you head home. If you have ideas of something else you would like in them, let Jayne or Sharon Shetler know!

It is that time of year again! By popular demand, the **Stahl Singers will be returning for Advent!** Any and all are welcome. You can join in all Sundays or any that you are available. We will be meeting at 10:00 am each Sunday before worship to practice. Please let Rachel Allen know of your interest and availability.

Come support the **Kid's Connection Christmas Program** and all the children who participate. They will be sharing some of what they are learning as well as their version of the Christmas Story tonight, Dec 15 at 6:00. Cookies and Ice Cream will be served after.



STAHL MENNONITE CHURCH



December 15, 2019

O Lord, what am I waiting for?

Why am I afraid?

*I see my need for your strength in my weakness
and my need to be filled with your courage in the midst of all
my fears.*

*I long for an awakening, for a renewed trust,
and for patience in the coming of the Lord.*

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.

Congregational and Pastoral Evaluation forms, put in mailboxes are due today. Lay Leaders are asking that you take some thoughtful time and fill these out. They are helpful in the ongoing ministry of the congregation and Jayne's role among us. Please return them to the box in the foyer, or to Joy Cotchen, Dave Miller or Glenn Lehman.

You are invited to **share the love and joy** of Christ's birth through brightening the lives of a local family through **Christmas gift giving**. St. Francis has suggested a family who could use some encouragement this year. The family would like to remain anonymous. Information about each child and what they need can be found on a tag in the foyer. Please bring your wrapped gift to the church **by Sunday, December 22** with the information taped to the gift. Thank you for your participation.

Plans are underway for our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service**, Dec 24 at 11pm. If you are willing and able to contribute musically or know someone who is, let Jayne know within the coming weeks. Also, if you have something written or if you would like to participate in reading, let her know this as well! This is always a wonderful celebration primarily because of the contributions of so many different people.

Kaufman Church will host a candlelight Christmas Eve service beginning at 7pm. You are welcome to worship with us.

Volunteer Sign Up Sheets for offering taking, front table, front sign and greeting are posted on the bulletin board. Take a look and see where you might want to serve! Thanks!

The Lay Leaders would like to ask the congregation for **support for a grant** to help Jayne with her \$6,000 deductible on her health insurance. Everence has a matching grant up to \$2500 to help pastors with medical debt. If you would like to donate, you can place donations in the offering. We will collect donations through December 15, checks should be made to Stahl. Thanks in advance for your support.

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Thank you for donating items for **MCC school kits in August**. We were able to complete 53 bags and many items to complete more. These were delivered to the MCC Resource Center in November.

The December Missions Offering will be taken at the Christmas Eve Service and will go to Mennonite Disaster Service.

*******PRAYER REQUESTS*******

Lionel Dickens	Susan Thomas	Paul Thomas
Shawn Smith	TayLee Bush	Chantay Jeffers
Michael Wilson	Carly Allen	Sarah's Mom
Riley Allen	Rosellen Lehman	Carol McKool
Taylor Brant	Unspoken request – 2	Unchurched
Geri Russell Cole	Alaina – Leah's Friend	
Larry & Marie Millender		

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