

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](mailto:stahlmennonite@gmail.com)

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**December 17, 2023**

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

**Theme:** Third Sunday of Advent

“How will we know.... What’s Next?”

**Worship Leader:** Sonya Horsley

**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 61:1–4, 8–11

**Call to worship:**

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior!

**High voices:** For the Mighty One has done great things fo

**Low voices:** and holy is God’s name.

Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the  
lowly.

**People:** **What will God do next?**

*(pause)*

**All:** *Together we wonder.*

**Opening Prayer**

**Singing**

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

**Drama**

**Scripture:** Luke 1:46b-55

**Message:** “Flipping the Script”

**Response**

**Sending Song**

**Advent Candle Lighting/Sending Words:**

Leader: Together we wonder.

**Congregation:** **How will we know what’s next?**

*(as candle is lit)*

Leader: Go and hold fast to what is good, rejoice always,  
make straight the way of the Lord!

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

**Front Table for December:** Worship Committee

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

**Offering:** 12/10/2023 – \$2,168.70 – General Fund

110.00 - Mennonite Disaster Service

\$2,278.70

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

**December Mission Offering:** Mennonite Disaster Service  
**Wed., Dec 20, 4:30-6:30:** Soup Night  
**Wed., Dec 20, 6:30:** Advent for All Small Group – “Love”  
**Sun., Dec 24, 11pm:** Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service  
**Mon., Dec 25-Wed Jan 3:** Jayne taking vacation time off  
**Mon., Jan 8-Wed Jan 10:** Jayne at Shalom Academy (Pastor’s week)  
at EMS  
**Wed., Jan 10, 7:00:** Church Council  
**Sun., Jan 14:** Annual Reports due  
**Sun., Jan 21, 12:00:** Annual Business Meeting  
**Fri., Jan 26-Sat., Jan 27:** Hosting AMC Leadership Council

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

**Happy Birthday:** Wish the following a Happy Birthday today or by sending them a card this week: Wed., Dec.20 – Sarah Barrett; Fri., Dec. 22 – Ron Telenko and Stephanie Holsopple

**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](mailto: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!

**Thanks for the contributions to help the local family in need.** You can still get gift cards or cash to Jeanette yet today to give to the family for their final Christmas needs.

**Kaufman Mennonite invites you to 7pm Christmas Eve Service.**

# Stahl Mennonite Church Advent 2023

# How will we know?



December 17, 2023

**Offering envelopes for 2024** are on the table in the foyer. If you are interested in using an envelope for your offering, please pick up a pack of numbered envelopes and sign your name on the sheet listing the numbers. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Thomas.

**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 final one will be **Wednesday, Dec 20 at 6:30** following Soup. The theme is **“Love”**. Come ready to share a photo or Christmas card that represents love to you this Christmas.

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.

**As Covid and other respiratory virus increase over the winter**, 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**\*\*\*\*\*

Ron Darden Family (Death)    Silent request    Lydia Lehman  
Mark Mishler    Rhonda Baldwin    Shelly Kerchner  
Ron Telenko    Dan & Deb Gates    Matt & Linda Scislowicz  
Baby Noah    Gaza/Israel War in Middle East