

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 24, 2023**

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

**Theme:** Fourth Sunday of Advent

“How will we know.... Why me? Why Not Me”

**Worship Leader:** Joy 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:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

**Call to worship:**

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman in Nazareth named Mary. He said to her, “Greetings, favored one! God is with you.”

High voices: But Mary was perplexed by Gabriel’s words,

Low voices: and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Leader: The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.”

**People: Like Mary, we’re also ordinary. Will God really work through us?**

*(pause)*

**All: Together we ponder.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Singing:** “Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee” – VT 215

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” – VT 245

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

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Message:** “The Theology of Mediocracy” Jayne

**Response**

**Sending Song:** “Poor of the Earth” – VT 213

**Advent Candle Lighting/Sending Words:**

Leader: Together we ponder.

**Congregation: We’re so ordinary. Will God really work through us?**

*(As advent candle is lit)*

Leader: Do not be afraid! Nothing is impossible with God.

Go, for the mighty one has done extraordinary things,  
and holy is God’s name!

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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:** 12/17/2023 – \$2,018.70 – General Fund

101.00 - Mennonite Disaster Service

\$2,119.70

**December Mission Offering:** Mennonite Disaster Service  
**Sun., Dec 24, 11pm:** Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service  
**Mon., Dec 25-Wed Jan 3:** Jayne taking holiday and vacation time  
**Mon., Jan 8-Wed Jan 10:** Jayne at Shalom Academy (Pastor's week)  
at EMS  
**Wed., Jan 10, 7:00:** Church Council  
**Sat., Jan 13:** Saturday's Kitchen meal  
**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: Thur., Dec.28 – Tracy Tredennick; Fri., Dec. 29 – Joy Cotchen

**Jayne will be taking holiday and vacation time this week.** In an emergency contact one of the Lay Leaders (Sonya Horsley, Joy Cotchen, Neil Lehman).

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

**You are welcome back this evening for a late night Christmas Eve Service at 11pm.** We will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with scripture, music and artwork.

**Annual Reports are due on Jan 14.** If you are chair of a committee please have your report to Shana Lichtenfels by then. **Our Annual Business meeting will be the following Sunday on Jan 21 following a potluck meal.**

**We will be serving a meal at Saturday's Kitchen on Jan 13.** Stay tuned for sign up sheets to help.

**Please see the coming Church Directory and Birthday/Anniversary list for 2024 in the foyer.** Check for misspellings, and incorrect information. Add any missing information.

# Stahl Mennonite Church Advent 2023

# How will we know?



December 24, 2023

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

**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.

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.

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive at St Davids in Davidsville** is Monday, January 22, between 12:00 and 5:30. Call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

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

Ellen Lehman	Lydia Lehman	Charles Lambert
On line request for friend on ventilator		Silent request
Mark Mishler	Rhonda Baldwin	Shelly Kerchner
Ron Telenko	Dan & Deb Gates	Matt & Linda Scislowicz
Baby Noah	Gaza/Israel War in Middle East	