OUR CHURCH FAMILY: November 25, 2018

Birthdays

Sunday	Renee Eigsti
Monday	Eliza Goldberry
Tuesday	Elsa Rochford
Thursday	Thom Scott
Friday	John Yutzy
Saturday	Nathan Detweiler

Mennonite Church USA's Journey Forward: Who are we as a member congregation of Mennonite Church USA? Where is God calling us to go in the future, as a local congregation and as a denomination? Today is the final meeting to explore these questions in our worship service and Christian Education classes. Join a group in the Fellowship Hall from 11 to 11:45 today, facilitated by Karla.

Children's Activity Bags. Colorful fabric bags with quiet activities for children (toddlers through age 5) are now available by the entry doors in the narthex. Families are encouraged to pick up a bag on their way into worship, and return it on the way out of worship. Many thanks to Pam Miller, Dea Hoeme, and Ann Valenta for creating this gift for young families!

With the weather turning colder, the Shelter House needs warm clothing -- mittens, gloves, sweaters, coats, jackets, etc. You can take your donations directly to the Shelter House 8 AM - 4 PM Monday thru Friday. Or you can bring them to the church on Sundays during Advent -- **we will be collecting warm clothing for the Shelter House as our Advent Giving Project.** --Mission Commission

Our fundraising effort in support of the Iglesia Zoar ministry located near Reynosa, Mexico concludes today. You may contribute through our regular offering by writing a check to First Mennonite Church with "Iglesia Zoar" on the memo line. Thanks for remembering those who lack the basic necessities during this season of Thanksgiving! --Mission Commission

MYF: Wed., November 28 at Mia's for Galen's Famous Pancakes at 6 PM. Let the sponsors know if you need a ride.

Join the FMC Advent Choir! Practices are today and Dec. 2 in the sanctuary during the Christian Education hour, with performances on Dec. 9 and 23 during the worship service. You don't have to be present at both performances to sing in the choir. All are welcome. Contact Alisa Kandel for more information, alisakandel22@gmail.com.

The IMS leadership would like to create opportunity for First Mennonite Church to dialogue with us about our strategic enrollment initiatives (especially the rebranding initiative). All perspectives and persons are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Please come to this special forum with your comments and questions on Dec. 2, Noon-1 PM** as we discuss our current situation and the steps we need to take towards a brighter future. Feel free to bring a sack lunch.

Three people are needed to **help pack MCC Relief kits**. If you would be willing to help from 1-5 PM on Saturday, December 15 at the Crowded Closet warehouse, please contact Kris Brenneman at 683-2661 or krisbren@aol.com. Be aware that you would need to be on your feet for most of that time.

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity is planning an Interfaith Build to construct a home for a family in our community in 2019. **If you are interested in FMC participation with other area churches and faith communities** on this project, let Tim Krabill know by December 2nd (tdkrabill@msn.com or 319-383-6352).

West Union MYF invites you to a delicious haystack fundraiser meal on Sunday, December 2 at noon. Bring your friends and enjoy a time of food and fellowship! Proceeds will help cover IMS tuition for the Villatoro family and Louis Etienne.

From Crowded Closet:

- **Crowded Closet Thrift Shop is on the move!** Join the excitement by touring the new shop to view progress. Visitors are welcome to the new shop site on Tuesday, December 4 at 3:30 PM. The new shop is located at 851 Hwy 6 in Iowa City. Enter through the customer entrance. Request weekly informative updates by emailing crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com.

From Iowa Mennonite School (IMS):

- **Visit Day** | The remaining first semester Visit Day, open to transfer students, 7th graders, and 8th graders, is **November 26**. Visit Days involve shadowing a current student, you can come for a half day or full day, and we will treat you to lunch. Details and registration can be found at iowamennonite.org/visit. A coffee time at the beginning of the day invites parents to meet with our administrative team.
- **#GivingTuesday | 11.27.18** for the twenty-four hours of GivingTuesday we encourage you to give to IMS and give generously. You can give any size donation online or you can send a check to the school postmarked 11.27.18. Through this event we hope to raise **$20,000 in one day** for The Annual Fund. By participating you are making a difference in the lives of our students and in our community!
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the listening process with the IMS Principal Search Committee. Surveys and focus groups were held and the information from that process was used to create the Principal Profile which will be used to recruit the next IMS principal. The profile can be viewed on the IMS website. Please encourage potential candidates to apply through the IMS website (www.iowamennonite.org/joinourteam).
- **Christian Music Concert | *The Hope For All Seasons Tour*** featuring Citizen Way and Chris August will make a stop at Iowa Mennonite School on **Sunday, December 9**. Tickets are available to purchase online , at the IMS office, or at the door. Contact Pam Evans at Fresh Flow Concerts (pam.evans@opengatesgroup.com) or Jeremy Ours at IMS (jours@iowamennonite.org) if you have any questions, or look up the event on Facebook. We hope you can join us and feel free to spread the word!

From Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):

- Looking to serve in a mentoring role to young adults? **Service Adventure** is seeking leaders for its unit location in beautiful Anchorage, Alaska. This is a unique opportunity to serve as a mentor and to foster community with a household of young adults through faith formation, daily living, and house activities. For more information, contact Susan Nisly at Mennonite Mission Network: susann@mennonitemission.net.

CALENDAR

Sunday	9:30 AM Worship, Karen Martens Zimmerly, proclaimer
	10:45 AM Christian Ed. classes & Advent choir practice
	5 PM Torre Fuerte worship
Tuesday	6 PM Mission Commission
Wednesday	6 PM MYF @ Mia's house for pancakes
Thursday	7 PM Torre Fuerte worship
Sunday	9:30 AM Worship, Terry Zimmerly, proclaimer
	10:45 AM Christian Ed. classes & Advent choir practice
	5 PM Torre Fuerte worship

Attendance 11-18-17	176
Offering	$ 9,732.02 General Fund