

OUR CHURCH FAMILY: December 23, 2018

Birthdays

Sunday	Kris Brenneman, Hannah Gingerich, Bob Miller
Wednesday	Rich Enns
Thursday	Joelle Friesen, Beatrice Goldberry
Friday	Donna Darby

Christian Education classes for children and youth will not meet today and Dec. 30 but will reconvene Jan. 6. Adult classes may meet as they choose.

Lighting the Way Home is the theme for our **Christmas Eve Service** of carols and scripture, Monday, Dec. 24 at 7 PM. An offering will be received and divided between the Advent giving project for Shelter House and our annual church spending plan.

This is the **final Sunday** to bring your contributions of mittens, gloves, hats, jackets, coats, scarves, and thermal underwear for our **Advent Giving Project** in support of the Shelter House and those they serve. Donation boxes are in the Sip & Chat area. New or used items in good condition for men, women, and children of all sizes are much appreciated! Financial contributions are also welcome through our regular offerings today and next Sunday by checks written to FMC with "Shelter House" on the memo line. --Mission Commission

The ornaments on the tree in the Sip & Chat area were purchased by the Worship Commission from Ten Thousand Villages. **Each household is invited to take home a star.** Please help yourself after the worship service today or on Christmas Eve. --Worship Commission

Invite neighbors and friends to worship in song at our **December 30 Hymn Sing service.** Posters and invitation cards are on the table in the narthex. Please consider public places where you could place a poster and people whom you could personally invite!

Free Lunch Sign-up: For those who can contribute time or a tuna casserole for the Iowa City Free Lunch, **please return your green sign-up form to Rosemary Michael by Sunday, Dec. 30.** Additional forms are on the Sip & Chat area table.

Thanks to your generosity and care for people in need on our southern border, our Nov. fundraising in support of the Iglesia Zoar ministry near Reynosa, Mexico totaled \$1895. Thank you! Jose and Raquel are deeply appreciative of the prayer and financial support they have received through the challenges of this past year, and they look to the future with renewed energy and inspiration as they share the love of Jesus with migrant families. Blessings to all! --Mission Commission

We are glad to have received through the Everence Sharing Fund Grants program \$1000 each in matching funds for Iowa City Compassion and Shelter House.



Dear FMC family,

The prophet Isaiah reminds us (Isaiah 60) that although the world is filled with much darkness, we should lift our eyes and look around! God's light is shining and God invites us to search and take notice of where that light is banishing the darkness so that we might know joy.

As we celebrate this Christmas season and enter the new year, may our senses be awake to God's light penetrating the dark places of our world with love and hope and peace and forgiveness.

Grateful to minister with you,
Karen, Terry, Karla, and Mary

Thanks to Everence for making such funds available, and to Drew Willems, our FMC Everence advocate, for submitting the application! --Mission Commission

First Menno 101 is an opportunity for you to explore with others the dynamic relationship we can have with God and each other as followers of Jesus. Beginning January 6 (10:45-11:45 AM) and continuing for four consecutive Sundays during Christian Education hour, pastors Karla and Terry will lead this interactive class using the *What is an Anabaptist Christian?* booklet from Mennonite Mission Network to begin conversation. Following the class, opportunity will be given to those who are not yet formal members of the congregation to join. Sign up in the Sip & Chat area, or contact the church office.

Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler and family are spending Christmas with family in Virginia, Dec. 21-29.

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

From Central Plains Mennonite Conference:

- **Fellowship & Learning Trip to the Ecuadorian Rain Forest** - March 28-April 10, 2019. Beginning with 3 days in Quito, meet members of the Quito Mennonite Church, learn about their refugee ministry, and visit with leaders of a network of indigenous Mennonite churches. Then, join Jerrell & Jane Ross Richer, who serve with Mennonite Mission Network and are connected to Central Plains Mennonite Conference through the Ecuador Partnership, for a focus on the faith, culture, and care for creation of indigenous communities in the Rain Forest. The cost of the two-week trip is \$2,100 per-person, including round-trip airfare from Chicago to Quito and all meals, lodging, guides and transportation by bus and motorized canoe. A deposit is required by February 1, 2019. Find a full trip description at: <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/upcoming-trips.html>

From Crowded Closet:

- **Do you remember when Crowded Closet Thrift Shop moved in 1997?** Your MCC Thrift Shop is on the move again in 2019, and we need you! Volunteers are needed for assembly, painting, meal preparation, hauling (trucks & trailers welcome!), and more! To join the relocation action that begins at the end of January, email crowdedcloset.volunteer@gmail.com.

From Iowa Mennonite School (IMS):

- **Merry Christmas** | We are thankful for each of you who hold us up in prayer and financially. Your care and generosity are truly appreciated. May the Christmas message of hope and love fill your life with joy and peace.
- **IMS Principal Search Committee Update** | The committee met recently to discuss the interview process and develop questions. Access to the IMS Candidate Viewbook and the application process are available on the website (www.iowamennonite.org/joinourteam) with an application deadline of January 1st. Please encourage those you believe would be a good fit for IMS

to apply. Your continued prayers are appreciated for the search committee as well as for the future IMS principal.

From Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):

- A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped pack the Relief Kits and donate to this year's MCC meat canning project. On Dec. 15 we were able to fill 801 plastic buckets with the Relief Kit supplies in just over two hours. Amazing! The cost of each kit was \$27.27. Thanks again for supporting this year's alternative project. (FMC workers were Mary Forney and Bonnie & Lynn Gingerich). -- Iowa MCC Meat Canning Committee

Do you have a family member living with mental illness? **NAMI Family-to-Family course** is a FREE educational program for family, partners, and friends of adults living with mental illness. The 12-week evidence-based curriculum includes *Current information on illnesses and how they affect the brain, Current treatments, How to manage crises, solve problems, and communicate effectively, and Developing confidence and stamina to provide compassionate support.* Weekly classes begin Thurs., Jan. 31 and run through Apr. 11, 9:30 AM-Noon at 1105 Gilbert Ct., Iowa City. Call the NAMI office (337-5400) to reserve a spot.

CALENDAR

- Sunday** 8-8:45 AM All Church Christmas Breakfast
9:30 AM Worship, Terry Zimmerly, proclaimer
10:45 AM Christian Ed. classes (No Primary/Youth SS classes)
5 PM Torre Fuerte worship
- Monday** 7 PM Christmas Eve service
- Tuesday-Wednesday Church Offices Closed**
- Thursday** 7 PM Torre Fuerte worship
- Sunday** 9:30 AM Worship through Song (Hymn Sing)
10:45 AM Christian Ed. classes (no Primary/Youth SS Classes)
5 PM Torre Fuerte worship

Attendance 12-16-17	221
Offering	\$6,902.00 General Fund