

CALENDAR

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

Tuesday **Church Offices Closed – New Year's Day**

Wednesday 7 PM Worship Commission

Thursday 1 PM Peace Knitters
6:30-8 PM Peace & Human Rights in Southern Africa discussion
7 PM Torre Fuerte worship

Sunday 9:30 AM Worship & Communion, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, proclaimer
10:45 AM Christian Ed. classes resume
5 PM Torre Fuerte worship

OUR CHURCH FAMILY: December 30, 2018

Birthdays

Sunday Sheila Ours, Gretta Rempel
Tuesday Dave Miller
Wednesday Erin Hayward
Friday Sylvia Hourcade, Mary Issah, Grace Swartzendruber
Saturday Ethan Gingerich, Molly Heusinkveld

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

The rose on the piano today is to celebrate the Dec. 26 birth of Emmeline Portia to Jeremy, Anna, and big sister Amelia Flaming. Blessings to the entire family!

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.

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

Jerry Locula, from Liberia and described as "a man working for peace and human rights in Africa" is in Iowa City visiting Scott & Lyubov. Jerry completed graduate training in human rights in Costa Rica and worked with the UN in South Sudan for several years before now establishing a foundation whose goal is to improve the economic opportunity of women in Liberia. He attends the same church in Liberia as Leymah Gbowee (Nobel Peace Prize awardee and EMU alumnus). On **Thursday, January 3 at 6:30 PM** in the FMC sanctuary, Jerry will offer a brief presentation on working for peace and human rights in Africa, drawing on his experiences and stories that have inspired him while working in Liberia and South Sudan. All are invited to this discussion on how America and Americans are perceived in the fight for justice & economic development in Africa. Warm beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring your leftover Christmas goodies to share.

Thanks for your generous support of our **Advent Giving Project!** Your donations of warm clothing--12 sets of warm underwear; 22 coats, jackets, sweaters, and sweatshirts; 31 scarves; 47 pairs of socks; 48 pairs of mittens and gloves; 80 hats; and numerous shirts, slacks, and hygiene items--were delivered to the Shelter House on Christmas Eve. You may still contribute financially in our regular offering today with a check to FMC with "Shelter House" on the memo line. Thanks very much! --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.

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

You'll find an update on the Missions bulletin board in the Sip & Chat area from **Robin Gingerich**, who is serving in Lithuania.

To Loose the Bonds of Injustice: The Plight of the Mentally Ill & What the Church Can Do – Author Marcia A. Murphy will read from her book and lead a community-wide discussion on mental health from the standpoint of social justice. This is the first for religion to partner with the psychiatric field from a spiritual vantage point to improve the lives of those afflicted with medical, social, and spiritual maladies. The reading is from 10:10-11:30 AM on Sat., Jan. 12 in Meeting Room A at the Iowa City Public Library. The public is invited.

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 EVERENCE:

- Everence will host its popular workshop, **Make Medicare an Easy Step**, on Monday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 PM at Iowa City Senior Center, Room 202, 28 South Linn St., Iowa City. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. The workshop is free, but space is limited! Contact Joyce Garvin at (877) 656-4242 or joyce.garvin@everence.com to reserve your spot by Jan. 10.

From Iowa Mennonite School (IMS):

- **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 IMS 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 the future IMS principal.
- **First Look Friday** | We are setting aside the first Friday of each month for drop-in tours for parents and/or students who want to see what IMS has to offer in a more casual way than our Visit Days. The next one happens on January 4. Candi Schmieder will be available in the front office from 8 AM-4 PM for anyone who wants to drop by, get a tour, and talk about your expectations for a high school education for your son or daughter.
- **Visit Days** | January 21 and February 18 are the upcoming Visit Days for 8th graders and transfer students. Join a host student in classes, chapel, and lunch. Parents can come at the beginning of the day to meet with the Administrative Team to get information and answers to any questions they may have. Register at www.iowamennonite.org/visit
- **The Chili Supper** | The annual Chili Supper, hosted by our senior class, has been a tradition since 1960. This year the event is on Saturday, February 9 in Hillcrest Union. Save the date and plan to join us.

From Mennonite Disaster Committee (MDS):

- We're building our team and searching for qualified, motivated individuals who have a knowledge of and passion for the MDS mission, vision and values and a commitment to the Anabaptist church. Current position openings include: (1) Communications Manager in Lititz, PA, (2) a Volunteer Training Specialist, home based (U.S. resident) and (3) a Leadership Volunteer Interviewer, home based (U.S. resident). For more information, visit our webpage at www.mds.mennonite.net/whowe-are/employment

Attendance 12-23-17	204
Offering	\$5345.13 General Fund