



Advent 1

Hope Mennonite Church
December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
Between a Rock and a Hard Place
9:30 am Worship

Gathering to Worship

*As we gather for worship, please silence all electronic devices.
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.*

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship

Responding to the call of the living God,
our rescuer and Savior,
we welcome the Holy Spirit's presence,
among and within us.
In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,
we offer ourselves in worship.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jared & Natalie Regehr

*Songs of Gathering

"How Many Times We Start Again"

#553

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#218

Hearing God's Word

Time with the children

Annette & Eldon Chlumsky

Scripture reading

Daniel 6:6-27; Luke 23:1-5

"Don't Be Afraid"

#596

Message

"A Living God"

Sara Dick

Responding to God's Word

*"God, Be with Us"

#613

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting our Guests (Please pass the attendance pads)

Seeing and Seeking God

Work of the Church

Sharing our Praises and Concerns

Prayers of God's People

Sending

*"Lead Me Forth"

#837

Benediction

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*Please stand if you are able

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us this morning in person or on Zoom. This Advent season we are invited to join biblical characters on a journey of persistently walking with God, being open to God's spirit, including the marginalized, and accepting the support of others as we prepare to welcome Christ anew into our hearts and our lives.

Worship Participants

Worship leader: Connie Luty

Pianist: Cynthia Loganbill

Song leader: Galen Fast

Scripture reader: Lowell Birkey

Candle lighting readers: Connie Luty, Heidi Johnson

Worship tech: Scott Luty

Zoom host: Barb Voth

Upcoming Worship Services

December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent; children's program

December 21 6:30 pm The Longest Night service

December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas choir

Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church
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Interim Pastor

Sara Dick (316) 821-0577

pastor@hopemennonite.org

Secretaries

Cynthia Loganbill 721-8807

secretary@hopemennonite.org

Kim Voth 721-1250

secretary@hopemennonite.org

Church Office Hours

Sara Dick This week: Tuesday 9-1:30 pm; Thursday 9-1 pm

Cynthia Monday-Thursday 9 -1:30 pm

Kim Friday 9-1 pm

Staff meeting Tuesday 9:30 am

Hope on Facebook: Follow the link at hopemennonite.org and “like” Hope Mennonite Church to see pictures & updates on church life.

First Fruits Giving

Giving the first and best of what we are given.

November 24

Attendance 105 (Hope 93; zoom 12)

Offering last Sunday - \$5,247

Year to date \$198,789

Spending plan commitment \$260,000

Hope offers an electronic option of giving through **Tithely**.
Contact the church office for instructions.

Our Purpose: *As an Anabaptist community of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit, Hope Mennonite Church is calling and making disciples who bring Christ's love and peace to our world*

Hope Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

We believe all people are created in God's image and we covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we seek to follow Jesus. We gather around God's table as an open and affirming congregation, embracing all people to full participation in the life and ministry of our church regardless of age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, gender identity, citizenship, ability, ethnicity, or any other factor subject to discrimination or exclusion in our world. We recognize and give thanks for the diverse opinions among us and are united as we strive to model a community of faith offering justice, peace, love, and compassion in the name of Christ.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK (December 1-7)

Wednesday -7:00 pm Choir

Saturday -Sandwich Saturday

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Marcus & Cynthia Loganbill



NURSERY (birth through age 4)

Today: Justin & Tiffany Regehr

Next Sunday: Jordon & Emily Regehr

December 15: Greg & Leah Shelly-Unruh



*Preschool: Room 8/9 downstairs

*Elementary: Room 2 downstairs

*Middle School: Room 7 downstairs

*Adults in the sanctuary: **An Unlikely Advent:** At Christmas, among the lights, trees, and wreaths, many homes and churches feature a Nativity scene as a central part of the decor. The Nativity is intended to re-create the scene of Jesus's birth with figures representing those who were most likely in attendance or arrived sometime thereafter. These scenes have become such a familiar part of the celebration that most of us can't think of the event without picturing the humble stable, baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wisemen (who very likely arrived quite a bit later), and the animals. But have you ever wondered why these particular people were on the guest list? Why scare the shepherds out on a dark hillside? Have you ever considered Herod's part in the Christmas story? Why did foreign kings search for the child Jesus? As we will see the unlikely shepherds, magi, and even King Herod can teach us important lessons about who we are as children of God and followers of Jesus. Laurie Regehr will lead our Advent study on Dec 1, 15, and 22.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 8-14)

Sunday -Congregational meeting

-Holiday meal following meeting

Wednesday -7:00 pm Choir

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Guests & visitors last Sunday: Randy & Shirlyn Graber family – 12; Erika & Evelyne Neale

The Advent devotional *The Word Made Flesh* by Jacob Torbeck has arrived. They are available on the front table. First come, first serve. These are offered to the congregation by our Worship Commission.

The December issue of *Anabaptist World* is available on the front table. Articles feature thoughts on listening to each other and understanding our differences. Pick up your copy today.

Special thanks to Donovan, Jordon, Justin, Jerold, Scott, Randy P., Steve, Jason, Karin, Leon, Rod, Chris, Dave M., Myron, and Angelo for volunteering at Camp Mennoscah this past Sunday. Volunteers are needed anytime to help complete the work on the retreat center. Marcus has been going out on Wednesdays - please contact him if you are interested in helping at any time. We do need to call in advance so they can plan for the work to be done.

Sunday, December 8, is our annual congregational holiday meal. Please bring food to share. NOTE: Four out of five of our Care and Nurture members are out of town. We are looking for 5 to 6 volunteers to help set up tables and chairs, receive the food, set up the serving line, make coffee, and clean up. If you could help serve your fellow Hope members and guests, please email, text, or call Annette Chlumsky by **today**. Thank you for considering this opportunity!

All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for **5 Places of Christmas** on Saturday, **December 7**, from 10:00 - 3:00 at Goerz House, Bethel College. Bethel College Women's Association will be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your homemade cookies, zwiabach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are always great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies such as fudge, peanut clusters, peanut butter balls and peanut brittle and other non-chocolate candies as well as Christmas craft items to sell. **Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 6, from 2:00-5:00pm or on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:30-10:00am.** Thank you for your support of Bethel College.

Prayers for the Wider Church:

...Pray for pastors, musicians, artists, teachers and worship leaders in Western District Conference congregations, as they shape worship and other special activities during the special seasons of Advent and Christmas.

...Today, the Anchorage (Alaska) Service Adventure unit is participating in a community performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Pray for leader Samir Knego and participants Samuel Landis, Briana Nyveldt, Armando Perez and Aviva Setiawan, as they worship and share the good news of Jesus' birth, ministry and salvation offered to all people.

... A mission worker, who has ministered in Middle Eastern countries and now specializes in lecturing on Muslim-Christian relationships, requests prayer for peace and justice in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon/the West Bank and Gaza/Israel. Pray also for "peace in Syria, Sudan and all other places where there is suffering and instability."