

**GROWING**  
*together*  
*in*  
**GOD'S**  
**WORD**

**"LIVING THE WORD"**

**Sunday October 27, 2024**

**FRANCONIA MENNONITE CHURCH**

# Order of Worship

*"Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4*

## Prelude

**Gathering Song**— Helen Eastburn and Worship Team

**Welcome, Opportunities and Call to Worship**—Pastor Rob Presthus

## Singing and Worship

**Congregational Prayer**— Butch Cassel

**Scripture Reading**—Matthew 13:1-23—Tim Brown

**Sermon**—Living in the Word—Pastor Kyle Rodgers

## New Membership/Baptism

Introduction of Baptism Candidates

Introduction of New Member Candidates

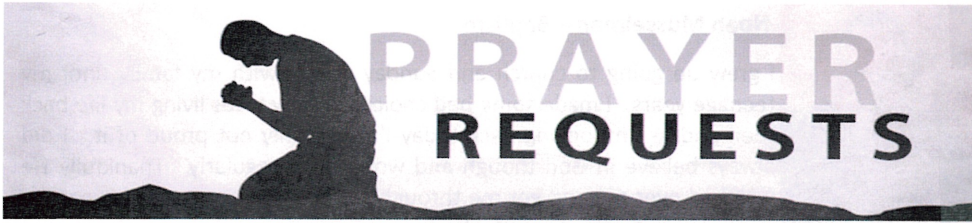
Vows of Discipleship Commitments

Congregational Response

## Closing Song

## Sending





*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*  
Romans 12:12

**Pray God’s blessings upon...**

- the **persons** who are joining the congregation today through membership transfer and baptism, that they will grow in faith and love for God and the body of Christ here at Franconia.
- **individuals** who struggle believing they are loved by God.
- the **Pastoral Search** discernment processes, for clarity and unity.

**Student Prayer:** Praying over our children to have **WISDOM**—Colossians 2:3

**Pray God’s grace, comfort and healing for...**

- **Ruth Detwiler’s** family as they mourn the passing of Ruth’s mother, Laura Franz.
- the **persons** among us who are dealing with unspoken medical and emotional issues.

**Praise for Answered Prayers...**

- to God be the glory, **Quang Dang** has been given a date for his Visa appointment on December 5. Continue to pray that God would grant Quang and Julia endurance while they are physically separated.

**Those enduring long-term suffering...**

- **Tyler, Sara, and Nolan Bergey**—*Propionic acidemia (metabolic disorder)*
- **Dave Cressman**—*Lung Cancer*

FMC  
LEADERSHIP  
TEAM

Earl Anders, Interim Pastor  
Helen Eastburn, Director of Music & Worship  
Bronwen Leister, Director of Children’s Ministries  
Rob Presthus, Pastor of Administration & Care  
Kyle Rodgers, Pastor of Outreach, Youth & Young Adults



**Noah Musselman—Baptism**

I grew up going to church and Sunday school with my family until my teenage years. I made some bad choices of how I was living my life back then and as I’m looking back today I’m certainly not proud of it. I did always believe in God though and would pray regularly. Thankfully He watched over me and got me through some tough times and in years to come, I was starting to settle down.

And that’s where JoAnne comes in. She was the best person to come into my life. As the saying goes that opposites attract it couldn’t be more true. She graduated in the top of her class, while I never liked going to school at all (and my grades reflected that). It didn’t take me long to realize that I needed to change the way I was living life. I am so thankful for the life we have built together. I enjoy taking care of our house and cooking dinner for my wife. But there is one thing missing and that’s going to church regularly. We have always prayed together before meals even out in restaurants.

My life changed drastically on June 13, 2023 the day my Mom died. We met Pastor Rob that day and after that I met with him several times to talk about dealing with the grief. I also needed some advice on how to fully forgive my Dad for our issues in the past. This was very important to me. For years now we spent a lot of time together but never talked about the past and I needed to have this resolved before he died. This last year we got to have a lot of serious talks and forgave each other for events of the past. My priority was to be there for him in the nursing home visiting him as much as I could, taking him to doctor appointments, and spending quality time with him until the very end. Almost to the day one year later he went to heaven as well. I found God through my parents death. I know Dad wanted to be at my baptism but now him and Mom will have front row seats from heaven. Life is sure different without them but I know I will see them again one day. For now we just have to keep going.

Thank you to everyone here at Franconia for supporting us. There is a real sense of family here. I am ready to be baptized and continue attending church regularly.



**JoAnne Musselman—Baptism**

I grew up Lutheran, going to church every Sunday with my parents and brother. I was baptized as an infant and joined the church as a teenager. I was first married at 21 and endured several years of verbal abuse and then infidelity. Why me God? And then years later I knew why. During that time Noah wasn’t ready to settle down as he was dealing with his own issues. I truly believe that was all part of God’s plan. He gave me the strength to get through those years and in the end I became a

stronger person. I regret not continuing going to church during those years however since I cannot change that I can only move forward here at Franconia.

Noah and I will be married twenty four years this year and though we were never blessed with children we do have two kitties named Max and Abbey. Noah has helped me tremendously over the years deal with my OCD. I thank God every day for him. He's production and I'm perfection and together we make a great team.

Five years ago I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and went through two major surgeries and chemo. Thankfully today I am cancer free but I still struggle with survivor guilt. Why am I OK and so many others are not? Once again it's God's plan. It definitely helps to talk to other people and share your cancer journey with other patients at Fox Chase because if I can help just one person get through the process of losing their hair or answer a question about chemo then I made a difference in someone's life.

On June 13, 2023 our lives changed forever when Noah's Mom died suddenly. That was the day we met Pastor Rob. From then on Noah and I started attending services here at Franconia. We have met so many truly caring people here and I enjoy talking to them each week. And all of these people were there to support and pray for us when Noah's Dad died a year later. I find comfort sitting on the same bench that they sat on for years as this was their view every Sunday. I sure do wish we would have gone to church with them. If only they would have told us you really need to go to church but it certainly wasn't like them to tell us what to do. I know they are smiling down on us now and our proud of our efforts. How bittersweet it is that through their death we found God.

I'm excited to start this next chapter of our lives as we go through baptism and our faith continues to grow here at Franconia. Thank you to everyone for your support and prayers.

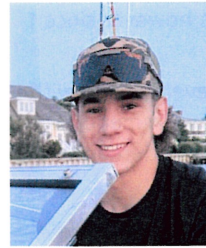
#### **Marissa Anders—Baptism**



I have grown up in a loving Christian home my whole life. My parents are Neil and Laurie Anders, and I have four siblings. Our family has always gone to church, but we just started coming by to Franconia about a year and a half ago. I'm currently in my sophomore year of high school.

I was taught about Jesus my whole life through church and my family, and that's how I came to accept Jesus into my heart the summer I was six. Ever since then I haven't always prioritized my relationship with God like I should've and I've struggled with a lot of different things but through it all God's always been right beside me.

I now want to get baptized to show others that I want to live my life for God, and have Him at the center of my life. I'm excited for this next step of my faith, and to continue growing in my relationship with God, and sharing his love with others.



#### **Daniel Benner—Baptism**

My name is Daniel Benner. I live in Schwenksville with my parents Scott, Juliana and older sister Clara. I go to Dock Mennonite Academy.

I've come to know God though my parents, church and school. I have grown up in a Christian household and went to church my whole life. But I never really made my faith my own until I started to realize all the places I struggle and how God is always there for me no matter what and I want Him to be the center of my life.

I've seen God work in my life so much. For example when I was in Honduras in September, I saw things I take for granted here in my life are things they are so grateful for. For example clean water, we drink and do whatever we want with it and there they can't drink the water without getting sick. It makes me think about all of the things God has done for me in my life. This past year I wanted to get into tech for welding. I was told that it is a hard class to get into because it's a small class and a lot of people want to get into it. I turned in an application for it anyway and had done everything i could do to get in. But after a while of waiting and not hearing anything I decided to pray about it and put it in God's hands. The next day I got called to guidance and they told me I had gotten into welding. To me this shows that this is something God wants me to do and where he wants me to be.

I want to get baptized because I want to make the public statement of my faith, and I feel like this is my next step in faith. Someone who motivated me to take the step of getting baptized was pastor Kyle. After we went to Colorado (which was another experience that impacted my faith) he asked me to go to breakfast with him and there we talked about baptism and how important it is. This really pushed me to take the step and do it.



#### **Nicole Nazzaro—Baptism**

I grew up in Massachusetts with my brother, Mom & Dad. I moved to Pennsylvania with my husband in 2020, and had our daughter in 2022.

My faith journey started when I was a child. My mom would bring my brother and I to church every Sunday and have us attend bible study groups. My dad was not the church going type and did not live the best life as I witnessed growing up with his alcohol addiction and anger issues.

These difficult situations I was faced with as a child & watching the physical and mental abuse my mom, brother and I faced made it hard for me to trust God and put my faith in Him when I could not understand why he did not help me when I needed it the most. As I continued to attend church & pray (although it was not everyday) I came to realize that we are put in these situations not to tear us down but to build us up.

Although my mom, brother and I attended church, we did not pray everyday before bed or read the bible. I always considered myself growing up in a Christian home, although it was

not always the most loving. As a child I remember attending church camps every summer and feeling close to God and feeling the urge to do his work. It is hard to explain the love I felt for Him. As I got older and aged out of these camps I felt myself not surrounded by youth counselors and other kids who helped each other rely on Jesus and guiding each other in the right direction and felt myself going down a path that was not faithful to Jesus.

As I got older I found myself not going to church and found myself making bad decisions with relationships, partying & alcohol. I feel like this was a huge part of my faith journey because I soon came to realize this is not the life I wanted to live, and I knew I needed to get right with Jesus and put my trust in Him to help me out of the bad path I was on, I started to attend church more over the last few years and it is the best decision I have made. Although I attend church every Sunday, I sometimes still struggle with not always feeling close to Jesus as I would like. During this ongoing journey I ask God to help me through these struggles and guide me in his path so that I can feel close to Him again.



**Katie Leatherman—Baptism**

I'm 16 years old and I go to Pennridge High School. I have been going to church my whole life and I knew who God was at a very young age. When I was 7 I accepted Jesus into my heart. I have always made an effort to pray every night and multiple times a day. When I started 9th grade I struggled with finding good friends and this had a drastic effect on my life. I fell into a depression and was sad all the time. I felt like I was alone and God had abandoned me. I started to pray more even though I thought it pointless.

After many months of prayers I finally noticed changes in my life. I realized that God had put people into my life when I needed them most and I became very close with them very fast. After that experience I realized how important prayer was and that God is always there for me.



**Sophia Veltre —Baptism**

I grew up and still am growing up in a Christian household. I have two loving parents, Paul and Charity Veltre, and three siblings, my older sister Olivia, and my two younger brothers, Micah and Ezra. My family and I have been attending Franconia my whole life and it has always been a home to me. Being in the youth group especially is something that has supported and strengthen my faith. I enjoy athletics and talking to everyone and anyone. On my walk with the Lord I have faced some hardship and life

hasn't always been as easy as what I put on display. But God has always been there for me to guide me and care for me. I'm exited to take this next step in my faith and get baptized, publicly devoting my life to the Lord.



**Nathaniel (Nate) Weaver—Member transfer**

I was blessed by being raised in Christian home my whole life. I grew up attending Towamencin Mennonite Church where my parents still attend. I have been taught about the powerful sacrifice of Jesus' Death and subsequent resurrection on the Cross since before I can remember. For much of my early years I took this for granted.

I accepted Jesus as my lord and savior at Spruce Lake following a fireside by Charlie Ness. I was then baptized that fall. The next few years of my life I had a strong faith and felt on fire for God. Throughout high school and really into college that gradually changed. I never did not consider myself a Christian or a Believer, but my thoughts and actions were not ones that represented that of a Christ Follower. I would have these "high" moments like service projects I took to Honduras and Haiti where I saw the pain in the world and the power of Jesus Christ. Then I would come home and gradually revert to living daily for myself.

This changed for me following the death a close friend in college. He had beaten cancer earlier in life, but it came back and he was taken home. This did not completely change my actions immediately, but it did really push me to realize that our time on earth is numbered and our heart needs to be ready whenever that time comes. Only the Lord knows that date. Since then, I have continued to try and live with that mindset. As any believer and sinner I miss the mark on a daily basis. I do not spend enough time in the Word, I do not prioritize what the Lord wants over my personal desires, I do not always speak the way a believer should, but I know that the ultimate sacrifice was done for our sins and in my heart, Jesus Christ is the only path to our salvation.

After meeting my wife, Kristen, we have struggled to find a "home" church We started attending last summer and have really felt welcomed which has led to this decision. I personally look forward to getting involved, using my gifts where needed and continuing to learn from and support the fellow believers that gather here.

**Kristen Weaver—Member transfer**

I was blessed to be born into a loving, Christian family with a long history of believers before me. I remember asking Jesus to be my Savior at a young age, when my family first lived in Minnesota before moving here in the second grade. We attended Franconia for many years and I was baptized in front of the congregation while in high school.

I attended West Chester University for college and was involved in Campus Crusade for Christ during my time there. My entire family (parents and four siblings) moved to different states while I was at WCU. This was a challenging time in my life as I no longer had a home to visit on

the weekends and holiday traditions were uprooted. The Lord placed people in my life to give me a community at school and friends who took me in. He also re-introduced me and my now-husband the very same week my parents moved back to Minnesota! God's timing for sure.

I have never needed the Lord more than when I became a mom five years ago. It has brought me more joy, purpose and adventure than I could have expected. But it has also brought me times of dark depression, anxiety, and questioning my worth and purpose in life. Once again, He has placed people in my life to encourage, help and love me. While I would still say I am "in the thick of it" and I "have my hands full" (as people love to tell me!), I know that He placed these struggles in my life so that I can be an encouragement to other moms.

My husband and I are choosing to become members here at Franconia because we believe it is a fantastic fit for our young family. From the short time that we have been attending, we have felt welcomed and appreciated. As a child, I didn't understand why my parents wouldn't let us skip church if we were sleepy or just stay home if we didn't want to go. But as a parent, I now fully understand. We want our kids to grow up learning and knowing Jesus. We know that bringing them here will help us to remind them of God's love and all of the amazing things that he has done in the lives of our family and of our community.



**Pat Zeigler—Member transfer**

I grew up in Souderton in a Christian family, having a sister (Jean Keener) and two brothers. Our family actually attended Franconia Mennonite Church when I was little, then started attending Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton.

I was baptized at Zion Mennonite Church when I was in 5th grade, because it was expected at that time. I was always active in their youth programs.

In 1970 I married my husband (Dale Ziegler), then went into 1-W service program, volunteering at Hanover, New Hampshire for two years. While at New Hampshire I delivered our two children (Shawn & Dana).

When our two years were completed we came back to Pennsylvania where we attended Indian Creek Church of the Brethren which was where Dale attended. Being active in the church I felt myself becoming closer to God.

Through the years there was an emptiness I knew I needed to fill in my heart, that is when I knew I needed the love of Jesus and repented my sins and gave my heart to Jesus Christ, then chose to be rebaptized because I knew I felt the need of God and the Holy Spirit in my life. During this time I became a grandmother to five grandchildren which is truly God's wonderful gift to me.

I started coming to Franconia Mennonite Church where I felt I was blessed by the sermons being taught by scripture, the true Word of God, the music is fantastic, and friendly people.

Now having four great grandchildren I want them to know of God's love and his perfect plan for them. My favorite verse is Psalms 19:19 "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer".



**Elaine Anders—Member transfer**

I was blessed to be carried into Franconia Mennonite Church as a babe and to be able to grow up under the influence of some caring, dedicated Christian ladies who were my Sunday School teachers through the years. My grandmother also came to live with my family was I was eight. Even though she wasn't very vocal about her faith, I watched her live her life for the Lord and it impacted my life.

As I heard sermons and interacted with persons there, I leaned the plan of salvation. When I was 13, I felt the Lord's tug on my heart and in December of 1957 I was baptized. I would like to say that it was an even path of growth from that time on but I found my teen years to be a challenge to be all that I knew God wanted me to be. But the Lord was so patient and kept speaking to me and so I continued to grow in my walk with Him.

**Earl Anders—Member transfer**

I was taught in Sunday School, heard the preaching of God's Word and grew up in a Christian home. But sin in my heart caused rebellion against the scriptures declaring they were only written by man to cause fear and keep society in order. However, through a powerful move of God's Spirit during tent revivals declaring God's judgment, God began to change my heart. At age 17 I made a public declaration of my faith through baptism. It was close friends who had a passion for God and His Word that God used to contribute to my growth.

I testify to the truth of Psalm 37:4 & 5, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will do this."

Give your heart to the Lord so that you, too, will desire that which He desires for you!



**Teena Gehman—Member transfer**

I grew up in the small town of Belleville in the center of PA surrounded by Mennonite and Amish farms. My parents, brothers, sister, and I attended Maple Grove Mennonite Church. When I reached high school my parents switched me to Belleville Mennonite High School. After high school I attended EMU.

God orchestrated Lowell and I meeting through my college roommate who was from Quakertown. We married and built a log home outside of Trumbauersville off of Finland Road (which really isn't in the boonies). We just celebrated our 41st wedding anniversary.

We were blessed to have three children. One is living in Florida, one in North Carolina, and one in Lititz.

From a young age I knew I wanted to be a teacher. In college I graduated with a degree in Physical Education. For over 20 years I taught elementary Phys Ed at Penn View Christian School. What a wonderful blessing to have a job I loved.

I remember at the age of twelve during what seemed like the 27th verse of "Just as I Am" walking to the front of the tent in a George Brunk Revival. There I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and asked Him to forgive my sins. Throughout my life I have asked God continually for guidance and direction. I want to always continue to grow in my Christian life.

I look forward to becoming a member here where the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed and the Holy Bible is taught as Truth. What fun it has been to reconnect with former parents, students, and friends from my teaching at Penn View here at Franconia. I look forward to attending here and becoming acquainted with more of this church body.

#### **Lowell Gehman—Member transfer**

I grew up north of here near Pennsburg. Teena and I now live on a wooded lot in a log house in the village of Finland where we have lived since our marriage in 1983. We have three grown children, Marie, Darren and Danielle. We have been blessed with our two grandchildren, Jack and Lowell who are a Frontier flight away in Florida. I have been retired for over 2 years. I was a test software engineer for Cobham Advanced Electronic Solutions writing code to test microwave electronics.

Born into a Mennonite family my parents (Luke and Anna Gehman) were active members of Swamp Mennonite Church. As a young boy I had been feeling the tug of the Spirit on my conscience. I realized I was a sinner and needed to ask forgiveness and make a commitment to follow Christ. One morning in church as we sang "Just As I Am" I took the step of making that public commitment, accepted Christ's gift of salvation to all who believe, and was later baptized. That is where my faith journey began. I have found that my faith has grown as we experienced God's grace and provision through the years and am confident that one day I will be welcomed into eternity and meet Christ face to face.

We have been attending Franconia for about two years and have felt warmly welcomed by the church family. I have met many of you and am looking forward to becoming part of this fellowship.

## FOLLOWING JESUS NEWSLETTER ~ OCTOBER 27, 2024 ~

### GROWING TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORD SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER



10/27 *Living the Word*

10/30 *Piercing Word (Mark); Memorization Workshop*

#### Group Activities For Students

Email the contact person below if interested.

##### **Girl's Club—3rd-5th Grade**

October—We Like Sheep practice

**Girl's Club Contact: Lindsey Hoover** lindseyhoover3@gmail.com

##### **Boy's Club—3rd-5th Grade**

October—We Like Sheep practice

**Boy's Club Contact: Mat Landis** mat.landis@chlsystems.com

##### **General Info for Children's Ministry, Boy's & Girl's Clubs Contact:**

**Bronwen Leister** 4kids@franconiamennonite.org

##### **Jr High—6th-8th Grade**

Oct 30—Bible Study 7-8 pm

**Jr High Contact: Renita Leatherman,** drleath5@verizon.net

##### **Sr High—9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Nov 9-10—Fall Retreat

**Sr High Contact: Pastor Kyle,** krodgers@franconiamennonite.org

#### Young Adult Highlights

**Young Adults—Ages 18-25 \*INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!\***

Every Thursday Night—Bible Study, LFH—7pm

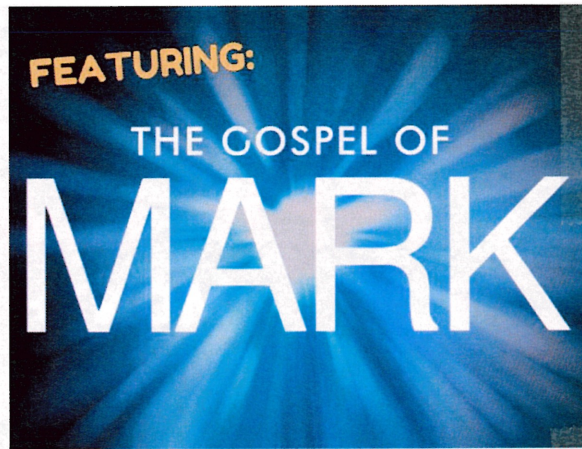
October 27—Mauch Chunk Lake

**YA Contact: Pastor Kyle,** krodgers@franconiamennonite.org

Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – 8 pm UFH

Experience The Gospel of Mark performed dramatically word-for-word from the ESV Bible. This one-man Scripture Performance will surprise and delight you with creative storytelling that will take you to the places Jesus went and introduce you to the many people Jesus called to follow Him. Be inspired, challenged, and moved by the power of the Word of God as you watch the revealing of the Son of God live on stage.



**FMC**

**Today's Youth in the Church**

What challenges are our youth in the church facing in today's culture? All parents, youth & grandparents are encouraged to come and hear from Mark Swartley and other Spruce Lake leaders as they share with us today's topics that our youth are challenged with.

**Parent Equipping Night**

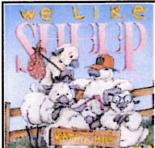
November 20<sup>th</sup> 7-8 pm

**October Wednesday Nights, 7—8:00**

All children age 4yrs through 5th grade will be meeting together to practice for the "We Like Sheep" musical. CD's are also available.

"We Like Sheep" will be performed on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 9:00am during a combined Sunday School hour.

\*The nursery will be staffed during the October Wed Night Bible Studies for children 3 and under.

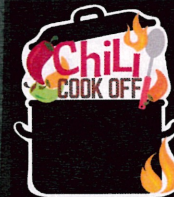


November 16 @ 7am

Heritage Restaurant

The whole congregation is invited to attend the chili cook off and apple pie bake off.

November 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm in the UFH.



Sign ups are not mandatory but encouraged.



Join us for a Ladies' Bingo Night  
All Ages Welcome  
Thursday, November 7 @ 7 pm  
in the Upper Fellowship Hall



Join us for a  
**Hymn Sing**  
SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
4 - 5 PM

SONGS FROM VOICES TOGETHER  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW  
BLOOMING GLEN MENNONITE CHURCH  
713 BLOOMING GLEN RD  
BLOOMING GLEN, PA

PENNSYLVANIA  
**RELIEF SALE**  
Celebrating Community. CREATING HOPE.

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE  
COLLECTED TO BENEFIT MCC  
Mennonite  
Central  
Committee  
717-208-4152  
pareliefsale.org

*This week*

- Monday Celebrate Recovery—7pm
- Tuesday Shine—UFH—4 pm
- Wednesday October Bible Study—6:30-8 pm—Meal @ 5:45 pm  
Piercing Word (Mark); Memorization Workshop
- Thursday Women's Bible Study—E200—9:30 am  
Women's Bible Study—E200—7 pm
- Sunday When God says "go" and we say "no"—Pastor Rob Presthus  
Parent Child dedication

- Nov 16—Men's Breakfast
- Nov 17—Children's Musical
- Nov 20—Chili and Apple Pie / Parent Equipping Event

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

Visitors, feel free to use our nursery.

Download the free KidCheck app for a secure check-in.



Today's staff

- Infant SS —Glenn & Reenie Hoover
- Infant Church—Tricia Bergey & Julia Dang
- 2&3 Church— Carissa Fallon & Kelsey Stitt

Next week's staff

- Infant SS —Becky Derstine & Janelle Godshall
- Infant Church—Joel & Tiff Landis
- 2&3 Church— Kelsie Landis & Sage, Tanya Frankenfield



**Tithes + Offerings**

Last week's offering—\$34,364

**Offering—Ways to Give**

- \* Sunday morning—**offering boxes** as you enter the auditorium
- \* Online at [franconiamennonite.org](http://franconiamennonite.org) thru **Vanco ACH** (scan QR Code below)
- \* Electronic Funds Transfer—call Monique Kratz at the Church Office
- \* Mail to Church Office



Last Sunday Attendance

Sunday School—244  
Worship — 334

215-723-3220, website: [franconiamennonite.org](http://franconiamennonite.org)

Monique Kratz: [mkratz@franconiamennonite.org](mailto:mkratz@franconiamennonite.org)

Diane Nice: [communications@franconiamennonite.org](mailto:communications@franconiamennonite.org)



**Children's Ministry**  
is inviting all families with children up to 5th grade to the movies! Come and enjoy a fun family film together on Friday, November 8, 7:15 PM  
**The Broad Street Theater**  
to see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Tickets will go fast, please RSVP to Miss Bronwen by Nov. 1.