

# This Week

Monday—Celebrate Recovery —7pm

Wednesday, November 25—Thanksgiving Eve Service—6:30pm

Next Sunday BFG—Liberia Update including stories and pictures

Next Sunday — Advent Series—SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Advent 1 “Anticipation”—Pastor Josh Meyer



## EVENTS

Friday, December 18—Live Nativity 6:30—8:30 pm

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service—6:30 pm

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS—Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us for an evening of songs and testimonies at 6:30 pm, November 25th



Signs of God's Faithfulness, Captured by the Congregation — Do you have photos or paintings to share in the Thanksgiving Eve service?

We are looking for pieces by attenders that represent or point to God's faithfulness. Today is the deadline to email your submissions to [peter.brubaker@gmail.com](mailto:peter.brubaker@gmail.com).

Last Week's Attendance:

Online Worship—292

Website: [FranconiaMennonite.org](http://FranconiaMennonite.org)

Email: [Info1@Franconiamennonite.org](mailto:Info1@Franconiamennonite.org) Phone: 215-723-3220



FRANCONIA  
MENNONITE  
CHURCH

November 22, 2020

Worship 10:15am

# Worship with us

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God." Philippians 1:3

**Prelude**—Helen Eastburn

**Opening & Call to Worship**—Pastor Mark

Intro of Helen Eastburn

**Singing and Worship**—Chris Bencsik and Music Team

**Congregational Prayer & Announcements**—Pastor Kyle

**Introduction to Mission Sunday**—Al Driver

**Shalom Fund**—Brooke Martin

**Hearing God's Word**

Scripture Reading—Philippians 1:3-11

Message—Pastor Aldo Siahaan—(by video)  
"I Thank My God"

Our guest preacher is Pastor Aldo Siahaan from Philadelphia Praise Center, Mosaic Conference.

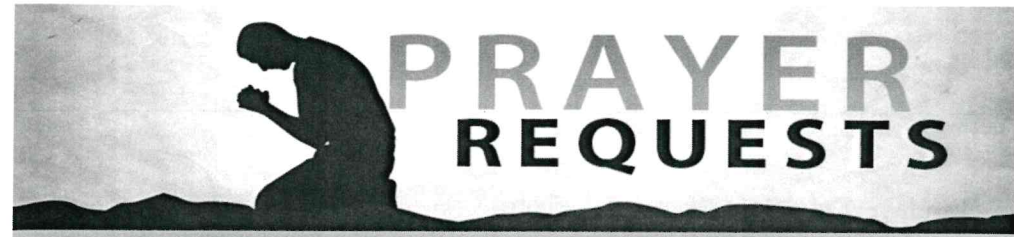
**Song of Response**

**Closing—Sending**

ASSISTIVE LISTENING



**Led by the Holy Spirit, we are an Anabaptist congregation committed to following Jesus in all things, so that God's love flows through us to our community and the world.**



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

**Pray God's blessings upon...**

- ◆ healthcare workers in crisis response as communities across the country are affected by the surge in COVID cases.
- ◆ the thousands of people in Nicaragua and Honduras impacted by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- ◆ our school students, teachers and parents as they deal with school closures.
- ◆ the Leadership Team as they work through difficult decisions.
- ◆ persons dealing with joblessness or limited work situations.
- ◆ persons or families dealing with isolation or disconnection during the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

- **Lorraine Zook** as she recovers from a medical procedure this past Friday.

Pastor Josh is preaching at Blooming Glen Mennonite Church this morning.

**NURSERY MINISTRY** The Nursery for two-year-olds and under is open for parents to use at their discretion. At this time there is no staffing for the Nursery, so parents must remain with their children during their time there.



**From the Leadership Team**

Everyone is required to wear a face-covering over nose & mouth when walking or standing inside the building; masks are encouraged at all times, but may be removed when seated with family and/or separated by 6 feet or more.

### **FMC LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Larry Diener, Pastor of Community Life  
Bronwen Leister, Director of Children's Ministry  
Kyle Rodgers, Pastor of Outreach & Youth  
Helen Eastburn, Director of Music and Worship

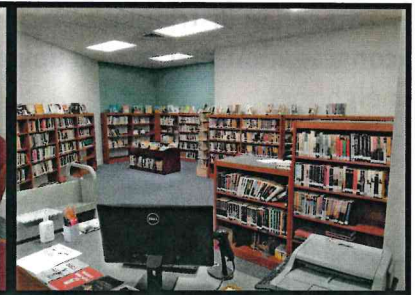
Scott Kratz, Young Adult Ministry Leader  
Josh Meyer, Pastor of Discipling & Preaching  
Mark Wenger, Pastor of Administration & Team Leader

# FOLLOWING JESUS NEWSLETTER

## ~ NOVEMBER 22, 2020 ~



**Signs of God's Faithfulness, Captured by the Congregation** — Do you have photos or paintings to share in the Thanksgiving Eve service, Nov. 25? We are looking for pieces by attenders that represent or point to God's faithfulness. Please limit your submissions to 4 per person and email them today to [peter.brubaker@gmail.com](mailto:peter.brubaker@gmail.com).



Have you visited the church library lately? There are many newly purchased books for you to check out. The church website has a direct link to the library catalog. There you can search by title, author, new items and many more.



### Covid and Christmas Traditions

Two beloved FMC Christmas music traditions have been  **canceled**  this year: Christmas Song Service (Dec. 6) and Christmas Caroling (Dec. 13). The Church Office is preparing gift bags for our senior saints for personal delivery on December 13. We are looking for volunteers to make 3 – 5 deliveries of Christmas cheer and goodwill. Interested? Contact the Church Office.



**Attention Student Prayer Partners:** During the holiday season it becomes more difficult for all students to focus not matter where their learning is taking place. For the next 2 weeks our local school system has decided to go virtually. This maybe a good time to remind your students that you are praying for them with a little note of encouragement or a treat.

## Youth Highlights

### Girls Club

December 2nd—Gingerbread Houses

**Girls Club Contact: Tracy Landis**  
traybay1@yahoo.com

### Boys Club

December 9—Game Night 6:30-8:00 pm

**Boys Club Contact: Jordan Nyce**  
jordannyce@gmail.com

### Jr. High — 6th-8th Grade

December 2—Bible Study—6:30 to 8:00 pm

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

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

December 6th —7 to 8 pm Worship Night

**Sr. High Contact: Pastor Kyle**  
KRodgers@FranconiaMennonite.org



Praise the Lord for the opportunity to bring great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children around the world. Thank you to those of you who filled Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We dropped off **54 boxes** from our congregation!



**Christmas Giving:** Please wrap and label your gift with only the person's name and number. Gifts need to be brought to the church by December 6.

## Young Adult Highlights

### Stay Tuned

**Contact for Young Adults: Scott Kratz**  
215-803-2835 / sckratz@yahoo.com



**Mennonite Disaster Service**

Parts of Pennsylvania experienced a drought this summer which left many farmers in counties like Juniata and Perry without corn, silage and hay to feed their animals. Now, through MDS, drought-stricken small farmers are receiving funds or silage that will help them through the winter.

MDS has created a fund to assist with the purchase of silage, shelled corn and hay to support farmers facing drought. The funds will also be used to help pay the trucking costs of transporting silage to those farms in need. If you would like to donate to "PA Drought 2020" and help small farmers in PA please send donations to:

MDS P.O. Box 64794 Souderton, PA 18964

**COMING SOON – LIVE NATIVITY – December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.**



Volunteers are needed for this outreach event! While we are celebrating the birth of Christ, the real story of Jesus involves violence, betrayal, miracles, and redemption. Is this the story you want our community to know? This is our hope and salvation because God told it through the life, death, and resurrection of His one and only Son, Jesus. **We need to be a light in a hurting world this Christmas season and spread the Good News of the Gospel in our community!**

Rather than distributing Marketing Post Cards this year, in the coming week, an image will be distributed to the congregation that can be uploaded to your social media account as a way to invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

We would love to have everyone in the congregation participate in this outreach event!

**Sign-up for the Live Nativity on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>.** For more details call Kathie Gray at 215-570-3971, Doug Gray at 215-799-0368, or Kyle Rodgers at 215-723-3220.

## Fourth Quarter BFG hour schedule for the Auditorium

### Optional BFG session / November 29 / Liberia Mission Team

Earlier this year, we sent another mission team to Liberia. The group returned just before the pandemic shutdown, so hasn't yet been able to share with the congregation about their trip. The team will be sharing about their experience during the BFG hour in the auditorium on November 29. All are welcome to join, either in-person or via livestream.

### Special testimony time / December 6 / Mike Ford

Mike Ford, a former pastor at Franconia, was recently in a serious, life-threatening motorcycle accident. His life was miraculously spared, and he's now in a long and difficult recovery process. In addition to physical healing, Mike has been learning more about what it means to maintain faith in the midst of suffering, hardship, and loss. He's offered to share with us some of what he's learning about God in the midst of pain and difficulty. We encourage all classes to join in the auditorium for this special time of testimony and sharing. This will serve as the kick-off to our *Connections Class*.

### New large-group BFG class option for Quarter 2

For the past 3 months, we've offered a class in the auditorium studying through the book of John together. That will continue for the next two weeks (Nov 15 and Nov 22). Then beginning on Dec 6, we'll switch to a new large-group BFG offering: the *Connections Class*. We ran this *Connections Class* last year and it was extremely meaningful. Each week, you'll hear from a different person or couple from the congregation: their faith story, their testimony, how they've seen and experienced God in their lives. We have a team of interviewers who will facilitate these sessions. Hearing these stories is a great way to get to know one another more deeply and to be inspired by the work of God in the lives of our church family. All are welcome to join, either in-person or via livestream.

### Meeting in your regular BFGs

If any classes would like to meet again in your regular BFGs, you have a number of options: (1) Zoom, (2) physically-distanced in the Upper Fellowship Hall (would need to coordinate with church office on times/availability), or (3) in your classrooms with face-coverings. If your group decides to gather again in person, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

# *Sounds of the Season*

*What do the songs we sing during this season teach us about the key biblical themes of the Christmas story?*

**Nov 29 - Anticipation**

**Dec 13 - Invitation**

**Dec 06 - Incarnation**

**Dec 20 - Redemption**