

This Week

Monday—Celebrate Recovery —7 pm

Tuesday—Chosen 300—4:30 pm

Friday—Live Nativity, 6:30-8:30 pm

Next Sunday — Advent Series—SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Advent 4 “Redemption” — Pastor Mark Wenger



EVENTS

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

Sunday, January 10, 2021—Parent-Child Dedication



Christmas Eve offering recipients listed below



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.



Salvation Army Foster Care has been caring for the needs of children since 1915. This organization is serving needs for children in the Lehigh Valley and Southeast PA area. They offer foster care, parent education, support programs, and more. Within the foster care program, children are put with Christ centered families that offer them love they have never seen before.

Last Week's Attendance:

BFG—217

In-Person Worship—255

Online Worship—449

Website: FranconiaMennonite.org

Email: Info1@Franconiamennonite.org Phone: 215-723-3220

Sounds of the Season

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

Invitation

FRANCONIA

MENNONITE CHURCH

December 13, 2020

Worship 10:15am

Worship with us

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15

Prelude—Pastor Larry, Piano

Opening & Call to Worship—Pastor Kyle

Third Sunday of Advent: LOVE—Trinity Landis & Friend

Singing and Worship—Quartet and Monique Kratz

Congregational Prayer—Phil & Bev Anders

Announcements

Children's Lesson—Sabrina Godshall

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading — Luke 2:8-20—Claire & Heather Nyce

Message— Pastor Josh—Invitation

Song —“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Song of Response

Closing—Sending

ASSISTIVE
LISTENING
AVAILABLE



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...

- ◆ our guests who visit our live nativity, that they may see hope and joy in Jesus.
- ◆ the leaders of our country, that they seek God's wisdom and healing for our nation.
- ◆ our church family as we seek to love each other like Christ loves us.
- ◆ our elderly and shut-ins, that they find comfort and good health during this pandemic.
- ◆ those battling serious illnesses and for their loved ones who care for them.
- ◆ recipients of the gifts collected for Indian Creek Foundation.
- ◆ persons serving with Chosen 300 on Tuesday and the recipients of that service.

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

- **Jean Anders** as she recovers from shoulder replacement surgery.
- **Nancy Leatherman** who has moved to Silver Stream Nursing Home, Lower Gwynedd.
- **Dave Cressman** who underwent Lasik eye surgery on Friday.

**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

~ DECEMBER 13, 2020 ~

Church Board

Budget: Look for an email Thursday, December 17th, containing a ballot from the Church Board to review and affirm the 2021 budget.



Affirmation Ballot for Mark Wenger's four year term as Pastor of Administration and Pastoral Team Leader from July 2020 to July 2024 was sent via email on Sunday November 29th. Please respond before the close of ballot TODAY.

thank you

The Thanksgiving service offering collected a total of \$3,745 to share among our partners in missions.

Youth Highlights

Girls Club

See you in January

Girls Club Contact: Tracy Landis
traybay1@yahoo.com

Boys Club

January 13—Model Rocket build 6:30—8:00pm

Boys Club Contact: Jordan Nyce
jordannyce@gmail.com

Jr. High — 6th-8th Grade

December 18 —Christmas Party—7:30 to 10:00 pm

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

Sr. High — 9th-12th Grade

December 16th—Ginger Bread competition 6:30-9pm

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

Young Adult Highlights

Stay Tuned

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

Liberia Partnership Projects

End of Year Donations

Coconut Farm—\$ 5,000

Christian Education—\$10,000

Church Building Completion—\$11,500



LIVE NATIVITY – December 18th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM



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

Sign-up for the Live Nativity Today. For more details call Kathie Gray at 215-570-3971, Doug Gray at 215-799-0368, or Kyle Rodgers at 215-723-3220.

Pastor Larry will be on vacation from December 18-30th. Please contact Pastor Mark or Phil Anders with pastoral needs.

Finance Report as of November 30, 2020:

Income - \$1,274,037

Expenses - \$1,346,097

Over/(Under) Expenses - (\$72,060)

Budget – Plan for Giving - \$1,460,316



Blessed
to be a
Blessing

Applications are now being accepted to **The Barnabas Fund**. This fund provides financial support for programs and projects which serve to extend the mission and the ministries of the congregation.

Any individual member or committee within the church may make a request for a grant. Applications are available on the website under ministries, mid-week email, or by contacting the church office. Requests will be accepted through February 1, with approval for distributions made by March 1, 2021.*

Barnabas Fund Committee: Mark Bergey-chair, Al Driver, Jeff Godshall, Jen Landis, Josh Meyer, Tricia Bergey.

*New projects will take priority over previously funded projects.

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Emma Green in *The Atlantic*: “It’s a carol about the high spiritual stakes of Christmas—after all, if not for the birth of Jesus...humanity would be lost.”

Verse 1 – **Announcement** of the Good News: **salvation**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen; let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Verses 2 & 3: **Recipients** of the Good News: **shepherds**

From God, our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

“Fear not, then,” said the angel; “Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s power and might.”
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Verses 4 & 5: **Response** to the Good News: **finding Christ**

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding, in tempest, storms, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straight away, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

And when they came to Bethlehem, where our dear Savior lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay.
His mother, Mary, kneeling down, unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!