

This Week

- Monday Celebrate Recovery—7 pm
Tuesday Shine—UFH—4 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting—7 pm
Choir rehearsal—auditorium—7 pm
Sunday Worship—9 am—“Love From the Father”—Earl Anders
Christmas Eve Service—6:30 pm

December 31: Special Combined BFG

January 14: BFG teacher appreciation luncheon

January 23: Dock Parent Meeting, Aud. 6:30pm

April 4—7, 2024: Ark Encounter Trip

UPCOMING
Events



Visitors, feel free to use our nursery.
Download the free KidCheck app for a secure checkin.

Today's staff

Infant BFG— Jordan & Angie Nyce
Infant Church—Sydney Leaman & Alicia Rodgers
2&3 Church—Daryl & Priscila Freed

Next week's staff

Infant BFG— Ruth Detwiler and Martha Zoegar
Infant and 2&3 Church—Sophia & Olivia Veltre



Tithes & Offerings

Last Week's Offering —\$36,225.33

Last Sunday Attendance

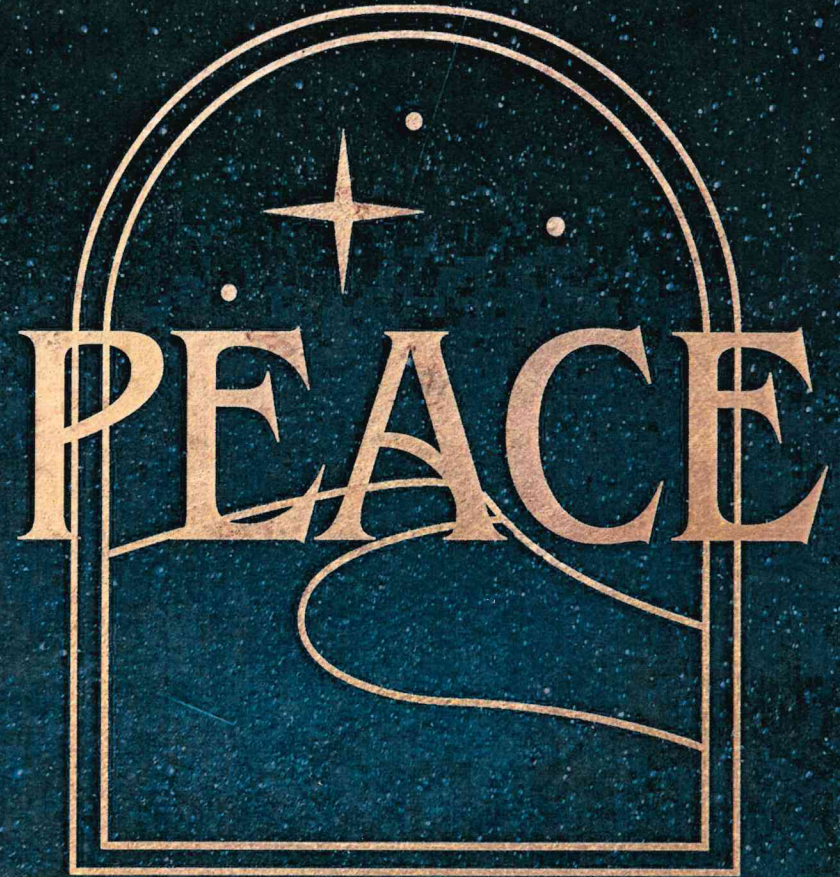
BFG hour — 258
In-Person Worship — 258
Online Viewers — 109

Website: franconiamennonite.org

Email: Info@franconiamennonite.org Phone: 215-723-3220

SUNDAY DEC. 17 2023

PREPARE HIM ROOM



FRANCONIA
MENNONITE
CHURCH

Worship with us

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

Prelude

Gathering Song— Helen Eastburn and Worship Team

Welcome and Opportunities— Scott Kratz

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting— Ray and Jaden Ramos

Singing and Worship

Congregational Prayer— Ben Yoder

Children's Message— Chris Bencsik

Scripture Reading— Luke 1:67-80— Mark and Darla Bergey

Sermon—Peace in the Promise— Jay Delp

Closing Song

Mission Update— Chosen 300— Brian Jenkins/Chris Bencsik

Sending



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...

- **Christmas caroling** tonight, may we spread the Joy of Jesus' birth.
- **those** who are experiencing loneliness and loss at this Christmas time.
- the **missionaries** who will spend Christmas apart from loved ones. Pray God will give them comfort, peace and joy.
- all **those** traveling to be with others for Christmas. Pray for safety, peace and energy for their travels.
- the people of **Palestine and Israel**, for God to end the war.

Student Prayer: Praying over our children to have unspeakable Joy. John 15:11

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

- **Glenn Halteman**, who was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia.
- **Deb Godshall**, recovering from recent abdominal surgery.
- **Glenn Bergey**, who continues to recover from open heart surgery.
- **Sanford Kiser** as he works with PT to regain his strength.
- **Elizabeth Miller** as she continues with chemotherapy treatments twice a month for pancreatic cancer.
- **Laverne Musselman** who continues to struggle with pneumonia at LifeQuest.

Offering—Ways to Give

- * Sunday morning—**offering boxes** as you enter or exit the auditorium
- * Online at franconiamennonite.org thru **Vanco ACH** (scan QR Code)
- * Electronic Funds Transfer—call Monique Kratz at the Church Office
- * Mail to Church Office



FMC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rob Presthus, Pastor of Administration & Care

Helen Eastburn, Director of Music & Worship

Kyle Rodgers, Pastor of Outreach, Youth & Young Adults

Bronwen Leister, Director of Children's Ministries

Gifts of comfort and **Joy**

Order your gifts today!
Grab a gift guide in the foyer



\$25

Clean water

Imagine walking hours to get the water you need. You would be very thirsty!

This gift brings water closer to home for more people like Benedicte Masamba, who lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

\$16



Meals at school

It's tough to learn if your tummy is rumbling. School lunches and breakfasts boost student health and nutrition at schools like this one in South Sudan.

It's much easier to concentrate on lessons when you're not hungry!

\$65



Goat

For families who don't have enough money for school, doctor visits or other needs, goats can be a great gift!

Farmers like Sama Saya in India can sell goats to earn money. And as the herd grows, so does their income.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Bicycle

How far can you walk before you get tired? Now imagine walking everywhere you need to go. That would be very tiring!

A bicycle helps people like Michael Snafe get where they need to go, like attending farming training sessions. This gift is a wheel-y good choice!

\$78



Chickens

Some families don't have enough money to buy all the food they need. Raising chickens provides a regular source of eggs — a nutritious meal at any time of the day.

This egg-cellent gift helps farmers establish a small flock of chickens.

\$10

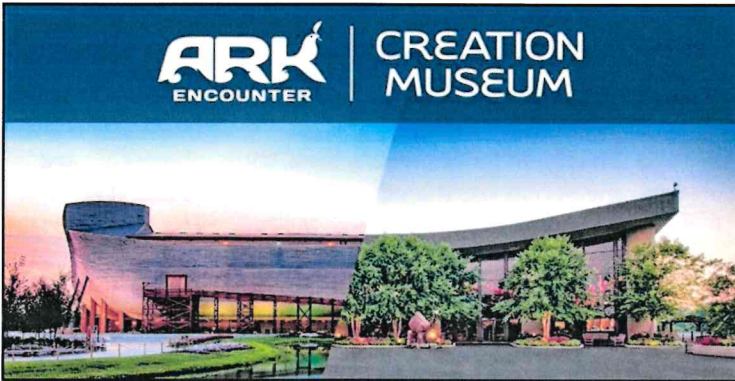


Music lessons

What do you like doing after school? Sara Ghabbash, who lives in a refugee camp, finds joy in music and dance lessons that connect her to her culture.

This note-worthy gift helps her learn to play the oud — a traditional Palestinian instrument that's a bit like a guitar.

\$12



ARK ENCOUNTER

CREATION MUSEUM

Let's experience the Ark & Creation Museum together! Come join us on a church trip April 4-7, 2024.

Walk alongside other members of all ages as we explore the life size Ark and tour the beautiful Creation Museum. Lodging is reserved at a suites hotel. An information meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, Jan. 28 if interested. What a great opportunity to bring the Bible to life in all of it's grandeur.

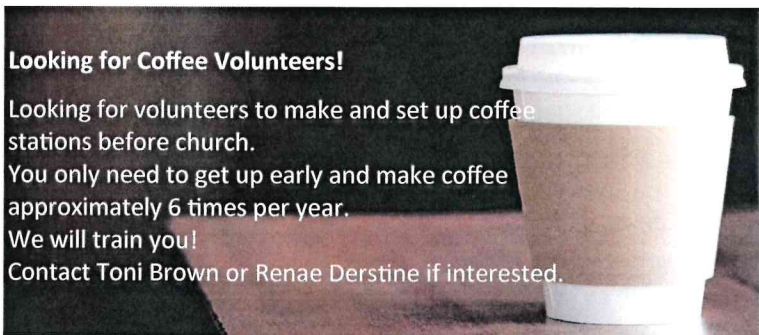


Sunday, January 7th

Support our Young Adults by staying for a delicious ham dinner following the church service in the Upper Fellowship Hall.



Franconia Culinary cookbooks are available for sale in the church office. \$25 each.



Looking for Coffee Volunteers!

Looking for volunteers to make and set up coffee stations before church.

You only need to get up early and make coffee approximately 6 times per year.

We will train you!

Contact Toni Brown or Renae Derstine if interested.



APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

All current BFG teachers and those who are interested in teaching are invited to a luncheon on Sunday, Jan 14 following the worship service in the UFH. The DMT would like to thank you for faithfully serving the church by using your gifts of teaching. Jay Delp will share with us some words of encouragement on The Joys of Teaching.

FOLLOWING JESUS NEWSLETTER

~ DECEMBER 17, 2023 ~

2023 Christmas Season Special Services

Franconia
Mennonite
Church

Dec. 17	Christmas Caroling Meet at Auditorium main entrance	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 24	Morning Worship	9:00 a.m.
	Christmas Eve Service	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 31	Special Combined BFG	9:00 a.m.

YTD Finance Report as of November 30, 2023:

Income:	\$1,381,224
Expenses:	\$1,369,982
Short/Over Expenses:	(\$11,242)
Budget:	\$1,496,680



Coffee & Fellowship



You are invited to enjoy a time of fellowship on **Christmas Eve Morning**. Coffee will be available in the foyer before the service from 8:30 to 9:00 and again after the morning service. Bring cookies or breakfast treats to share.

Reminder that children ages 4-5th grade will have combined Sunday School on **Sunday, Dec. 31**.

Meet in the Children's Singing room.



Dear Church Family

Thank you for all prayers, texts, cards, phone calls and meals that you shared with us during my recovery from knee replacement surgery. May you all be blessed for the care you showed to me. **Diane L Nice**

Group Activities For Students

If interested please email the contact person of that group.

Girl's Club—3rd-5th Grade

Dec 17—Caroling
Dec 20—No meeting

Girls Club Contact: **Jess Landis**, jess.landis17@gmail.com

Boy's Club—3rd-5th Grade

Dec 20—No meeting

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

Jr. High—6th-8th Grade

Dec 20—No meeting

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

Sr. High—9th-12th Grade

Dec 20—Gingerbread House Contest

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

Dec 17—Christmas Caroling

Dec 22—Midnight Gladness

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

rightnow
MEDIA

Check out our custom library
for Advent Series media

PREPARE
FILM ROOM



Marriage Retreat



Don't forget to sign up for the Marriage Retreat held at Spruce Lake on **Feb. 9-11, 2024**. There will be 4 sessions throughout the weekend, speakers are Matt & Sara Brennan. Check out Spruce Lakes website for schedule and speaker's bio. The cost for this weekend getaway is \$250 which includes 5 meals and lodging.

To reserve your spot or if you have questions please contact Bronwen Leister at 4kidsfranconiamennonite.org

RSVP by Jan. 1