

## ON THE JOURNEY

*In much the same way as Advent is the time of expectant waiting for the Messiah to arrive, we often need to “wait” for the expected/hoped-for answer. While waiting is difficult and can even be unwelcomed, “waiting” is what will deliver fulfillment. We can learn to accept, even enjoy and flourish, during the waiting. If we wait on God’s perfect timing, the answer will be put together right, and in a lasting way. Psalm 145 says “the eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season.” As we observe Advent & celebrate the birth of Jesus, let’s think about the One we can count on, the promised Messiah – He has come!...and He offers each of us everlasting life! We are part of God’s legacy of everlasting love. May our hearts be overwhelmed with the love of Jesus this Christmas season!*

*Submitted by Ruth Beasley*

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 12/19</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>12/20 &amp; 21</b>	9:00 am	POPS with FMW
<b>Sun 12/23</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/24</b>	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
<b>Tues 12/25</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Wed 12/26</b>	5:30 pm	Outreach Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Sat 12/29</b>	8:00 am	Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>Sun 12/30</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching/Communion
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/31</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Tues 1/1</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Wed 1/2</b>	6:00 pm	Discovery Bible Study
	6:45 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Music Practice

**Administrative Assistant Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm**  
**Closed Friday**

- **All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.**

### December Birthdays

Curt Troyer – 19  
 Bobbie Werker – 21  
 Loretta Troyer – 23  
 Fannie Hochstetler – 24  
 Wilbur Schlabach – 24  
 Kim Christner - 26

## WORSHIP

**Focus statement:** Our Advent theme song this year is “Unspeakable Joy.” But the truth is that there was not much joy in Bethlehem when Mary and Joseph showed up in town. Roman soldiers occupied the land, and the people who were coming to Bethlehem were coming to pay taxes to support that occupation. They didn’t like taxes any more than we do, and maybe less. And now a man and woman show up in town, embroiled in a scandal, she is pregnant and they are not married. There was not much joy in town, that is, until angels appeared to some obscure shepherds just outside Bethlehem with this message, “Today, in Bethlehem, a savior has been born to you, he is Messiah, the Lord...” And suddenly, the joy, the unspeakable joy of their message filled the night sky, and rolled down the hills, and echoed through the valleys that surrounded Bethlehem. “A Savior has been born, and He shall be for all the people!”

**Background scriptures:** Luke 2:1-20

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Janelle Walther  
 Next Sunday: Navigator Class

### Welcome Center

This Sunday: Verna Weirich  
 Next Sunday: Carol Johnson

## ADMINISTRATION

### Stewardship Report for December 16:

Money Given to Budget \$14,563.00  
 Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25  
 Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$94,514.90  
 Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$89,044.00

**The Administration Commission** met in November and heard that our attendance and financial figures increased for this quarter. There has been no movement in the house appraisals, HVAC quotes or CR 16 internet and phones.

**You will find** a copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter treasurer's report in your mailbox.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Elkhart County Rally and Prayer Walk for Life** is on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart at 12:00 noon. The program will include emcee Jeff Fater, RETA Men's Coaching Manager and keynote speaker Ramona Trvino. The Rally will include testimonies from those who have experienced abortion and will be followed by a short pray walk to RETA and the Women's care Center in Elkhart. Go to [www.elkhart4life.org](http://www.elkhart4life.org) for more information.

**A Big Thank You** to all of you that helped with our fundraiser to make it a success! A big thanks to Pam & Ward for making it happen. We know many of you worked your fingers to the bone and we appreciate it! We are grateful for all of your support and we would appreciate keeping us in your prayers. Gratefully, Tom and Eva

**CLC** had the opportunity to help out a couple of families in our congregation this month. We are looking forward to Communion on December 30<sup>th</sup> where we will take up an offering for the Compassion Fund. We would like to thank everyone who signed up to bring cookies for our advent Sundays. It has been a great blessing and very much appreciated.

## DISCIPLING

**Discovery Bible Study** will not meet tonight or next week. We will resume our Joshua study with chapter 9 on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Join us!

## OUTREACH

**First Mennonite Women's** next project is collecting items for The Window. Items needed are: coats (new or used), hats, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear.



