

Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 63

December 12, 2021

No. 50

Advent: Peace

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

Because the heart of our God is full of mercy,
the first light of Heaven shall come to visit us –
to shine on those who lie in the darkness
and under the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the path of peace. Luke 1:78-79 (Phillips)

Prelude

Call to worship

Lighting the Advent candle

We light a candle for *peace*:
peace in our hearts,
peace in our homes,
peace in the world.

May the light of *peace* shine through our lives.

Hymns: Come let us all unite to sing – H #12

It came upon a midnight clear – H #195 (v 1,2,4)

Offering & prayer

Offertory

Scripture: Luke 1:67-79

Message: An old man sings of peace

Song of response: We are people of God’s peace – H #407

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, thanksgivings

Intercessory prayer

Sending song: The peace of the earth – SJ #77

Benediction

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship. Speaker. Rebecca Kauffmxn

4:00 p.m. – Sam Plank family private memorial service

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. – Women Serving in Love

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 – 10:10 a.m. – Christmas Breakfast. Sunday School,
optional.

10:30 a.m. – Worship. Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn. Luke 1:39-45

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Mark Thomxs

LAST WEEK

Worship 36

Sunday School 21

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for God’s
kingdom purposes. Thanks.*

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – December 12

Worship leader: Kyle Van Osdxl

Music leader: Ellen Steinxr

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeters: Carl & Elaine Newcomxr

Sound: Mark Kauffmxn

Media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude: Ellen Steinxr

Next Week – December 19

Worship leader: Elaine Newcomxr

Music leader: Janet Wilkxns

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeters: Barb & Byron Kauffmxn

Sound: Ken Shxnk

Media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude: Janet Wilkxns

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- “Come, thou long-expected Jesus! Born to set thy people free; from our sins and fears release us, let us find our rest in thee.”
- Pray for God’s comfort and grace to surround the family and friends of Sam Plxnk as they gather to celebrate and remember his life.
- Continue to hold the Grabxr, Rabenstexn and Dixxn families in prayer. Pray also for Kim, Jan and KJ, that they would feel Christ’s presence and strength as they remember Ed and Jerry.
- Pray for Carol Bxck and her siblings as they support their mother.
- Praise God that Kyle’s friend Mackenzie received some good news this week. Pray for her ongoing treatment and journey towards healing. Pray God would grant healing and a good recovery process for Peggy Wirxck and Deb Cramxr.
- Karen Sethuramxn is a Mennonite Mission worker in Belfast, Northern Ireland, a city divided by partisan conflict. Pray that God’s spirit will give her creativity and wisdom as she engages with people who aren’t attracted to traditional church practices.

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West Liberty, OH 43357
Pastor: Rebecca Kauffmxn (Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office hours: T & F 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Administrative Assistant: Miriam Lxapp (secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office Hours: W and F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Leadership Team: Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr, Carol Bxck, Byron Kauffmxn, Doug Steinxr, Ken Shxnk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women Serving in Love. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. Sandwiches will be provided. Bring a salad or dessert. Hostesses are Donna & Janice. Project: non-perishable foods for West Liberty Cares.

Christmas Breakfast next Sunday, December 12. Serving from 9:30 – 10:10 a.m. The kitchen crew will clean up from 10:10 – 10:30. Bring favorite breakfast breads to share. Breakfast casserole and fruit will be provided. Sunday School classes may meet if they wish. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

Thank you for your **Mission Month** special offerings during November! Together our gifts supported the ministries of:

Kingdom Investment International

Our Daily Bread's Christmas fund

Community Refugee & Immigration Service (CRIS) -
to provide "welcome kits" for refugees.

The **Gifts Discernment Committee** has processed filling the open Stewardship Chairperson position, and are recommending Ellen Steinxr for this role. If you have any concern or question about this, please speak to a GDC member by Sunday, Dec. 26. Following that time, it will be up to the Leadership Team to formally confirm the appointment. -Ken Shxnk, Carl Newcomxr, Janet Wilkxns

New **Rejoice devotionals** are outside the office. Please notify Ellen who is updating the list if you wish to continue receiving it or would like to be added to the list.

The Christmas season, with all its joy, can be a difficult time of year for those who have lost loved ones, who live with illness, or have other struggles. All are welcome to a **Longest Night Service** where we acknowledge our griefs and watch for God's light. The service will be held at Oak Grove on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm.

Plan to attend our **Christmas Eve Service**, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.
(over)

Community Christmas dinner. Volunteers are needed, especially for clean-up from 1:00-2:00 (or so). See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the meals (approx. \$250 per church), place your donation into the basket at the back of the sanctuary or marked in the regular offering. Drive through pick up 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. in front of Liberty Gathering Place on Christmas Day. To request delivery, place your order by calling Oak Grove at 937-465-4749 (can leave a message); say how many meals are requested and the address for delivery.

Ohio Conference will offer training in the **Missional Discipleship Initiative** (MDI) in order to equip disciples to become disciple-makers. Lay leaders and pastors are invited to join this new cohort. The program will run from January through June 2021; with online training twice a month as well as weekly face-to-face participation in 3-person Missional Discipleship Groups (MDG) in your local community. If you are interested, contact Pastor Rebecca, or Kevin Himxs at pastorkevin@salemnonitekidron.org as soon as possible.

We would like to begin singing together as a congregation again. In order to do that as safely as possible, we will need to wear our masks during the service, and especially while singing. Thank you for caring for one another in this way. May God's grace cover us as we worship together.

The number of Covid-19 cases and community spread in our area continues to be quite high, please take appropriate precautions (using masks and distance) given your own health factors and the vulnerability of those you come into contact with.