

Prelude to Worship

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

Candle Lighting

* Call to Worship

We lift our eyes up to you, our Lord, who is enthroned in heaven.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, so our eyes look to the Lord.

O God, you have called us to the risky task of following you.

Have mercy upon us,

give us courage and the strength to serve you with all that we have and all that we are, that when you return, we may enter into your joy.

* Opening Prayer

PRAISING GOD

* Hymn *Open now thy gates of beauty* HWB 19

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

As Jesus healed the afflicted and restored those who have died, he also forgives our sins and gives us new life. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

PROCLAIMING

Scripture Reading Judges 4:1-7

Hymn *O God, our help in ages past* HWB 328

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

Reflection

RESPONDING

* Hymn *I know not why God's wondrous grace* HWB 338

Offering and Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING

* Sending Hymn *Take thou my hand, O Father* HWB 581

* Benediction

Postlude

* *All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.*

Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated.

HWB – blue hymnal STS – purple hymnal STJ – green hymnal

Preacher: Charles Bontrager

Accompanist: John Gamin

Welcome to First Mennonite Church If you are new here today, we're glad you can worship with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you!

Today our worship service will be followed by a brown bag lunch and congregational **Planning Meeting**. You are encouraged to stay and participate as we gather ideas and plan our calendar for the coming months.

TODAY Cantate Singers present "Make Our Garden Grow - Planting seeds of Faith, Hope, and Love" at 5pm at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church, 14367 Hackett Rd, Dalton, OH (just north of Kidron).

There are **Salvation Army Angel Tags** on the back window. Please remember not to wrap the gifts, but adding a gift bag or wrapping paper for parents to use is much appreciated. Don't lose any part of the Angel Tag because it is needed for identifying the recipient and the recipient's family. Please have your gifts here at the church by Dec. 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie.

Last month our congregation collected 16 complete **MCC Hygiene Kits**, plus the following: 7 towels, 6 bars of soap, 8 toothbrushes, 400 diapers and 9 packs of wipes. These items will be added to kits at MCC Connections. Thank you for your contributions!

The 29th year of "**Search for the Christ Child**" will be held at Oak Grove Mennonite, Sunday, December 3rd, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm. This is a forty-five minute, indoor/outdoor, walk-through experience of what the first Christmas may have been like. Dress warmly! Admission: one article of canned food or toiletries for People to People Ministries. Everyone is welcome!

*Our **MISSION** is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

THIS WEEK November 19 – November 26

TODAY 9:30am Sunday School hour
10:45am Worship Service
12:00pm Brown Bag Lunch and Planning Meeting
5:00pm Cantate Singers – Sonnenberg Mennonite

Monday 🎙️ *Warren Croyle*
Tuesday 🎙️ *Abe Hartzler*
Wednesday 🎙️ *Sharon Graybill Fitch*
Thursday Thanksgiving
🎙️ *Emma Schroeder*
Announcements & calendar items for Sunday due by NOON to: chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com

Sunday 9:30am Sunday School hour
10:45am Worship Service

First Mennonite Church
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Charles Bontrager, Pastor
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Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
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