

GATHERING

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

* Call to Worship

Awake!

The invitation to carry light
comes from the God of restoration.

**O God, you amaze us with
your promise to build up the ancient ruins.
You say you will replace the ashes of the past
with garlands of beauty.
Your bold vision dazzles our doubting souls.**

(pause for silence)

Quiet our questions.

**Lead us beyond our fears,
and guide us on the path to peace.**

Let it be whole.

* Lighting of Advent Candle

* Hymn *Hail to the Lord's anointed* HWB 185
Opening Prayer

PRAISING GOD

Hymn *My soul cries out* STS 124
Offering
Quartet "Hark! The Glad Sound!"

PROCLAIMING

Woodworker's Visit
Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Sermon
Reflection

RESPONDING

* Hymn *All will be well* STJ 98
Confession

**O God of peace,
your justice wells up like a spring,**

**bringing dreams, laughter,
and wholeness to the world.**

We confess we so often stifle your Spirit.**We are afraid to claim that you anointed us
to carry your upside-down vision****into our broken world,****where the lowly are trampled upon,****the hungry go away empty,****the rich increase in power and might.****We confess we lack the courage to build up and repair
what we have broken, imprisoned, and oppressed.****Forgive us when we do not catch your vision.****Lead us beyond our fears,****and guide us on the path to peace.***(pause for silence)*

Words of Assurance

O God, Emmanuel,
in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING* Sending Hymn *The peace of the earth be with you* STJ 77

* 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 Worship Leader: Jan Croyle

Accompanist: John Gamin

*Quartet: Jenny Newcomer Haas, Jan Croyle,
Warren Croyle, Lowell Nofziger*

Advent 3 "Let It Be Whole" Rejoicing in God's comfort, we catch God's vision of shalom. We choose to join the Spirit that is already at work restoring creation.

TODAY immediately following the worship service you are invited to stay for a chili lunch followed by our annual Caroling.

Wednesday 6:00pm you are invited to a **Fellowship Meal** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting.(Choir rehearsal will follow.)

The new **2018 usher calendar** for the year is posted on the back window. Please sign up for any month you would like to usher, we especially need ushers for January. Thank you for signing up and serving the church. ~Ray Miller

Handel's "Messiah" will be performed at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville, **TODAY** at 2:30pm. This 84th rendition will feature soloists, an eight-piece orchestra and a 100 member choir directed by Brian Wiebe. (free-will offering)

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

LOOKING AHEAD*

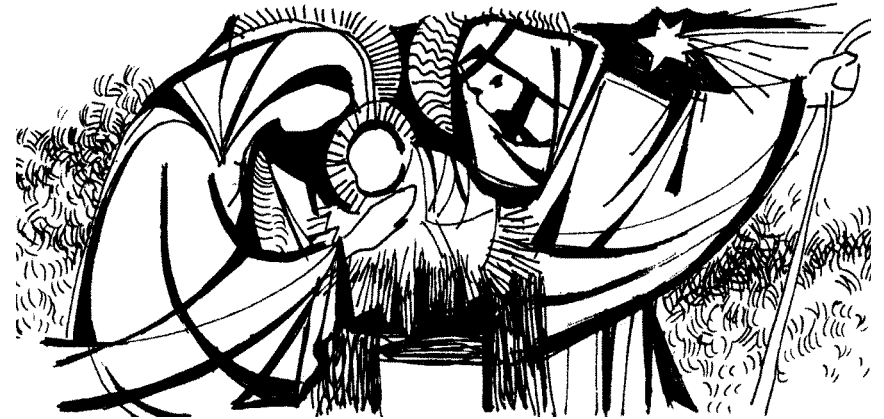
SUN 12/17 12pm Chili Lunch & Caroling
SUN 12/17, 2:30pm Handel's "Messiah" (Oak Grove Mennonite)
WED 12/20 6pm Potluck, 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal
SUN 12/24 7pm Christmas Eve Service (at Trease Rd)
SUN 12/31 12pm Coffee House
WED 1/3 Soup & Games Night
TUES 1/9 Deacons Meeting
WED 1/10 Worship Team
WED 1/17 Steering Team
SAT 1/20 3pm Winterfest at the Newcomer farm
SUN 2/4 Annual Meeting and carry in lunch
🕒 SUN 12/17 Pat & Lloyd Kilmer anniversary
🕒 MON 12/25 Mona Rohrer

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Charles Bontrager, Pastor
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Worship Service 10:45 am
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SHALOM



First Mennonite Church
A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA