

Joy



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

December 14, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

## WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

ORGANIST --- Scott Lehman ✝ WORSHIP LEADER --- Brent Hyman

Prelude

*O Come, All Ye Faithful/Hustad*

Welcome

Brent Hyman

\*#259 [brown] *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (vs. 1,2,5)

Reader's Theatre: "This is Advent: Joy"

Ryan & Brenda Beitler

\*#262 [brown] *Away in a Manger* (vs. 1,3)

\*#269 [brown] *How Great Our Joy!* (vs. 1,3)

\*#270 [brown] *Joy to the World!*

\*#271 [brown] *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

Children ages 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade may walk to Children's Church during the last song.

Offering Prayer for Conference Pastor

Pastor Jim Schwartz

Offertory

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*/arr. Davis

Chancel Choir

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-3

Jaidon Patterson

Message

*Joy*/Pastor Jeff Linthicum

\**Angels (Glory to God)*

Prayer and Share

Pastor Jeff Linthicum

Announcements

\*Benediction

Pastor Jeff Linthicum

\*Postlude

*Angels We Have Heard on High*/Hughes

If you would like someone to pray with you following the service, please go to the chapel, as someone is waiting to pray with you.

## TODAY AT FIRST MENNONITE

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (chapel): Tad Wulliman  
5:00-8:00 p.m. "Night in Bethlehem"

Please join us **TONIGHT** for a "Night in Bethlehem"! There are still a few slots for soup and shop owners if you are available. CLEAN UP helpers are needed **tonight at 8:00 p.m. and tomorrow morning!** Please contact Chris Hyman with questions.

The rose on the organ this morning is in honor of baby girl Stauffer, daughter of John & Renelle Stauffer, born on Dec. 9.

## ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

### TUESDAY – December 16

6:30 p.m. Sunshine Hour (not on livestream; listen on scanner)

### WEDNESDAY – December 17

5:15 p.m. Grace Notes rehearsal (choir room)

5:45-6:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal in the patio

6:10 p.m. JAM rehearsal (Room 7) and Mennonotes (choir room)

7:00 p.m. Ages 0-3: Nursery

7:00 p.m. Ages 4-K: Room at the bottom of the ramp

7:00 p.m. Grades 1-5: Family Life Center

7:00 p.m. Youth: Youth Room (opens at 6:30 p.m.)

7:00 p.m. Chapel: Genesis 37 (Dave Keim)

7:00 p.m. Band of Brothers: "Arguments from Experience" (Room 13)

7:00 p.m. She Shares: "Mary" (Room 15)

7:00 p.m. Young women's (20s & 30s) small group (Room 14)

7:00 p.m. "Journeying through Grief": Marcia & Jamie Cressman (Room 2)

7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Women's Ministries, and Quilting

8:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (choir loft of the sanctuary)

### SUNDAY – December 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Darren Kloepper

10:00 a.m. "Love": Pastor Jeff Linthicum

6:00 p.m. Caroling at Swiss Village (please meet at Swiss Village)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Affirmation Sunday:** Thank you to all who participated in Affirmation Sunday. All of the names were affirmed for the various commissions. We are so thankful for the following people who are willing to serve the Lord on these commissions starting January 2026: Care Commission—Elizabeth Fruechte and Sondra Lehman; Disciple Commission—Brandon Fruechte and John Stauffer; Witness Commission—Blake Gilbert and Graham Hart; Worship Commission—Ava Hirschy and Carson Tumbleson.

**Menu for Wednesday, December 17:** Merry Christmas Swiss Bliss, baked potato, green beans, dessert, and beverages. **Meal Set-Up:** Class 96 is responsible for setting up tables in December. The Cornerstone class will set up in January.

**Individual Year-End Giving:** In order to year-end contributions to be credited to this year's giving, **they must be received at the church office, or postmarked, by Wednesday, Dec. 31.** The church office will be open until noon on December 31. Contributions received after Dec. 31 will be posted as 2026 giving.

**Year-End Reports:** Treasurers of Sunday School classes, Chancel Choir, Mennonite Choral Society, please turn in your year-end reports by **Wednesday, Dec. 31.**

**Offering envelopes reminder:** Don't forget to pick up your offering envelopes for the new year on the table by the office. If you would like to begin using the envelope system in 2026, you may contact the office.

**Annual Business Meeting Reports:** Year-end reports for Ministries Council, Spiritual Guidance Cabinet, Stewardship/Facilities (Trustees), Adult Ministries Committee, Endowment Board of Trustees, Care Commission, Disciple Commission, Witness Commission, Worship Commission, and pastors are due to the church office **no later than Wednesday, Dec 31.**

**Christmas Books and DVDs:** Do you love a good Christmas story? You can find one now at the library! Check out the display in the foyer, or head down the ramp into the library itself and browse the display just inside the door.

**Children’s Ministries Openings:** We have these openings this winter: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school (once a month); K-2 Wednesday night teacher (every week for the quarter); and Wednesday baby/toddler nursery volunteers. Please contact Chris Hyman at [chris@firstmennonite.org](mailto:chris@firstmennonite.org) or call her at (260) 525-9967. You may also use the church app to let us know of your interest!

**Ohio State International Students:** Praise God for the six families and the 15 international Ohio State students in partnership with International Friendships Ministries. They will attend the Music Sunday service on Sunday, Dec. 21. Please greet them and be in prayer for these students and the host families.

**Missionary Prayer Requests:** Please continue to pray for our missionaries (prayer request sheets are on the table in the foyer). This is also a good time for each of us to send an email or card to any of our missionaries letting them know you are remembering them. This will be especially appreciated as the Christmas season approaches, and many are away from family. Prayer support is vital.

**MCC Meat Canner:** Mark your calendars! The MCC meat canner will be here at First Mennonite on **Friday, Jan. 23, and Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026.** Also, the Meat Canner Committee is looking for housing for two canner boys during their stay in Berne. The canner boys will be in town from **Thursday, Jan. 22, to Monday, Jan. 26, 2026.** For more information, please contact Paul Bluhm at (260) 223-2142.

**YOUTH**

**Christmas Party:** The Youth Christmas party is **Wednesday, Dec. 17.** Please bring a gift for the gift exchange (\$10 maximum).

**Ski Trip:** Join us on **Saturday, Jan. 24,** as we experience Midnight Madness at Mad River Mountain, located in central Ohio. Please sign up in the Youth room.

**Winter Retreat.** The Youth Winter Retreat is scheduled for **Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 2026.** Please sign up with the QR code in the Youth room.

**UPDATE ON THE CHURCH’S FINANCES**

As of the end of November, we have the following balance on hand:  
Benevolence/ Household Treasury                      \$ 308,235  
Actual spending compared to the approved plan for the Household Treasury is as follows:

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Plan</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
Disciple Commission	\$ 40,085	\$ 51,975	
Witness Commission	3,867	7,269	
Worship Commission	7,222	11,504	
Care Commission	12,899	11,229	
Personnel	562,813	580,622	
General Administration	31,134	35,017	
Church Property & Maintenance	<u>115,837</u>	<u>111,008</u>	
Total Household Treasury	\$ 773,857	\$808,624	<u>\$704,070</u>