

**PRAISE & PRAYER**  
**December 17, 2025**  
**First Mennonite Church**

**PRAISE:**

Father, we are filled with joy because of You. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our lives, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from You! The joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of Heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing today! May our joy be a witness of Your love, and our lives a song of praise as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

**Pray** for our workers of the week: Eldon & Jan.

- Over the years we've come to know many refugees. As time has passed, our connection with some has changed as they have moved on or just don't need our assistance as much. **Pray** that in 2026 we'll be led by the Lord to those specific ones who need a touch of His love and Gospel again.
- As Jan sees the teenagers at the juvenile lock-up each week, **pray** the Holy Spirit will touch the kids. Many say they have accepted salvation, so please **pray** they will have genuine hearts to really seek Him and His Word. Jan will also continue on her rotation at Redemption House for Bible study with women in an alternative to an incarceration program.
- **Pray** for wisdom in challenging situations with refugees. It is a privilege to come alongside them and be their friend as they face difficulties. May Jesus always shine in our lives, both in deed and in sharing the Word of God in 2026.
- **Pray** for HT, a young Burmese father and Christ-follower, who is in medical workup for a kidney transplant. Eldon is helping him connect and follow guidelines, coordinating with the IU transplant team. **Pray** for protection of HT's health and guidance as we navigate the process.

Max Cline, son of Kurt and Katie with Freedom International in the Dominican Republic, is recovering from an appendectomy last Friday.

**Pray** for 7 unspoken requests.

**CHURCH: Praise** God for the six host families and the 17 international Ohio State students visiting our community and church Dec. 19-21. **Pray** for the families and the students as they spend time together.

**Persecuted Church:** Four years after the Taliban took power, it's nearly impossible to practice Christianity openly in Afghanistan. **Pray** that Afghan Christians would feel the Holy Spirit in their loneliness. As Christmas approaches, **pray** that they would sense in their minds and hearts "Emmanuel God with us". Ask God to make their hearts strong in times of fear and silence. **Pray** for their physical safety, that they are not discovered, and for access to the Bible.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

**Hospital:** Matvii, son of Andrii and Inna (surgery went well; **pray** that he will gain strength and be home by Christmas)

**Swiss Village:** Jane Velasco (scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Thursday); Twyla Sprunger (recovering after her recent hospitalization)

**Home:** Jean Lehman (had gall bladder surgery this morning); Mark Sprunger (recovering from a recent surgery); Lora Sprunger (continues immunotherapy through the end of the year); Suanne Sprunger (**pray** for strength and healing as she continues treatments)

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • John & Sonja Bluhm                      | • Tad & Barb Wulliman                  |
| • Darin & Kim Ringger                     | • Janice Sackenheim                    |
| • Joe & Julie Adams                       | • Rod & Jane Mosser                    |
| • Paul & Carla Bluhm                      | • Bill & Cheryl Walker                 |
| • Tyler, Brittany, Juliana & Xavier Taing | • Carson, Erika, Enya & Esmé Tumbleson |

**PRAYER:**

Lord, Your Word says that Your joy is our strength. Help us remember that true joy is most evident in the midst of storms. Help us to embrace the trials of life as opportunities to see Your power and grace at work. Remind us that every challenge is a chance to experience the wonderful joy that comes from trusting in You. Let joy be our constant companion, and a beacon of hope that guides us through our darkest valleys.

---

Please phone Praise & Prayer items to the church office, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 589-3108; or Jim Schwartz, 525-0124