

PRAISE & PRAYER
December 3, 2025
First Mennonite Church

PRAISE:

Father, we praise You that You are our hope. Thank You that on that first Christmas You gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Jesus' birth so long ago began the new covenant that You would establish with all people. We are told that every generation should set its hope anew on You, not forgetting Your glorious miracles and obeying Your commands. We long to set our hopes anew in You—today and every day. This Advent, help us to focus on You as we prepare for the birth and return of Jesus. May Your hope, based on Your promises, fill us with joy and peace as we trust in You.

Pray for all of our workers of the week.

- In a season that can magnify loneliness, **pray** for workers to find a community where they can encounter Christ and share struggles and victories.
- As the year wraps up, many workers will start thinking ahead toward the next year. **Pray** for God to grant them wisdom and vision.
- Year-end can bring changes to support commitments or budgets, so **pray** for God to provide for every need.
- The Christmas season can involve increased spiritual opposition. **Pray** for physical safety and spiritual protection for them and their families.
- **Pray** that workers will find time for rest, worship, and spiritual reflection during the busyness of the holidays.

Pray for 6 unspoken requests.

Pray for comfort for Joe & Julie Adams and family in the death of Joe's brother, Richard Adams, on Dec. 2.

CHURCH: Pray for families during this holiday season. **Pray** that family gatherings will be times of blessings and encouragement. **Pray** for family members who are struggling with relationships within their families. **Pray** that this will truly be a time of peace as families are reminded of the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Persecuted Church: Pray for a congregation in northeast Kartoum in Sudan who was extremely traumatized as they were forced to stand and watch as their church building was demolished. **Pray** for Christians to receive emotional and spiritual healing from the now three-year-old war. Authorities have said that any building not complying to regulations would be destroyed through Khartoum State. **Pray** that God would thwart the plans for the destruction of more church buildings.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Hospital: Twyla Sprunger (at Parkview for tests and observation); Matvii, son of Andrii & Inna (in NICU at Riley Children's Hospital)

Swiss Village: Mark Sprunger (recovering from surgery); Carol Neuenschwander (in rehab)

Home: Dick Smitley (recovering from a broken kneecap); Brian McGavic, brother of Chris Hyman (prostate cancer; **pray** for wisdom and healing as they seek treatment options); 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

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| • Adam & Olivia Chrisman | • Shad Swygart |
| • Bud & Carol Lerdal | • Mark & Lisa Smith |
| • Dan, Shanti & Kaelyn Miller | • Rosie Hoffman |
| • Rick, Nancy & Curtis Sprunger | • Michael Richardson |
| • Joe, Jen, Haden & Colby Meyer | • Chris, Alyssa, Danielle,
Hannah & Olivia Adams |

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, You alone are the source of our hope. We place our hope in You as we prepare our hearts for Your glorious return. Help us overcome the anxieties and distractions of the past year, and give us the grace to walk in faith and trust in Your love. Renew our anticipation and guide us to share Your hope with others. We have hope in You, knowing You have promised a victorious ending.

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