

final rehearsal/rep time on January 3 during the Sunday school hour for any children or youth who are interested in participating. There is no requirement to come to the rehearsal on the 20th in order to participate on January 3. If you have any questions please contact Karen Haynes or Michelle Burkholder.

Community Café: HMC is scheduled to serve Community Café on Monday, January 4, 2016. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Please remember those less fortunate in our communities during the holiday season.

Hospitality Opportunity: MCC is looking for housing for a Ugandan woman who will be interning at the Washington Office from about January 10 until mid-April. Her visa does not allow her to work for pay, so she (and MCC) are hoping to find no-cost or very-low-cost housing. She recently completed a masters degree at a U.S. college, so presumably has quite good English. Contact the MCC Washington Office for more information:



Nursery: Childcare is provided for children ages newborn through three years old.	
 Assistive Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.	
Church Listserv: To add or change your email address, please email Jake Short. Facebook: Hyattsville Mennonite Church.	
Church Staff Schedule: The church office is closed on Mondays. <i>Cindy</i> will be available Tuesday and Wednesday. <i>Michelle</i> will be available Tuesday and Thursday. <i>Jake</i> will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday.	
Cynthia Lapp, Pastor Michelle Burkholder, Associate Pastor Jake Short, Administrative Assistant Kelly Heatwole, Treasurer Christian Yoder, Congregational Chair Nancy Gehman, Pastorate Chair	clapp@hyattsvillemennonite.org mburkholder@hyattsvillemennonite.org jshort@hyattsvillemennonite.org kelly.j.heatwole@gmail.com christian.yoder@gmail.com ngehman@verizon.net
Prayer Cards: If you want to share a prayer request in writing rather than verbally during the service, please use the space below, tear out this box, and place it in the prayer card box on the table in the foyer. Members of the Pastorate hold your joys, concerns, and sharings in prayer, both those shared verbally during the service and in writing.	
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Hyattsville Mennonite Church

A Christ-centered welcoming church committed to peace & justice.

4217 East-West Highway,
 Hyattsville, MD 20782
 301-927-7327
 www.hyattsvillemennonite.org

Vol. 63 December 20, 2015 No. 16

9:30—Sunday School 11:00—Worship Service

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

HWB – *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (blue)

STJ – *Sing The Journey* (green) STS – *Sing The Story* (purple)

Prelude Roxanne Ando, Mira Grieser

Praising

Call to Worship LeAnne Zook

One: Our souls magnify you, our God.

Our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.

Many: You have looked with favor on your lowly servants;

Because of you we are called “blessed.”

One: You have scattered the proud

And brought down the mighty.

Many: You have raised up the lowly

And filled the hungry.

One: You have remembered your mercy,

Helping those in need and their descendants forever.

All: Praise, praise God’s Holy Name!

Hymn: HWB 184 – *Hark! the glad sound* Eric Stoltzfus

Hymn: *Woke up this morning*

Confessing

Confession

Lighting the Advent Wreath Larry Miller & Stephen Wilcox

Hymn: HWB 172 – *O come, O come, Immanuel*

Hearing the Word

A Time for Children Saundra Plett

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:39-56

Message: *Freedom Bound: The Path Of Hope*
Hymn: HWB 180 – *The angel Gabriel*

Cynthia Lapp

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responding

Responses to the Message
Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Praying Together

The Work of the Church
Greeting our Guests
Announcements

The Ministry of Giving
Children's Offering
Offertory
Prayer of Dedication

Sending

Hymn: STS 124 – *My soul cries out*
Benediction

Visuals for Advent 2015: This year's Advent theme is "Freedom Bound." Visually we are exploring this theme through images of pathways. Freedom means different things to each person; likewise, the journey towards freedom takes on many forms. We never know what the pathway of that journey will be like or what might be encountered. You are invited to step into a visual journey of pathways this Advent season, both in the sanctuary and around the building. Each week more paths will be added to the display at the front of the church to continue to broaden and challenge our ideas about pathways to God's freedom. "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths." - Psalm 25:4

Advent Offering: This year's Advent offering will go to "Reunion DC," an interfaith community in Washington intent on "dismantling mass incarceration through relationship and commitment," and whose goal is 0% recidivism. You can read more at: <https://sites.google.com/site/reunionwvcw/>.

Longest Night Service: On December 21st at 7:30 p.m., please join in a service honoring the darkness and sorrows that accompany the light and joy of the Christmas season. The service will include poetry, instrumental music and space for silence. It will be a time of reflection, meditation, and inspiration to carry you through the longest night.

Christmas Eve Service: Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve service. It will be a service of lessons and carols featuring a women's choir. The service is this Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Offering: The Christmas Eve offering will go to the Suriname Indigenous Health Fund. The SIHFund provides indigenous people in Suriname's interior region with the materials and technical support they need to self-diagnose the effects of development, resource extraction, gold mining, and pollution from gold-mining on the health of their communities and their environment. For more information, see www.sihfund.org.

Advent Visuals Contributors: Thanks to the following people for the photo contributions to make the advent visuals a reality this year: Sam Zehr, Crissie Buckwalter, Jake Short, Judy Nord, Keith Swartzendruber, Kirsten Peterson, Peter Goering, Michelle Burkholder, Phil Oswald Christano, Sara Fretz-Goering, Sara Person, Doris Bartel, and Nancy Gehman.

Upcoming Sunday School Schedule: There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 27 and no Sunday School for kids or youth on Jan. 3.

Epiphany Pageant: Instead of a Christmas Pageant this year, we will have an Epiphany Pageant celebrating the journey of the wise ones during worship on January 3. This will be an interactive event requiring minimal rehearsal. Children age 4 through junior high who are able, will practice for the pageant next Sunday, December 20, during the Sunday School hour. We will hold one

TODAY

Greeter: Mark Nord
Ushers: Cheryl Fish-Parcham, Tim Platt
Nursery: Krysta Hawkey, Becca Walawender
Worship Arts: Sara Person

NEXT WEEK

Sara Fretz-Goering
Amy Whittington, Marc Friesen
Wyatt Feeler, Jeanette Stoltzfus
Kristin Sampson, Becca Walawender

TREASURER'S REPORT

Offering – \$6,530
Amount needed each week – \$5,752

Attendance – 137
Amount under budget – \$2,647

Scripture for next Sunday, December 27:

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

CALENDAR

Mon. 12/21—Longest Night service, 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 12/24—Christmas Eve service, 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 12/27—Christmas I; storytelling during worship; no Sunday School.
Sun. 1/3—Epiphany Sunday; Children and Youth pageant.
Sun. 1/10—Cynthia Lapp preaches.
