

**We Helped With That!** Thanks to all who contributed to the MCC Hygiene Kits for Refugee families. The 41 complete kits and many items for almost-complete kits were delivered to the MCC Material Resource Center in Ephrata. HMC also collected approximately \$1000 in funds toward this emergency effort. We can continue our efforts by keeping all refugees in our prayers.

**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.

**Nutcracker Tickets Available:** Kimberly Schmidt has two tickets available to the Joffrey Ballet's Nutcracker. The price was \$55 per ticket. She would like to get \$20 per ticket. The seats are in the first row of the first balcony tier. ■

Nursery: Childcare is provided for children ages newborn through three years old.	
 <b>Assistive Listening Devices</b> are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.	
<b>Church Listserv:</b> To add or change your email address, please email Jake Short. <b>Facebook:</b> Hyattsville Mennonite Church.	
<b>Church Staff Schedule:</b> The church office is closed on Mondays.  <i>Cindy</i> will be available Tuesday through Friday. <i>Michelle</i> will be available Tuesday and Thursday. <i>Jake</i> will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.	
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
<b>Prayer Cards:</b> 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 6, 2015 No. 14

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 Cheryl Fish-Parcham, Dwight Miyake, Janelle Tupper

**Praising**

Call to Worship LeAnne Zook

Leader: We wait for God's light to burst into our dark world.

Open your eyes. Unstop your ears.

**People: As we prepare for your coming,  
 we recognize that we are in need of change.**

Leader: Like the valleys and hills, the crooked paths and rough places,  
 we need your mercy to transform us.

**People: We confess that we still live in the shadows of apathy,  
 greed, and prejudice. Burn away in your refining fire all that  
 keeps us from you.**

**All: Kindle in us your merciful love, so that we may be freed to serve  
 and worship you in spirit and in truth.**

Hymn: HWB 174 – *Bless 'd be the God of Israel* Cynthia Lapp

**Confessing**

Confession

Lighting the Advent Wreath Karrie Peterson, Kirsten Peterson

Hymn: HWB 524 – *What mercy and divine compassion*

The Ministry of Giving

Children's Offering

Offertory

Cheryl Fish-Parcham, Dwight Miyake  
 Janelle Tupper

Prayer of Dedication

## Hearing the Word

A Time for Children

Sandra Plett

Scripture Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Message: ***Freedom Bound: The Path Of Mercy*** Michelle Burkholder

Hymn: HWB 176 – *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

## Responding

Responses to the Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Praying Together

Hymn: STJ 109 – *There is more love somewhere*

The Work of the Church

Greeting our Guests

Announcements

## Sending

Hymn: *Woke up this morning*

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Visuals for Advent 2015:** The theme for Advent this year is “Freedom Bound.” Visually we are exploring this theme through images of various 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. As their website notes, “the most significant indicators of successful re-entry from incarceration are available to us immediately: Relationship. Community. Friendship. Healing. Reconciliation. Matters of the heart and spirit.” Reunion believes there is a better way to address crime, justice, and brokenness than the present system. These new possibilities are only available as we learn together to be communities of redemption and love. You can read more about the organization and its activities at: <https://sites.google.com/site/reunionwwcw/>.

**Letter:** A new Mosque and Islamic Center has recently opened on Goodluck Rd, a few miles from HMC (<http://diyanetamerica.org>). In the current climate of violence and prejudice pointed at Muslims, Cindy and Michelle have written a letter extending a hand of friendship to this local group. It is on the back table, if you would like to sign it.

**Messiah Sing:** On December 13 during the morning worship, the congregation is invited to join in singing some choruses from Handel's *Messiah*. If you want to practice, take a look at "O thou that tellest," "For unto us a child," "Glory to God," and "Hallelujah." Please plan to bring scores if you have them.

**Fellowship Meal Next Sunday:** It will be a Christmas themed meal. Bring Christmas goodies to share and your own table service, if possible.

**Longest Night Service:** On December 21st at 7:30 p.m., please join in a service honoring the darkness and pain that is carried alongside the light and joy of the Christmas season. This will be a time of reflection, meditation and inspiration to carry you through the darkest night.

**Meals:** Meals are being provided to Katrina and Beuford for the next few weeks. Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449afa8283-meals1>. If you would like to provide a meal but cannot transport it, please email [REDACTED] and we can work to coordinate delivery.

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### TODAY

Greeter: Herb Reed

Ushers: Glen Gehman, Nancy Gehman

Nursery: Christina Hade Henriksson, Jakob Henriksson

Worship Arts: Roxanne Ando

### NEXT WEEK

Benjamin Graber

Dorothy Leissa, Brad Leissa

Alice Bender, Zsófia Tószegi

Meryt McGindley

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

Offering – \$3,295

Amount needed each week – \$5,752

Attendance – 84

Amount under budget – \$7,431

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### Scripture for next Sunday, December 13:

Isaiah 12:1-6; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18; Philippians 4:4-7

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### CALENDAR

Sun. 12/13—Advent III; *Messiah* sing during worship; fellowship meal.

Sun. 12/20—Advent IV; Cynthia Lapp preaches.

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.

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