Adult Education in January: Join us for our annual adult education Bible study in January. Wyatt Feeler will be leading a 3-part discussion series on Paul's first missionary journey and its immediate aftermath, as recounted in Acts 13-15. Come join us as we talk about sorcerers, Greek gods, broken friendships and councils - not to mention the many issues raised by the beginning of Christian missionary endeavors.

Syrian Christmas Cards: Many thanks to all who participated in the Syrian Christmas card exchange. We received cards back this week, and they are available to read on the table in the foyer, with a few addressed to specific people at HMC; you are welcome to take the card addressed to you.

Meditation Group: You are invited to join a meditation group that meets biweekly on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. at University Church of the Brethren. This is a joint meeting that includes HMC and UPCoB attendees. Please contact Mary Jo Schumacher for further 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.

Cindy will be available Wednesday and Thursday.

Michelle will be available Friday.

Jake will be in the office Monday and Friday.

Cynthia Lapp, Pastor Michelle Burkholder. Associate Pastor Jake Short, Administrative Assistant Sarah Hall Aguila, Treasurer Wyatt Feeler, Congregational Chair Mary Jo Schumacher, Pastorate Chair

clapp@hvattsvillemennonite.org mburkholder@hvattsvillemennonite.org ishort@hyattsvillemennonite.org sarah.hall.aguila@gmail.com wyatt.feeler@gmail.com trwmjs@comcast.net



9:30—Sunday School

10:30—Fellowship Time

11:00—Worship Service

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book (blue) STJ – Sing The Journey (green) STS – Sing The Story (purple)

Our theme during Advent is "Nurture in the Journey." The sanctuary has been transformed into a gathering tent, a shelter in the waiting, with our focus this morning on love.

Prelude

Kimberly Schmidt, Shuai Wang

Praising

Call to Worship*

Sara Fretz-Goering

One: Seasons come and seasons go, All: but our God endures forever. One: Our faith exhibits ebb and flow, All: but our God endures forever.

One: Our lives may freeze up or may grow,

All: but our God endures forever.

So let our souls magnify the Lord our God this day.

Hymn: STS 12 – Magnificat

Adam Tice

Lighting the Advent Candle: Micah 5: 2-5a Emily & Aric Merolli,

Asaka Merolli, Kyoko Merolli

Confessing

Magnificat Prayer of Confession**

One: When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,

All: Forgive us, O God.

One: When we ignore the mighty things you have done,

When we doubt your mercy,

All: Forgive us, O God.

One: When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,

All: When our power rests on the oppression of others,

One: When our wealth causes others to go hungry,

All: Forgive us, O God.

Help us, your servants - according to the promises you have made.

Hymn: *Unexpected and mysterious* (see insert)

Hearing the Word

Hymn: STS 16 – Love before us

Time for Children Penny Russell

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 80:1-7 Dwight Miyake Luke 1:39-45 Saundra Plett

Congregational response:

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, All: For the Word of God among us; For the Word of God within us; Thanks be to God.

Message: *God's Time* Cynthia Lapp

Hymn: STS 124 – My soul cries out

Responding

Responses to the Message Sharing of Joys and Concerns Praying Together Hymn: *Sanctuary Song*

The Work of the Church Greeting our Guests Announcements

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

Sending

Hymn: HWB 185 – Hail to the Lord's anointed

Benediction

TODAY

Greeter: Peter Goering

Ushers: Brad Leissa, Dorothy Leissa Nursery: Wyatt Feeler, Jeanette Stoltzfus

Worship Arts: David Conrad

NEXT WEEK

Jake Short Amy Whittington Elena Zehr, Mike Zehr

Weekly Goal - \$5,863

Jake Short

TREASURER'S REPORT

Offering Last Week – \$8,628 Advent Offering – \$2,458

Attendance Last Week - 118

Lectionary scripture for next Sunday, December 30:

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

CALENDAR

Sun. 12/24—Christmas Eve service, 5:00 p.m. (see announcement).

Sun. 12/30—Christmas I; Michelle Burkholder preaches.

Sun. 1/6—Epiphany; Michelle Burkholder preaches.

Mon. 1/7—Community Café (see announcement).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service: On December 24 at 5:00 p.m., we will hold our annual Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols! This service is full of music and Scripture as we gather together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Poinsettias Available: The poinsettias up front will be available to purchase following the Christmas Eve service. They will be \$10; exact change is preferred, or you can write a check.

Out of the Office for the Holidays: Cindy Lapp will be out of the office, but available Dec. 25-27, and then gone Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Michelle Burkholder will be gone Dec. 25-27.

Pre-Worship Fellowship Time, Dec. 30: There will be no Sunday School on December 30. Instead, at 10:00 a.m. in the HMC Fellowship Hall, all ages are welcome to gather for a time of informal fellowship and treats before church.

Community Café, January 7, 2019: HMC is scheduled to serve at Community Café on Monday, January 7, 2019. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer, or contact Jake Short for more information. Thank you for taking time to helping those less fortunate in our community during this busy holiday season.

^{*}written by Harry Disher: https://www.united-church.ca/worship

^{**}written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith: https://spaciousfaith.com/

Advent & Christmas Announcements

Advent Worship Arts: The worship visuals during this Advent season focus on the theme of *nurture in the journey* as chosen by HMC Council and Pastorate for the year. The journeys of Mary and Joseph, and the wise ones are familiar to us. We are conscious of the many people who undertake perilous journeys to escape danger, such as the caravan of migrants from Central America. Some journeys are physical or geographical in nature; some encompass a route to spiritual change or transformational justice. What visually represents nurture in such journeys? The cloth draped from the arched support beams conveys the shelter of a tent over our heads as we gather together, providing a nurturing space for reflection and support. The banners express a night sky thick with stars, which in the ever-darkening days of mid-winter in the northern hemisphere, might provide illumination, inspiration or direction.

Advent/Christmas Offering: Our Advent/Christmas offering will go to our work with DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network, an interfaith network of congregations in the DC/MD/VA region that provides support and solidarity to neighbors, friends, and family who fear being detained, deported or profiled. In the face of hate and discrimination, our faith calls us to show love, compassion and hospitality. A primary focus for the Network is Deportation Defense. This includes advocacy, community organizing, fundraising, family support, media outreach and communications. Network members accompany people to ICE check-ins, legal hearings and congressional visits; hold Defend Your Rights trainings; host people who are at risk of deportation; support congregations that are hosting; and press cities and states to get ICE out of schools, jails and courts and to end all policies that racially profile and over-incarcerate people of color. As an active member of the Network, HMC has already contributed significant time and energy to these activities. We are also called on to raise financial support for the Network's activities. HMC has a goal of raising \$5,000 through our Advent offering to support this work. The DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network needs to raise an additional \$50,000 in the next two months to hire one more part-time organizer. Thus, besides our congregational offering, we also invite anyone who may be interested in this cause to reach out to your personal networks to invite them to donate via an online giving platform here: https://give.faithinaction.org/team/DMV. Please contact Doris Bartel or Cindy Lapp if you have questions.

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