



December 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings



Expectation ... magic and mystery

Jake Hess, pastor

There's a kind of magic in the air this time of year, a hushed expectation blanketing creation. Maybe it's the muted dance of snowfall or its early morning sparkle, like a diamond desert. Maybe it's the laughter of children—that raucous joy—filling schools and streets and stores and homes. Maybe it's the warmth of families coming together around tables, the familiar songs, the gift-bearing man in red, bells ringing, or the buzz of preparation. Maybe it's all of this. And all despite winter's tightening grip and the lengthening of the dark night.

When reading the Gospels, however, it becomes clearer where this sense of magic—of mystery and wonder and awe—comes from. There, we find a story that stretches back centuries before its fulfillment, promising that from Bethlehem would come, *“one who will be a ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”* *One who will “stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord... whose greatness will reach the ends of the earth... and will be our peace”* (Micah 5).

And when the time approached, the magic awoke. There were visions and dreams. Barren wombs were opened. A virgin conceived. Foreigners followed stars from distant lands. Angels brought messages and warnings and their praises echoed over lonely pastures. Shepherds left sheep to seek a baby in a manger. Rulers plotted in fear. Babies leaped in wombs, young women sang, old men went mute, and aged widows prophesied. It seemed as though all creation were being swept up in the advent of Immanuel, of God drawing near. And there was wonder and awe in all directions as the dawn broke forth and light pierced the night.

May it be so with you this season. May the hushed expectation of Christmas flood over you like children's laughter, full of wonder and joy. May you feel its magic and mystery. And, in response to the dawning light, may we sing together—*“Come, Thou long expected Jesus... hope of all the earth thou art / Dear desire of every nation / Joy of every longing heart.”*

Vol. 35 No. 12

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Holiday services and activities

All are invited to join in these activities and services to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season. Bring friends and family members, too.

Caroling

Thursday, December 20, 6:30 pm

We will sing carols at Golden Living Center, 1001 W. Hively Avenue. This is where Larry and Ardith Garreffa and Sue Iavagnilio (church member) live.

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24, 5 pm

This service will help us relive the Christmas story in several ways and we will conclude with our traditional candle lighting and carol singing. Bring Christmas treats to share and enjoy a fellowship time following the service. (Planned by Greg and Beth Suderman, coordinated by the Worship Commission.)

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31, 6:30 pm

Service of Communion and candle-lighting. (Led by the deacons.)

Christingles represent God's love and Christ as our light

Our second annual Advent and Christmas decorating festivities on December 2 involved the younger children in making Christingles.

Traditional Moravian Christingles are made with oranges and candles, but Hively's Christingles started with a Styrofoam ball that

represents the world. A red ribbon circling the ball is a sign that God's love surrounds the world. Skewers with sweets and fruit snacks pointing in four directions signify the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. A glow stick in the center reminds us to celebrate Christ as the Light of the world. 



Everett and Tiana put skewers of marshmallows and candies on their Christingles.



Kaylee and Maya get a little encouragement from Esther as they make their Christingles.

Photos by Tyler Klassen

Recent ways we affirm and grow our faith

New members



Photos by Tyler Klassen

Five people joined the congregation as members on November 18. Both pastors, Tim Stair and Jake Hess (at left), led the segment of the service as the new members reaffirmed their faith and commitment to being followers of Jesus. New members are Lane Miller, Jan Stair, Samantha Crosser, Karen Cender and Norm Cender.

New members were asked to share comments for Hively Happenings and Karen said, "I enjoy the singing and sharing in the worship services. I also appreciate the church's hospitality by having hosts invite newcomers to lunch to get acquainted." Norm said, "I look forward to getting better acquainted with the congregation & I appreciate the sermons being given in common language (not having to look up words in a dictionary)."

New Bibles



Kaylee and Billi Jo, daughters of Samantha Crosser (at back), and Tiana and Layliana Potts, neighbors of Kathee Kirchner, received Shine On story Bibles on December 2. As a congregation, we give these Bibles to each family with young children to help them learn the Bible's stories, especially the message of God's love and grace. Brenda Summers, chairperson of the Christian Education Commission, presented the Bibles, and Jake Hess, pastor, led a prayer of blessing.

Announcements

Volunteer with SWAP

Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair

and personal need. Please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also check the latest newsletter at mcc.org/media/resources/8302.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Consider giving an AMBS six-week interactive online short course as a Christmas gift.

Upcoming options are Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture with Loren Johns, Ph.D., and Biblical Foundations for Creation Care with Ben Ollenburger, Ph.D. Both courses are noncredit and run Jan. 9–Feb. 19. ambs.edu/shortcourses

AMBS online course: Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations: Jan. 8–May 3. This three-credit-hour course examines foundational Islamic narratives and texts and how Muslims have interpreted these in law, doctrine and spirituality through the centuries. Gender issues, Muslim-Christian relations, and contemporary Muslim movements will be discussed. Instructor: Jacqueline Hoover, M.A., Teaching Affiliate in Islamic Studies and Muslim-Christian Relations at the University of Nottingham (U.K.) ambs.edu/academics/islam-and-christian-muslim-relations

AMBS Pastors and Leaders 2019: “Loving Our Neighbors in Tense Times”: Feb. 25–28. How do we respond to hate, intolerance and systemic racism in productive, transformative ways? What does the gospel of Jesus Christ call us to do in situations like these? We'll explore the biblical and theological grounding of our call to get involved and

become equipped to lead—right here, right now. Speakers: Andrew Draper, Ph.D.; David Hooker, Ph.D.; Maren Tyedmers Hange, M.Div. ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders

Leadership Clinics at AMBS: Monday, Feb. 25. Workshops offered: Documenting Suffering and Hope; An Introduction to Nonviolent Communication; Seeking Shalom: Faith-Based Community Organizing; Healthy Boundaries Training. Sign up by Jan. 10 for the lowest rate; group discounts are available. ambs.edu/leadershipclinics

The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 3–13. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. ambs.edu/trailofdeath

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. Encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this 2-1/2-year distance-friendly nondegree AMBS program. It involves online study, mentor-mentee meetings and one visit to AMBS per year. Apply by Jan. 4. ambs.edu/journey

Christmas giving projects

The Hively congregation is invited to contribute to two giving projects this Christmas season:

Gifts for Goldenrod residents

Goldenrod is an organization that provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Witness and Caring Commission is coordinating an effort to collect gifts for the residents of a Goldenrod home. There are five residents in the home and for each we have information that will help with selecting gifts. Please see the chart on the bulletin board in the foyer or call the church office for details. We want to provide two gifts per person.



Caps and mittens

We will fill the manger with winter wear and donate these to CAPS (Joy Rose Center), the Window and/or Emerge Ministries. Bring new mittens, gloves, caps and scarves any time before Christmas and place them in the manger at the front of the church.



Decorating for Advent and Christmas



During our second annual decorating festivities on December 2, the youth decorated the tree and hung the greenery above the windows. Younger children created Christingles (see page 2.)

Buzzing at the Hive



Hively calendar

December 16, 30

5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture

December 24

6:30 pm
Christmas eve service

December 31

6:30 pm
New Year's Eve service

January 16, 23

6 pm
Spiritual Emphasis
Theme: Spirituality and
Economics

Area activities

January 26

10 am-3 pm
Central District Conference
Regional Gathering
at Assembly Mennonite
Church, Goshen; hosted
by Open Table Fellowship

Our preschool Christmas program will be Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 6:45 p.m. There will be a CROWD, but church people are welcome to join us!

We appreciate all of our scholarship donors. You know who you are! You are a big encouragement to the staff and the scholarship recipients.

We are also very thankful for the church people who keep things working properly around the building, doing repairs and

maintenance.

And a BIG thank you to all who are helping with snow shoveling this winter! You are a blessing!

Christmas Break begins on Dec. 21, and preschool resumes on Jan. 7.

— Julee Hay, director



Celebrating
with you
God's gift of
love and grace

Jake

Mary

Jim

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*Oh, raise, raise a song on high, his mother sings her lullaby.
Joy, oh joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*