

***WELCOME TO ALL** who are guests this morning. We hope you feel warmly received and experience a time of worship. Please feel free to contact Pastor Susan if you would like to visit.*

“YES” CARDS FOUND IN THE BURLAP BAGS on pews may be placed in the offering plates each Sunday. Consider and put in writing the ways you are ready to say Yes to God.

DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP 10 A.M.: All are invited to an informal and festive Sunday morning gathering from 10 to 11 a.m. We will begin in the sanctuary by lighting our 4th Advent Candle and singing Christmas Carols. Then, we will gather around tables in Fellowship Hall and enjoy coffee, juice and rolls while learning about the tradition of Christingles. Assembling the Christingle includes oranges decorated with red ribbon, sweets, dried fruit, and a candle. Come and join us, young and old!

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE begins December 24 at 6 p.m.

OFFERINGS DURING ADVENT will be received per our regular offering schedule. In addition, during the offering time each Sunday, the children will collect infant receiving blankets from those who bring the blankets to the worship service. You may purchase receiving blankets in stores, or you may purchase one or more any Sunday morning prior to worship at a table in the foyer. The blankets will be our contribution to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) infant kits. **Please note MCC infant kit guidelines:** Receiving blankets must be lightweight flannel and minimum length of 36 inches. Our Christmas Eve offering will be for the work of MCC around the world.

THANKS TO ALL who are sewing and providing the flannel receiving blankets. Donations for the material and to MCC can be placed in the basket in the foyer. (Suggested donation of \$5 per blanket.) Thank you.

POINSETTIAS. Thank you for placing plants in the Fellowship Hall south window/door area. Plants can be taken home after the December 24 Christmas Eve Service.

SAVE THE DATE! Women’s Christmas Tea is planned for this Wednesday, December 13, 2 p.m. at Parkside. The focus will be on angels and you are invited to bring an angel(s) to show to the group. Feel free to bring a guest!

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS will be presented in our FMC Sanctuary this Friday, December 15! Bring the family or bring a friend to see this seasonal treasure presented by Tabor Professors and friends.

PLUS FIVE CHALLENGE: As most of you have noticed gift income has been lagging significantly behind expenses for most of this fiscal year. So much so that it is difficult to feel like small individual changes in giving can make any difference. However, given the number of regular giving units, an increase of \$5.00 per week by each would have kept our cash flow balance positive for most of the year. As an exercise, Stewardship is challenging each giving unit to: (1) add \$5.00 to their regular contribution on this month's second Sunday special offering December 10, and (2) prayerfully consider making the additional \$5.00 per week a permanent part of your giving plan. Since this fiscal year is nearly complete this effort alone won't bring our cash flow into balance. Our hope is this exercise prompts thoughtful consideration and discussion about giving to the mission and ministries of this congregation.

IF YOU STRUGGLE WITH MORE FEAR, worry or other negative thoughts than you wish you did, you are invited to join a Womens' **Book Read and/or Lunch Break Group** "*Unsinkable Faith*" by Tracie Miles - God-Filled Strategies to Transform the Way We Think, Feel, and Live. The group will meet from 12:30-1:30 for 10 weeks at First Mennonite Church fellowship hall beginning **Jan. 9**. Discussions will be facilitated by Nadine Friesen. Paperback or kindle books can be ordered on-line. If interested, let Nadine know at stillfriesen@gmail.com.

HISPANIC GROUP PIÑATA MEAL was a wonderful evening this past Sunday. We had 15 Tabor students, 15 community families, and 11 of the organizing team. What a blessing! Team members: Douglas and Nancy Graber, Jan and Deryll Amstutz, Susie and Glen Kliewer, Susan and Jim Jantzen, Jon and Juana Pritchard, Lori and Joel Soo Hoo.

Among Our Friends

We lift in prayer: Clariece Schroeder Lester Funk
 Marcella Ediger Janice Goertz
 Joel Klaassen Deanne Duerksen
 Joe Knoll

Angela Leiker and Larry Pawloski will be traveling to Ohio today to attend the funeral of Angela's grandmother.

Robert Jantzen, son of Jim and Susan, will again be climbing Aconcagua in Argentina this time as lead-guide, leaving the US Dec. 12, returning Jan. 2.

TABOR COLLEGE:

Handel's *Messiah* will be performed at **today** at 7 p.m. in the new Shari Flaming Center for the Arts. Doors open at 6 p.m.