



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

January 24, 2024

To All Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

Next Steps in our Journey - *Latest leadership plans and decisions*

Hi friends!

Pastor Kristine is on vacation! She flies home tonight and will be back in the office on Friday afternoon.

Ministry Council News:

- Council meeting tomorrow, January 25 at 5pm. Time to prep for the annual meeting.
- Carry-in lunch on Sunday, January 28. Our “Peace Party - Annual Meeting” will be a combined celebration. I am serious – you can bring your noise makers! (DO NOT FEAR – we know you want to get home for the football game!)

Worship News:

- Sunday, Jan.28 - Pray for Aleen Ratzlaff as she prepares a message to share this week on Jesus’ teaching and preaching. We will be in Luke 8.
- We look forward to having Tom Voth on guitar, Phil Duerksen on violin and Sue Buchholz on piano this Sunday.

Verse for Pondering: Luke 8:17-18 (NIV)

“For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. ¹⁸ Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

Among Our Friends and In Our Prayers

- Pray for one another through our directory! This week we focus prayers for **Doug & Pam Bartel, Mike & Debra Brandt, and Sue Buchholz.**
- Pray for God's leading and wisdom among us at our Peace Party and Annual Meeting.
- Verda Albrecht's surgery went well. She is hoping to come home today and will have several restrictions for a while and will stay home for a bit to be careful. Call or text her. She appreciates all concerns and prayers.
- Judy and Bob are seeing progress as he gets a bit stronger each day and they learn their new routines. He goes back to the doctor on Monday for a check up. Pray for good results, continued healing and fewer visits to the Dr.
- **WDC Request:** "As the New Year begins, we pray for God's guidance and blessings for the mission of the church. We ask for wisdom to spread His love, the strength to serve others selflessly, and the courage to share the message of hope. May our works reflect God's grace, uniting hearts in faith and compassion. Amen." - WDC Church Planting Commission

Our Upcoming Events

- THIS SUNDAY!!! January 28 – Peace Party & Annual Meeting! Bring food to share for a Carry-in Lunch.
- February 8 – We are providing an evening meal for CORE ministry. If you would like to help with this, contact Norma Duerksen.
- February 14 – Ash Wednesday service.
- February 25 – Peace Party!

Other Announcements

- Check out the new magazines on our rack in the hall. There is lots of interesting news! There are still a few of the Upper Room and Rejoice devotionals also for your taking for the new year.
- At **Main Street Ministries**, as we reflect on 2023, we are so very thankful for the role that each of you have played in what God has been orchestrating here. We recognize that this ministry would not be possible without the generosity that you have shown us financially, prayerfully, and physically through volunteering. God is restoring lives as they sojourn

through our ministry, but also restoring walls of this building that becomes home when families need it most. Thank you for your faithfulness in partnering with us. May God bless you as you have so richly blessed us.

In His Hands,

Main Street Ministries Staff and Board

Barb Shannon, Ciara Cox, Lynette Hiebert, Tami Driggers, Sara Wichert, Mary Steketee, Reg Matz, Dale Nuss, Bruce Jost, Jeff Funk and New Director, Cheryl Genandt

- January begins the busiest season of the year for **Mennonite Disaster Service**. They have at least 16 projects locations scattered throughout the nation in eight states as of now. This is a true healing ministry!
- If you are concerned about the state of US political discourse and its religious elements, if you are curious about strategies for leading with conviction and compassion in the coming year and beyond, **join Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee who will be speaking at Eastern Mennonite Seminary** on February 6 at 11a and 6:30p for free public events that will be accessible online. The two public events on Feb 6 will stream live via the EMS Facebook page.
- MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) shares a spotlight on the **Mastercard Foundation Africa Growth Fund**, their project in which MEDA and its partners use bold initiatives that work through African investment funds to **support early-stage, growth-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on the continent**. The initiative will help advance the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works strategy, which aims to **enable 30 million young people in Africa**, particularly young women, to access **dignified and fulfilling work** by 2030. They ask us to join them in giving thanks for this project.