



**This week please remember the following people in prayer:** Reg and Deb Roth and Roderick and Kathy Roth.

**Pray for those dealing with cancer:** Gary Garton (April Eichelberger's father), Perry Rich (Vernon & Jean Roth's grandson), Michael Stauffer (Dareld Stauffer's son), Nicky Goehring (Mary Jo Freyenberger's sister) and Tim Detweiler.

**Pray for those dealing with medical issues:** Denise Nebel, Gerald Nebel, Royce Roth, Doris Nelson, Kathryn Nebel, Harold Miller, and Dareld Stauffer.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Praise God for the Toba/Qom radio station that was inaugurated last month in the Argentine Chaco. Pray that the Christian programming will touch many lives through this ministry that is facilitated by Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, serving with Mennonite Mission Network.

**Central Plains Mennonite:** Pray for the Annual Meeting Task Group which meets next Tuesday in Des Moines to tour the site and make plans for Central Plains Annual Meeting next June 16-19, 2016.

**The oil lamp by the organ is a prayer reminder** from the Committee on Peace and Social Concerns. It will be lit for every service as a reminder to pray for peace and for the people of our world who are caught in war and violence.

## Sermon Notes & Prayer Requests

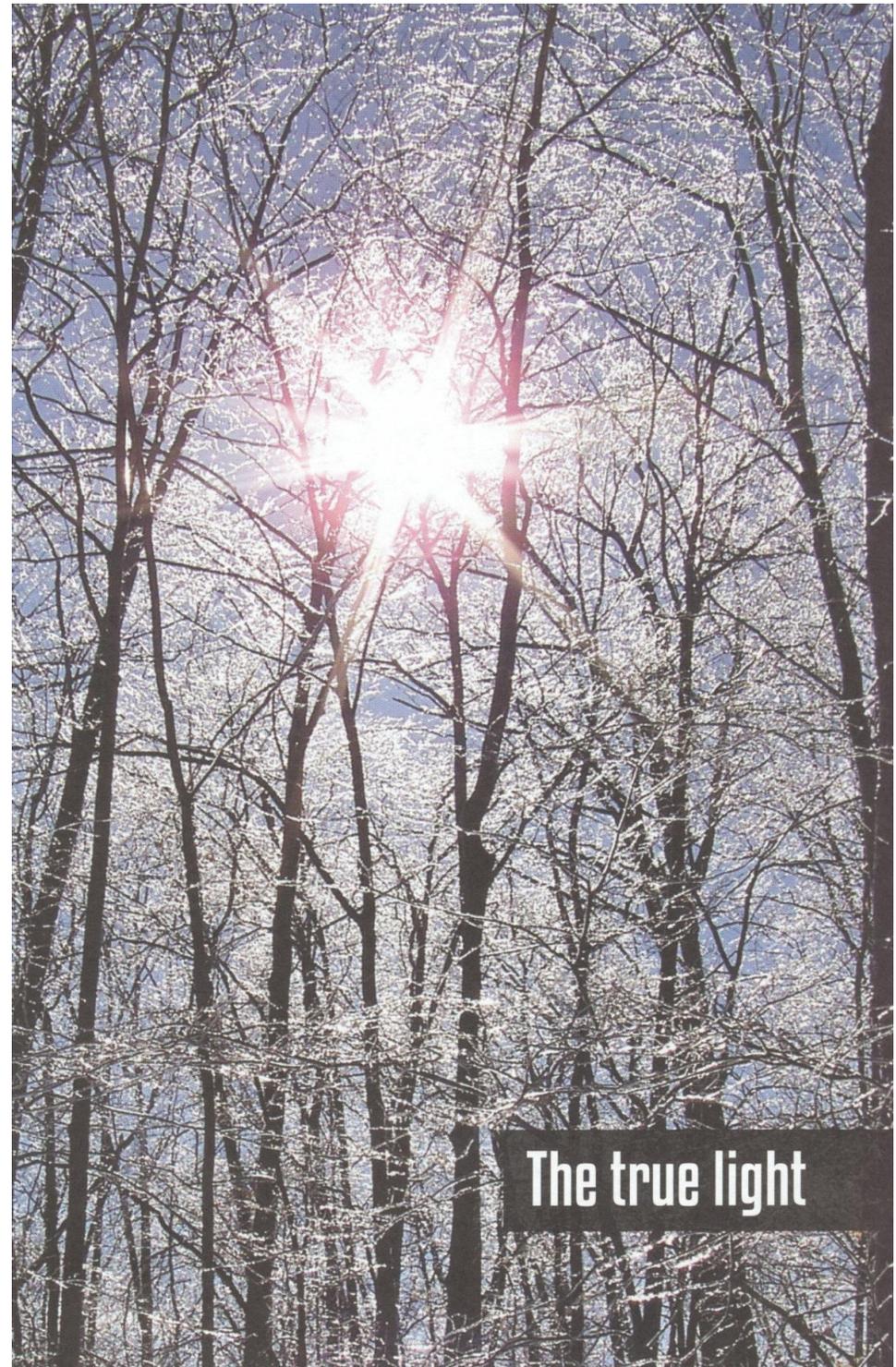


**Text for today:** "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. *The true light*, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:6-9, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18.

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**January 3, 2016**

*We welcome all to this place  
for worship of God and for Christian fellowship.  
Let us worship God in spirit and truth,  
reaching out to one another in Christ's love.*

8:45 a.m.: Prayer in the Prayer Room  
9:15 a.m.: Sunday School  
10:10 a.m.: Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m.: Worship

Worship Leader: Randy & Jan Shelman  
Song Leader: Kathy Roth  
Piano/Organ: Deb Roth

***Gathering***

Shine Jesus Shine  
Welcome & Announcements  
Call to Worship  
Opening Prayer

***Praising***

WB 638 God is working his purpose out  
WB 644 When morning gilds the skies

***Hear the Word***

Come and See Children's Story  
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg. 535 of OT in pew Bible)  
Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 1 of NT in pew Bible)  
Message: Nathan Luitjens "Freedom Bound: The Path of Inclusion"

***Responding***

WB 218 As with gladness men of old  
Offering: Conference (1/10 Home Missions)  
Sharing & Prayers

***We Are Sent***

Benediction  
WB 418 Move in our midst

## Sugar Creek MYF News

**Today, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6p.m.:** Bible Study with Pam. BJ in charge of snacks and devotions.

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6p.m.:** Bible Study. Jackson in charge of snacks and devotions.

**JYF– Indoor SNOWMAN Building, Meeting, January 6, at 6:44 p.m.**

**The Crowded Closet Thrift Shop, Iowa City, is** seeking a part time Furniture Assistant. This position would involve organizing and assisting with deliveries and pickups, transporting inventory and other items to and from the storage building, managing recycling, among other duties. Applicant must be able to work in a fast paced environment, be on your feet, be able to lift 30-50 lbs., work both independently and as part of a team. Looking for three 8-hour days, ideal candidate would work two Saturdays a month. Excellent public relation skills are required. For more information or detailed job description contact the Crowded Closet at 319-337-5924 or email crowdedcloset.gm@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted until January 15 or until the position is filled.

**Central Plains Mennonite Conference and the Ecuador Partnership** are planning a Fellowship and Learning Tour to Ecuador June 3-15, 2015. The purpose of this trip is to support Mennonite churches in Ecuador, Indigenous churches in Ecuador, and Central Plains Mennonite Conference by developing relationships with the Ecuadorian churches and learning about mission in their context. The number of participants is limited to 8 people. If you are interested in going to Ecuador this spring, please see the information sheet on the pastor's bulletin board.

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## SUGAR CREEK NEWS

**Congratulations to Abbey Roth and Bryce Shelman**, who were married Thursday, December 31st, at Sugar Creek. We wish God's blessing on them and their marriage.

**Pauline Wyse is looking for** someone to write the news for Sugar Creek for the Mennonite World Review. This person needs a computer. Please contact her if you are interested.

**MYF has volunteered to have the service of Valet** Parking for the Sugar Creek church on days when the conditions are snowy, icy, or below 0. The MYF will be available at 8:45 AM on those Sundays.

**Bible Reading Plans for 2016** are now available in the foyer. You can pick to read the whole Bible in a year or the New Testament in a year.

### TODAY

**Today, January 3**

• **6p.m. Promiseland/Xplore**

### THIS WEEK

**Wednesday, January 6**

• **1:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting**

• **Mennonite Women:** Project is Sewing Kits. The slips are in a basket on the shelf on the south side mail boxes.

### LAST SUNDAY

**Attendance: 138**

**Offering:** Home Missions \$4,885.30; Wash Hispanic Church \$900; IA City Hispanic Church \$150; Cemetery Fund \$750; MYF\$100

## Crooked Creek Christian Camp

**January 15-17, 2016, is WinterFest** for junior high students. Information packets are available from your church office or youth sponsor.

Save the date: **April 2-3, 2016**, is a one night High School Retreat. Details to come in January.

**Sunday afternoon open gym** at the Crooked Creek Camp Activity Center. Open gym will be the third Sunday at 3-5pm. Dates are: January 17, February 21, March 20, and April 17. Climbing wall available February 21.

**Monday morning open gym** at the Crooked Creek Camp Activity Center for parents and young children (Pre-Kindergarten and younger) from 10am-Noon. Dates are January 18, February 22, March 21, and April 18.

Consider giving to **camp's Fall Fundraiser** for our facility improvements in your end of year giving. Currently we are 39% of our goal of \$32,805.

**Please consider Parkview Home** in your Year End Giving. Renovate a Resident Room Project Donations are being accepted. Approximate cost per room is \$2,000.00, but any amount is appreciated.

Greetings Pastors and Congregations,

John's Gospel is not part of the Advent Scripture readings for this Christmas season, yet I find myself drawn again and again to John 1:4-5 this Advent season – "In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." This verse gives me hope as I begin a new journey in my life. On Wednesday of this week, I did not get the news I longed to hear from the pathology report following my surgery – you are cancer free. Instead, the word I received was that the cancer has spread and was found in the lymph areas that were tested. I plan to meet with an oncologist in the next two weeks to determine a treatment plan which will likely involve chemotherapy. This is as much as I know for now. I am recovering from surgery well and I feel like I am getting stronger each day which I praise God for. Thank you for your prayers and your expressions of caring support. I am also very grateful for the prayers of your congregation. It is a comfort to know that I am surrounded by the prayers and caring support of family, friends and my church family in Central Plains Mennonite Conference. The light of Christ shines in the dark places in our world and in our lives, and the darkness is not able to overcome it. This is the hope and faith I hold onto this Advent/Christmas season. Blessings to all of you,

Tim

**Need an indoor project for the cold winter months?** Consider creating, crafting, making or building an item for this year's Iowa Mennonite Relief Sale general auction. Proceeds from the sale support the global work of Mennonite Central Committee; "relief, development and peace in the name of Christ." Contact auction chair Lynn Yoder at 319-325-3670 or ey5840@netins.net for more information.