



This week please remember the following people in prayer Russ, Becky, Chloe, Drew, Eli, and Eivan Yoder.

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), and Nicky Goehring (Mary Jo Freyenberger's sister).

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

Please pray for Ron Miller as he will be having shoulder surgery on December 24th in Mount Pleasant.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for safe travels for Mennonite Mission Network's Christian Service participants going home for Christmas. Remember in a special way those who are not able to travel home and who will celebrate far from their families. May they experience the love and support of the communities they serve.

Central Plains Mennonite: Pray for Max Villatoro as well as for Gloria and the children as they spend their first Christmas separated from each other. Pray that God will make a way for Max to return to his family soon.

Pray for the leaders and children and youth involved in Promiseland, Xplore, JYF, and MYF. Pray for God to bless the leaders with wisdom, understanding, and love for the children and youth they lead. Pray for God to bless the children and youth with willing hearts and the chance to be examples to others.

December 20, 2015

*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: Rachelle Luitjens
Song Leader: Kathy Roth
Piano/Organ: Deb Roth
Special Music: Morgan Meyer & Tim Meyer

Gathering

STJ 109 There is more love
Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship
Opening Prayer
Lighting of Advent Candle- Nathan & Rachelle Luitjens Family

Praising

WB 99 The First Noel
WB 195 It came upon a midnight clear
O Little Town of Bethlehem - Morgan Meyer

Hear the Word

Come and See Children's Story
Mary did you know - Tim Meyer
Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a (pg. 671 of OT in pew Bible)
Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg. 680 of OT in pew Bible)
Message: Nathan Luitjens "Freedom Bound: The Path of Love"

Responding

WB 208 Love came down at Christmas
Offering: Missions (12/27 Home Missions & Loose Change)
Sharing & Prayers

We Are Sent

Benediction
O come let us adore Him

Thank you Russ & Becky Yoder for serving in the nursery today.

Sugar Creek MYF News

Today, 12/20: Off

Sunday, 12/27: Off

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.

SUGAR CREEK MENNONITE CHURCH

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Office Phone: 319-256-8811

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Pastors Nathan & Rachelle Luitjens

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Pam Gerig Unruh 256-7294 (pgunruh@gmail.com)

Ron Scarff 256-2335

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SUGAR CREEK NEWS

We extend our condolences to Deb Leichty & family for the death of her father, Jack Wynn, who passed away Monday, December 14th. May God's comfort, peace, and strength reign during this difficult time for all of Jack's family.

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.

Bulletin Announcements for the December 27th bulletin will be due in the office no later than 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 23rd. Bulletins will be printed on Wednesday the 23rd.

Pastors Nathan and Rachelle Luitjens and boys will be in Vancouver from December 21st-December 29th. Please pray for safe travels and an enjoyable time with family. If you need something during this time, please contact an elder.

TODAY

Today, Sunday, December 20

• **No Promiseland/Xplore**

This Week

Thursday, December 24

• **6 p.m.** Christmas Eve Service

Next Week

Sunday, December 27

• **10:30 a.m.** Pam Gerig Unruh will be preaching during morning worship service.

• **No Promiseland/Xplore**

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 6

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

It's time to sign up for Spring Electives! This spring Christian Education will be offering 2 elective classes: *The Heart of Christianity* taught by Matt Slagel and *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal* taught by Jen Slagel and Rachelle Luitjens. For those who do not want to participate in an elective The Builder will also be available for Sunday school classes. Sign up is available in the foyer. Books are available to look at now. **Sign-up will end TODAY.**

LAST SUNDAY

Attendance: 198

Offering: Home Missions \$6,150; Missions \$100; Parkview \$100

On behalf of the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, Mennonite Women would like to thank all of you who participated in this year's blood drive. The Blood Center was very happy that we reached their goal of 45 units. Thank you!

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.

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.

Greetings Central Plains Churches,

I am glad to be writing you on "this side" of surgery. My surgery went well and the surgeon was able to perform the lobectomy by doing a thoroscopic surgery which is less invasive. My surgery was on Tuesday morning and I was able to come home on Saturday evening. My recovery continues to be going well at home as long as I take it slow and stay on top of pain control. As many of you know, with the treatment for cancer comes the need to wait expectantly. My biggest challenge is to patiently wait for my biopsy results following surgery to determine whether or not the cancer has spread to other areas. This will be shared with me at my next scheduled doctor appointment on December 23. I draw strength during this Advent/Christmas season knowing that I do not wait alone. I wait with the healing presence of Jesus in my life; I wait being surrounded by a loving and caring family and church family; I wait being surrounded by the faithful prayers of pastors, churches and members of Central Plains Mennonite Conference; I wait in hope for freedom, healing and wellbeing. Please express my thanks to your congregation for all the faithful prayers and expressions of support that has been shown me on this journey. Blessings to you in your ongoing pastoral ministry and thank you for your faithful ministry.

Tim Detweiler

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