

From Vanco services:

### The gift of generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported East Union this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit [eastunionmennonite.org](http://eastunionmennonite.org) or contact the church office for more information.

**Learn outside of the box.** Service Adventure is a one-year opportunity to learn about God, life, and yourself, while serving others. Info and applications at [MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://MennoniteMission.net/Serve).

### Attendance Last Sunday:

Morning Service - 168    Sunday School - 132

### Giving through 11.24.13

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Last Week's Giving        | \$7,619.00   |
| Year to Date Giving       | \$273,096.99 |
| Avg. Weekly Needed        | \$8,795.93   |
| Weeks left in Budget year | 6            |
| New Roof Fund YTD         | \$2,280.00   |

Bulletin announcements should be in the office by 9:30 a.m. on Fridays.  
E-mail address for bulletin announcements: [Joyceschrock@hotmail.com](mailto:Joyceschrock@hotmail.com)  
East Union Web Site: [eastunionmennonite.org](http://eastunionmennonite.org)

# East Union Mennonite Church

5615 Gable Ave. SW, Kalona, Iowa 319-656-2590 Pastor Jay Miller  
Elders: Paulette Hershberger, Larry Detweiler,  
Lauralee Kauffman, Jeff Swartzentruber

### Mission Statement: (Core Values Underlined)

*East Union Mennonite Church is a community of love and worship<sup>3</sup>  
where the Scriptures and the Spirit guide all to faithful living,<sup>1</sup>  
all are welcome to grow in the way of Jesus,<sup>2</sup>  
and we share God's love with others in word and service,<sup>4</sup>  
so that we are a light of hope here and around the world.<sup>5</sup>*

|          |                  |        |
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|                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Worship Leader:                   | Dennis & Sally Miller  |
| Sermon:                           | Jay Miller             |
| Pre-Service, Offertory, Postlude: | Bruce Harvey           |
| Congregational Singing:           | Nici Bontrager/Quartet |
| Special Music:                    | Choir                  |
| Children's Time:                  | Judy Bontrager         |

9:15 am        Pre-service  
9:30 am        Worship

### O, the Mystery of God's Dwelling in our present!

#### WORSHIP

Choral Call to Worship: HWB 233 "How Joyful is the Dark"  
Call to Worship: back of bulletin  
Congregational Singing/Prayer  
Dramatic Reading  
Confession & Lighting of Advent Candle - back of bulletin  
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5  
Children's Time  
Sharing: Testimony, Concerns and Prayer  
Congregational Singing  
First Fruits Offering  
Business of the Community of Faith  
Special Music: "The Angel Gabriel" - Baring-Gould  
"Sicilian Bagpipers' Carol" - Katherine K. Davis  
Sermon Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: "Making the Mystery of God our Distraction to the World"

Parting Song

Sending & Postlude

Dismissal followed by 15 minutes of coffee/fellowship time

10:45 am Sunday School

***For Parents/Caregivers of Young Children:***

The Nursery Rooms at the back of the church (located to the right as you enter the sanctuary) are available as quiet rooms for infants during the worship service. This area is not staffed during the worship service, but is staffed during the Sunday School hour. If you have a "noisy" infant, we suggest you take the child to the Toddler Room (room #47 up the back hallway). This room is also available for children (up to 5 years of age) for play during the worship service and is staffed during both the worship service (after the opening songs) and Sunday School hour.

**Toddler Room Staff during Worship Service today:** Tom Miller &  
Rebecca Beachy Miller

**Toddler Room Staff during Worship Service next Sunday:** Kara &  
Cade Groenewold

**Toddler Room Helpers during Sunday School for December:** Marvin  
& Betsy Slabaugh

**Toddler Room Helpers during Sunday School for January:** Kyle &  
Allison Troyer

**PRAYER REMINDERS**

**Pleasantview Residents:** Edith Boese, Jeanette Yoder, L. David Yoder

**College Students:** Evelyn Charles, Vince Rhodes, Aimee Moberly

**Continued Concerns:** John Kern, Loretta Kauffman

**From Last Week's Sharing Time:** Will Dehogues traveling in Central America; Joe Featherston - Sarah Yoder's dad.

**We intercede to God on behalf of:** East Union brothers and sisters who are lonely, grieving, in pain, need healing or employment, or are carrying heavy burdens.

**Global Concerns**

**Iglesia Centro Cristiano & Pastor Martha Hernandez**

**From Mennonite Missions Network:** Barbara & Tad Wulliman of MMN, who live in Manilla, request prayer for the people of the Philippines. Many were still living in tents after an earthquake devastated their homes in October, when super-typhoon Haiyan pounded the islands. Pray that Christians will find tangible ways to share Jesus' love.

***Winter Address (Dec. 3, 2013 - March 28, 2014)***

Dale & Charlene Rhodes

945 Red Sandstone Rd., B-2

Vail, CO 81657

Cell phones: Dale - 319.430.6086, Charlene - 319.430.3765

***Farewell/Celebration Sunday for Jay and Sonia: Hold the Date!*** On Sunday, December 29th we will celebrate the ministry of Jay Miller. The day will begin with the Worship Service time followed by a Tea/Reception time immediately following. During this time of worship, sharing, reflection, and fellowship, we will say our final thank-you's, good-bye's, and blessings. There will be no Sunday School that day. Please join us! We know it is a busy time of year, so mark your calendars, now!

***We are still in need of an individual/ or individuals*** to help teach the Jr SS class during the months of March through August, 2014. You can sign up by the library on a monthly or quarterly basis. Substitutes are also needed. If you would be willing to do this or would like more information, please see Sarah Yoder or Carrie Schmidt.

**Crooked Creek Christian Camp Notes:**

***Please remember Camp's Fall Fundraiser*** and check your brochure for more information. Some items include a new roof for the house, table saw, commercial refrigerator and energy efficient lighting. ***"Come to the Table,"*** Craft Retreat will be Friday, December 6-Saturday, December 7 for a time of crafting and fellowship. Detailed information about the retreat is in your November newsletter or visit [www.crookedcreekcamp.org](http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org) under the "Program Page" for more information and to register. You may also register and ask questions by calling the camp office 319-653-3611.

***Crowded Closet will be having a Christmas Breakfast*** for Volunteers on Saturday, December 14th from 8:30-11:00. Volunteers will also be able to shop at 50%off in the Gift and Thrift.

## ***Advocates***

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM**

Mark your calendars for an evening of **Minute to Win it** Holiday Style! The evening will be filled with partnership building games and a lot of silliness. Bring your favorite holiday snack and join us at East Union. Hot cider and hot chocolate will be provided. RSVP to Lisa Yoder at: [lisyoder@gmail.com](mailto:lisyoder@gmail.com) 319.430.0251 319.656.3046

***Give Hope on Giving Tuesday, December 3!*** Not sure what Giving Tuesday is? It's a day dedicated to kicking off the Christmas giving season, a reminder that Christmas is about more than buying gifts. Give a gift of hope by supporting the work of MCC this Christmas season. Want to double your money? All gifts from first time donors will be matched dollar for dollar on Giving Tuesday. Donate online at [mcc.org/giving-tuesday](http://mcc.org/giving-tuesday) or send checks to MCC PO Box 500 Akron, PA 17501 with Giving Tuesday on the memo line.

***You are invited to Deutsche Weihnachten (German Christmas Service)*** at Zion Lutheran Church, 310 N. Johnson St., Iowa City at 4 pm on Sunday, December 15. There is information on the bulletin board.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

### **Monday, December 2**

- ***Last call! Come to the Table craft retreat*** registrations are due **Monday December 2nd.** Bring your laptops and work on an online scrapbook, your sewing machine and quilt or just bring a good book and fellowship. Register online at [crookedcreekcamp.org](http://crookedcreekcamp.org) or call camp at 319-653-3611.

### **Tuesday, December 3**

- ***Mennonite Women will meet at the church.*** Sustaining Hope: Naomi, Orpah, & Ruth. Devotional leader is Lauralee Kauffman; Project: towels & soap/cash; Christmas Mystery Lunch - furnished.

### **Wednesday, December 4**

- ***Choir practice at East Union at 7 pm.***

### **Saturday, December 7**

- ***Pathway - Grilled Chicken Dinner*** 5 - 8 PM Proceeds subsidize the operating fund.

### **Next Sunday, December 8**

- ***Mark your calendar.*** Stirred will provide a worship in music service at 3:00 p.m. Former members of Stirred are being invited to join and help with this worship service and fun time of singing together.