

# East Union Mennonite Church

5615 Gable Ave. SW (319) 656-2590 www.eastunionmennonite.org

## Our Mission:

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

**Our Motto:** *Growing in the way of Jesus, sharing God's love, Word & hope.*

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*"O That you would reveal your Mystery"*

Worship Leader	Phil & Judy Yoder
The Prophecy	David Charles
Sermon	Firman Gingerich
Pre-Service, Postlude, Offering	Verna Zook
Congregational Singing	Beth Swartzendruber & Quartet
Children's Time	Chris Rhodes & Catrina Miiller

## WORSHIP

Advent 3: *"O that You would reveal Your Joy"*

Call to Worship - back of bulletin  
 Congregational Singing / Prayer  
 The Prophecy: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 Lighting the Advent Candle  
 Confession - back of bulletin  
 Children's Time  
 Advent Song "Reveal Your Mystery"  
 The Gospel. John 1:6-8, 19-28  
 Sermon "Beauty for Ashes"  
 Song of Response  
 Announcements  
 First Fruits Offering  
 Sharing Time, Testimony and Concerns  
 Congregational Prayer  
 Sending Song  
 Benediction

15 minutes of coffee & fellowship time  
 10:45 a.m. 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 and their parents during the worship service. The Toddler Room (room #47 up the steps to the back hallway) is 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: Bev Swartzentruber & Jenna Boller  
 Next Sunday: Grace Rempel & Avery Blauvelt

## Toddler Room Staff during Sunday School:

Today: Gaylord & Shirley Yoder & Janet Geyer  
 Next Sunday: No Sunday School

## PRAYER REMINDERS

**Pleasantview Home:** Charlotte Winborn, Marguerite Zook

**College Students:** Cameron Gingerich, Emma Yoder

**Praying for God's Healing and Hope for** our shared concerns.

**Praying for God's Healing and Peace for** the victims of human trafficking and the work of Restored Innocence. May we progress from "interested observers to incurable fanatics".

**Iglesia Centro Cristiano & Pastor Martha Hernandez**

**From Mennonite Mission Network:** Alfonsina Oyanguren, who serves in Argentina with Mennonite Mission Network, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She has to travel 800 miles for surgery and a treatment regimen. Pray for peace and healing for Alfonsina. Pray also for husband, Jose, and their four children as they miss Alfonsina at home.

**From Mennonite Education Agency:** Pray for motivation and clarity of vision for students graduating from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, VA. in December and for those anticipating graduation in April.

## East Union Mennonite Church

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### Congregational Leader Contact Information:

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 Jeff Swartzentruber, Elder.....jeffbev0604@gmail.com.....656-4542  
 Karen Harvey, Elder.....bkharvey@kctc.net.....656-3009  
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 Greg Schmidt, Moderator.....schmig1@kctc.net.....656-3812

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Pathway Christian School** Christmas Program will be Thursday, December 18 at 7 PM. Everyone is invited.

**Deutsches Weihnachten** will be held at Zion Lutheran Church (310 N Johnson St, Iowa City) on Sunday, December 21 at 4 p.m. All are invited to attend.

### **Iowa Mennonite School**

- The IMS music department, under the direction of Josh Tyson, will present the annual Christmas Concert at 3:00 pm this afternoon. All choral groups, including Chorale, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers will present...as well as the Symphonic Band. There is no admission, but a free-will offering will be taken in support of the music program at IMS. All are invited to attend.
- Following the IMS Music Concert this afternoon, all 6th-8th graders and their families are invited to a gathering in the upper foyer and gym area; there will be games and refreshments, as well as an activity with Susan See's piano students. The IMS Compassion Club is helping host the event.
- The IMS Alumni Association, along with area businesses, is hosting the annual *Alumni Night* festivities at the school, on Saturday, December 20. There are four ballgames on tap, beginning with a 2:00 pm JV girls game, followed by the JV boys, varsity girls, and varsity boys. Alumni are encouraged to register for prizes to be given away at halftime of the girls and boys varsity games...registration for prizes will open at 4:00 pm; alumni will also be given coupons to redeem at the concession stand.

**Advent At-Home Family Devotionals.** Families, we have available for you a set of Advent At-Home Devotionals so you can celebrate Advent at home this holiday season. Nurture your family's identity as Christ-followers with these daily scripture readings and activities. Here is the link where you can find the devotionals in several formats. You could even use the "booklet" form of the document and print booklets for your families!

<http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/SelectDownloadFormat/43/17175>.

*Bulletin announcements should be in the office by 9:30 am on Fridays. You may email your announcements to Crystal at: [eucares@kctc.net](mailto:eucares@kctc.net) or place them in the Office Manager mailbox.*

*December 14<sup>th</sup> Bulletin insert*

## THIS WEEK AT EAST UNION

### **Today, Sunday, December 14**

- "The Shekinah class will be viewing the next of our NOOMA dvd series this Sunday. All adult Sunday School classes are welcome to join us during the Sunday school hour. The NOOMA dvds are short films (10-14 min.) which we follow with group discussion. Today's film is entitled 'She' and challenges our view of God and gender. Join us in the Church Council Room after Coffee/Fellowship time!"

### **Wednesday, December 17**

- Choir Practice 7pm

### **Thursday, December 18**

- Women's Bible Study 7pm

### **Saturday, December 20**

- Children's Program Dress Rehearsal 9am

### **Next Sunday, December 21**

- Children's Christmas Program / No Sunday School
- The MYF will have cookies and various treats available during coffee time after the Christmas Program. Funds raised will go towards MCUSA Youth Convention in Kansas City.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**December 24 -** Plan now to attend our traditional Christmas Eve service. Invite friends and family to join us on December 24, 10:30 p.m. to celebrate the birth of Christ.

**December 28 -** No Sunday School

**Looking Ahead,** Study and Worship series, for January 11 - February 15, "Seeking God's Will Together, a congregational study on communal biblical discernment." See mailbox insert for schedule and theme.

**January 11, 4:30-6:00 pm.** Town Hall Meeting hosted by our Elders. We will begin doing foundational work for calling a new pastor. At this meeting we will work toward developing a Job Description for our future pastor and initiate work at forming a Pastoral Search Committee.

## CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thanks so much* for the great birthday surprise last Sunday. The potluck, cards and well wishes were wonderful. Feeling older and much blessed.  
~ Firman and Susan Gingerich.



**The East Union youth Christmas program,** BROADCASTING CHRISTMAS, will be Sunday, Dec. 21 during the church service. It will be a 1940's radio-style detective show (a la Garrison Keillor's Guy Noir). Will Gil Gumshoe and Miss Placed discover the true meaning of Christmas? Don't miss this!  
**\*\*Parents/SS teachers: Sunday school time will be used for rehearsal today and there is a DRESS REHEARSAL SAT. DEC. 20 AT 9:00AM. (No SS on the 21st.)**

**Shine on Story Bibles:** The Shine On Story Bibles are an important part of our primary/junior department curriculum. The Shine On Bibles are the source for Bible stories that our children engage in weekly during the Sunday School hour. On Sunday, December 7, each family in our primary/junior department received a copy of the Shine Bible as a gift from the church. There is also a copy of the Story Bible our church library that will be available for check out. These bibles were purchased with memorial funds from the church.

If you have another special child in your life that you would like to purchase a Story Bible, you can order at <https://shinecurriculum.com> (store).

Below is the list of scripture texts for the remaining weeks in December. Families can enjoy these stories at home using their Shine on Bibles.

December 14: Luke 1:26-56  
December 21: Luke 2: 1-7  
December 28: Luke 2:1-20

**Christmas Giving Opportunity** MCC Meat Canning is coming to SE Iowa! Helmuth Repair will be the site and the dates are Monday & Tuesday, January 5th & 6th. The Old Order Amish will supply the labor on January 5th, but other volunteers are needed to help set up on Saturday afternoon, January 3rd and for canning January 6th. The shifts are morning (7:30-noon), afternoon (noon-5pm), and evening (5pm-??). An immediate need is for cash to purchase meat and supplies. The meat (frozen turkey thighs) is purchased from West Liberty Foods. Send your checks to **Southeast Iowa Meat Canning, c/o David Lee Miller, 5541 Cosgrove Rd. SW, Kalona IA 52247.** MCC canned meat finds its way to hungry people all over the world. Your support is very much appreciated.

**THANK YOU** to the many that helped with the fun birthday party last Sunday! To each class and the ones that decorated the '65' cards, to the MYF for helping with set-up, to the Koinonia class for helping with the decorating and clean-up, to Jane M. and Beth S. for the slide show and photography, to Trent and Chris for video-taping and to our spouses for helping in so many ways. Also to all those who contributed to the amazing pot-luck. What a great church family to be a part of!

~The Elders: Lauralee, Karen, Larry, and Jeff

**The Berean Class** is sponsoring Food For Kids Against Hunger as the project for January 5<sup>th</sup>, CHOW night. We need approximately \$1800 to cover the cost of supplies and would invite you to help us get to this goal. A second offering will be taken on December 21 for this project.

**Offering Envelopes** for 2015 are on the literature table in the foyer. If you would like to use offering envelopes next year, please take a box and sign your name next to the number you are taking. Thank you!

**Wedding Shower.** Attention women of the church: There will be a wedding shower on Monday, December 15th at 7:00 pm for Jeffrey Miller and Jessica Sheley. They are registered at **Bed Bath & Beyond** and **Target**.

**Our Journey Wall:** Please make sure you have a part of your families story on our Journey Wall!

## CENTRAL PLAINS and MENNONITE AGENCIES

**The Central Plains Mennonite** Conference Ecuador Partnership is organizing a work team to travel to Ecuador late February-early March, 2015 to work on a church building located 2 hours outside of Quito, Ecuador. For more information contact Doyle Roth at 402-761-2847 or 402-641-0266 or by email at [doyleroth@hotmail.com](mailto:doyleroth@hotmail.com)

**Register now for PA 2015,** the Mennonite World Conference Assembly to be held July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Nearly 1,000 persons have registered already, including 150 people from Zimbabwe! To register go to: [www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015).

<b>Attendance Last Sunday:</b>	
Morning Worship: 156	Sunday School:
<b>Giving through 12.7.14</b>	
December 7th Giving	\$ 7,247.00
Year-to-Date Giving	\$ 274,981.67
Average Weekly Giving Needed:	\$ 15,201.17