

Attendance Last Sunday:	
Morning Worship: 143	Sunday School: 103
Giving through 11.29.15	
November 29th Giving	\$ 3,539.00
Year-to-date Giving	\$ 259,379.83
Average Weekly Giving Needed:	\$ 8,958.79

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: Norman Schrock & Jacob Boller
Next Sunday: Judy Showalter & Sarena Gerber

East Union Mennonite Church	
5615 Gable Ave. SW Kalona, Iowa 52247	Phone: (319) 656-2590 www.eastunionmennonite.org E-Mail: eucares@kctc.net
Congregational Leader Contact Information:	
Joel Beachy, Pastor.....	jjoelbeachy@gmail.com319-591-0187
Firman Gingerich, Transitional Pastor....	FJGingerich@gmail.com319-855-8379
Jeff Swartzentruber, Elder.....	jeffbev0604@gmail.com656-4542
Karen Harvey, Elder.....	bkharvey@kctc.net656-3009
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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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Worship Leader	Doyle & Janet Geyer
Sermon	Firman Gingerich
Pre-Service, Offering, Postlude	Bruce Harvey
Congregational Singing	Karenza Yoder & Quartet
Special Music	Adult Choir

WORSHIP

Advent 2: "Let It be known, A new day is dawning"

Call to Worship / Prayer

Leader: We wait for God's light to burst into our dark world.
Open your eyes. Unstop your ears.

People: **As we prepare for your coming, we recognize that we are in need of change.**

Leader: Like the valleys and hills, the crooked paths and rough places, we need your mercy to transform us.

People: **We confess that we still live in the shadows of apathy, greed, and prejudice. May your refining fire burn away all that keeps us from you.**

All: ***Kindle in us your merciful love, so that we may be freed to serve and worship you in spirit and in truth.***

Congregational Singing

The Prophecy Malachi 3:1-4

Lighting the Advent Candle Evelyn Gerber and Grace Rempel

Leaders: We watch and wait for Christ's coming.

We light a candle each week remembering the promise of God.

Today we light a candle of Love,

"Let It be known, A new day is dawning"

All: ***"Let It be known, A new day is dawning"***

"Yonder Come Day" (Theme song) STJ 115

Parent Child Dedication

Angie & Chase Gingerich bring Garrett for dedication

Adult Choir

The Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Sermon "Finding Hope in the Wilderness"

Song of Response

A Service of Celebrating Transition for Firman Gingerich

led by Joel Beachy

Advent response

Sharing Time, Prayer concerns

Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Nativity Memories - Trent Yoder

First Fruits Offering

Sending Song

Benediction

15 minutes of coffee & fellowship time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

PRAYER REMINDERS

Oskaloosa Care Center: Marilyn Yutzy

College Students: Tommy & Gabriela Cikos Rhodes, Will DeHogues

Serving in MCC in Bangladesh: Jen, Kerry, Idonea & Halid Saner-Harvey

Praying for God's Healing and Hope: Sam Hochstetler

Central Plains: Pray for Tim Detweiler who will be having surgery on Tuesday, December 8, to remove the cancerous nodule in his right lung.

Recovering time at home is expected to be between two to four weeks following surgery.

Mennonite Mission Network: Join Mennonite Mission Network in thanking God for the safety of five international workers based in Paris, France, during the November bombings. Pray for wisdom as French Mennonites and others discern how to respond to these tragedies and to the violence that occurs in the other countries on a daily basis.

Mennonite Education Agency: Pray for the Faith Walk class at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, Lansdale, Pa. as they participate in a weekend retreat to share faith stories, grow in relationships and explore spiritual practices.

THIS WEEK AT EAST UNION

Today Sunday, December 6

- **Jr MYF Fundraising Meal** The Jr. MYF will be having a potato bar immediately following the service to help provide funds for the Junior Youth WinterFest 2016 located at Crooked Creek.

Wednesday, December 9

- Choir Practice 7 pm

LOOKING AHEAD



Sunday, December 20 - The Children's Christmas program will be during our regular church service. Our children's choirs will provide lots of wonderful music and narration AND you'll want to come see the much older "kids" playing parts in our living nativity!

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

Sunday, December 27 - No Sunday School

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crooked Creek Christian Camp Each year camps fall fundraiser is intended for facility improvements. Our goal is \$32,805 to improvement the pavilion (summer camp), house and tractor. Thank you for your gifts and support in providing excellent facilities for guests to enjoy in a setting that celebrates God's creation.

Iowa Mennonite School

- * IMS's Music Department will present the annual Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec 13 at 2:30 pm in the school's *Celebration Hall*. The concert will include the vocal department as well as the Symphonic Band. All are under the direction of Josh Tyson; a free-will offering will benefit the Music Boosters.
- * A Prospective Student Christmas Party is taking place at IMS on Sunday, Dec 13 following the annual Christmas Concert. Students in 6th-8th grade - and any interested in transferring - are invited to enjoy cookies and games with our student government leaders. It will last approximately an hour; families are also invited to participate. For more information, contact the school.
- * Interested boys in the 4th-5th grades are invited to participate in a basketball scrimmage during halftime of the varsity IMS games on Saturday, Dec. 19. Come and enjoy meeting new people and showcasing your skills on the court!
- * Iowa Mennonite School's *Alumni Night* activities are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 18 during the triple-header basketball contest with Pekin. The boys JV will play at 4:30 pm, followed by the girls varsity at 6:00 and the boys varsity at 7:30. Anyone attending the game will be eligible to register for prizes to be given away at halftime of the varsity games; alumni will receive coupons to the concession stand. The registration table will open at 5:00 pm. Come and reconnect with classmates from years gone by!

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children Safety Several comments have come to us the past weeks about children playing and safety while at church after scheduled services and Sunday School. We want to celebrate the gift that families and children are to all of us at East Union Mennonite Church. We love the energy and hope our children bring us. We believe this topic warrants a conversation at a future Townhall meeting. We would love a broader conversation to help develop some values to guide what we value as appropriate.

Until we have that broader conversation, we would like parents to help ensure everyone's safety by saying children's unsupervised use of the elevators and wheel chairs is off limits. Perhaps a paraphrase of the Golden Rule can guide us for now, "in monitoring our children's play after church let us guide each other as we want our family want to be guided."

From your pastors Firman Gingerich and Joel Beachy

From January 10-February 7, we will be doing a parallel sermon and Sunday school series on the *Being God's Faithful Community: A Covenant of Spiritual Practices* made available by Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We look forward to the church's participation in discussing how we covenant with one another as a community by listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning God's will together. Questions? See Joel Beachy

Address Update Linnea Slabaugh, Apt 201, 925-17 Daechi-Dong, Gangnam-gu, South Korea

MCC Meat Canning - help to bring "hope in a can of meat" - SE Iowa turkey to be exact - all over the world! Check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. Still needed are: 1 person to help set up on **Saturday, 12/12 at 12:15 pm**, 2 persons for the **7am-noon**, 1 person for the **5pm until ??** on **Monday, 12/14**, and 2 persons for the **5 pm until ??** shift on **Tuesday, 12/15**. Thanks to those who have already signed up; your help is greatly appreciated!

CENTRAL PLAINS and MENNONITE AGENCIES

High school seniors: Don't miss out on receiving one of our top scholarships! A Goshen College achievement scholarship could save you and your family tens of thousands of dollars on a nationally-ranked Anabaptist-Mennonite education. Dec. 15 is the priority application deadline for eligibility. Apply now at: goshen.edu/dec15