

Belmont Mennonite Church

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Belmont Mennonite Church



OUR COMPELLING VISION STATEMENT

*We seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
We commit ourselves to be channels of God's grace and salvation,
wisdom and power, love and peace,
through challenging worship, nurturing fellowship,
discipleship, and intentional ministry to those we regularly relate to,
to the surrounding Belmont neighborhood,
and to the worldwide spiritual and physical need.*

THE LORD IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS: A JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT ADVENT IS... YEARNING

Gathering

Come, though long-expected Jesus HWB 178

Call to Worship/Opening Ritual

Prayer

Praising

Open my ears, open my eyes SS 5

Bless'd be the God of Israel HWB 174

O Savior, rend the heavens HWB 175

Confession and Words of Assurance

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Time

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: "A Counter Word for a Dark Time"

Responding to the Word

Save us, o Lord SS 6

Encounters with God

Sending

Church in Action

Come, light of the world SS 3

Benediction

WELCOME to worship at Belmont, and a special welcome to our guests.
Everyone is invited to the activity center after worship for coffee and fellowship.

Worship Participants:

Worship Leader: Bekah York
Song Leader: Kristin Kauffman
Pianist: Sue Paden, Sasha Dyck
Children's Time: Colin Rusel
Scripture Reader: John David Thacker
Sermon: Larry Rohrer
Encounters with God and Church in Action: Mandy Yoder
Worship Visuals: Kris Shenk
Sound Technicians: Phil Lehman, Philip Krabill

The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers is staffed today by Ann Fink, Lora Rusel, and Lauren Kauffman.

Last Sunday:

Offering \$2,065
Attendance 114

If a hearing device would allow you to participate more fully in worship, please contact an usher.

Thanks to all for your faithful and regular financial gifts. With five Sundays remaining in the year, an average of \$13,000 is needed each Sunday in order to meet our 2018 Giving Plan.

Mennonite Education Assistance – Please let Uryna know by tomorrow if you are planning to request tuition assistance at one of our Mennonite institutions for the 2019/2020 school year.

THIS WEEK:

Monday 12/3
Calling all Girls 6:30 pm

Tuesday 12/4
Coffee Break 10 am
Admin Council 6:30 pm

Thursday 12/6
Mother's Club 9:30 am

Friday 12/7
AA Meeting 7 pm

Saturday 12/8
MCC Engagement Day

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 9:
JYF & MYF: Christmas Caroling & Cocoa

December 16:
Caroling at the Green House

Sunday, December 16th from 1:30 – 2:30 pm:
All are invited to sing Christmas Carols for the elders at Strawberry Fields (at the Green House in Goshen).

Save the Date! In lieu of a Youth Auction this year, we are hosting our first ever Trivia Night youth fundraiser on **Saturday, March 16.** Plan on a family friendly meal, followed by an adult-only trivia evening (childcare will be provided). More details to come!

Nurture Hour at Belmont

- Children age 3 through grade 5 are dismissed at 10:45 am to the activity center.
- Youth in grades 6 through 12 remain in the sanctuary until the end of worship, and then go to their classroom.

Nursery/Toddler Caregivers: Sarah Steiner, Marisa Klopfenstein, Annie Mathew, Victoria Brenneman, Rhonda Smucker, Julie Rheinheimer, and Lois Oyer

Pre-K/Kindergarten	Room 228
Grades 1 – 3	Room 229
Grades 4 & 5	Room 216
JYF (Grades 6 – 8)	Room 220
MYF (Grades 9 – 12)	Room 144 (CR west)
Gathering Room	Room 237

Superintendents: Rachel Smucker and Rhonda Smucker

Journey Forward Bible Study: September 9 through December 2

We have gathered as a church during Nurture Hour for the past 12 Sundays to participate in Journey Forward, a process that has been incredibly rewarding. Thanks to all who have participated! The final session asks, *What does all this mean for Belmont in our context for the decades ahead?*

Whether you have participated regularly or not in the past twelve weeks, your prayerful voice and vision are warmly welcomed.

Bible Passages: Matthew 28: 16-20; Revelation 21:1-10

Adult Sunday school classes will resume next Sunday:

Shagbark Hickory Group
Facilitators: Andrea Opel, Brandon Kurtz, Katie Kurtz

Maple Tree Group
Facilitators: Jill Kio, Ben Smucker

Locust Tree Group
Care Leaders: Sharon Rohrer, Judy Keener

Cherry Tree Group
Coordinator: Wilbert Shenk

New Announcements:

December 2, 2018

Thank you for all the love and support you've shown by your caring greetings and hugs, by giving in memory of Elaine to Mary Beck, by sharing grief experiences, by sharing food, and by your many special cards and notes. ~Merle Hostetler

Advent Bread Donations Needed – Please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby if you can donate breads to be served after each church service during this Advent season.

Any Junior or Senior High Youth who is interested in singing with the Adult Ensemble on **Sunday, Dec 23rd** is welcome to join. We will be rehearsing on Sunday morning, Dec 16th at 8:30 am, and then again on Sunday, Dec 23rd at 8:15 am. We will be celebrating Christmas that morning, so we will be offering several special Christmas songs in worship. Please email Kristin Kauffman to let her know if you plan to participate, so she can plan accordingly.

50th Annual School for Leadership Training at EMU: “Thriving in the Stormy Seas of Change” January 14-16, 2019. Pastors and church leaders are well aware of the tumultuous seas in which we serve. Significant changes and conflicts in contemporary politics, churches, and denominations and in our personal lives present challenges and opportunities for preaching and leading the church today. Church leaders riding these waves of change yearn for deep communion with God's Spirit and for inspiring worship with other leaders in order to thrive in ministry. School for Leadership Training 2019 will provide this worshipful and renewing encounter through the narrative of Jesus' crossing the stormy sea with his disciples in Mark 4:35-41. Keynote speakers are Sue Park-Hur, John Pavlovitz and David Evans. For more information and to register <https://emu.edu/seminary/slt/>

Bethany Christian Schools will hold Christmas concerts for grades 4-8 this week in the school's chapel. On Tuesday, Dec. 4, Beginning and Intermediate instrumental groups will perform at 6:30 p.m.; the middle school band and orchestra will perform at 7:30. On Thursday, Dec. 6, choral groups will perform at 7 p.m. The concerts are open to the public; there is no admission charge.

Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night. Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney basketball games on Saturday, Dec. 15. Girls game begins at 6:00 and boys at 7:30.

Repeat Announcements:

MCC Great Lakes is hosting an Engagement Day on Sat, Dec 8th at Belmont. Throughout the day, MCC will showcase interactive learning tools around mass incarceration, Doctrine of Discovery, and viewpoints of guns in America. The day will culminate with a keynote address by Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano on Immigration. You are welcome to participate in one workshop or the whole day. This would be a great opportunity for small groups, youth groups or Sunday School classes to participate together. You can find more information at mcc.org/gl-engagement-day. Please direct any questions to Brooke Strayer at brookestrayer@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.

Words of Assurance

Our souls magnify, you, Lord;
our spirits exult in you, our Savior.
You, Lord, have noticed the humiliation of your servants;
From now on all generations will count us blessed.
Mighty One, you have done great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Your mercy is on all who fear you
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm,
and dispersed the haughty
in the scheming of their minds.
You have unseated tyrants from their thrones
and lifted high the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things
and send the rich ones away empty.
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant;
you have remembered your mercy,
just as you promised our ancestors,
Abraham and Sarah and all their descendants forever.
Amen.