

Attendance last Sunday: 78
General Fund offering: \$3,708.00 + year-to-date = \$144,856.59
General Fund contributions budgeted for all of 2018: \$218,488.55
Nehemiah Fund pledges: \$167,555.28; received to date: \$167,895.28

THIS WEEK

Today, 5:30pm – “Ray of Hope” candle light vigil
Monday, 5:30pm – Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday – Church office closed (Merry Christmas!)
Thursday, noon – Bulletin items due
Sunday, 9:30am – Christmas Music celebration

COMING EVENTS – January

Jan. 1 – Church office closed (Happy New Year!)
3 – Mennonite Women Service Circle, 9:30am
6 – Three Kings Day worship service/celebration
7 – Music Together classes, 4:30/5:30/6:30pm
9 – Rhythm Kids, 4:30pm
19 – Women’s brunch sponsored by Company of Women



Prairie Street Mennonite Church

Mailing address: PO Box 1687, Elkhart 46515-1687
(574) 293-0377; office@praiestreetmc.org
Website: <http://www.praiestreetmc.org>
Office Hours: Tues–Fri, 8:00am to 2:30pm
Administrative Assistant: Joy Detweiler
Custodians: Ron and Marie Troyer

Pastor Carolyn Hunt (574) 350-6285 carolyn.gardner.hunt@gmail.com

Pastor Frances Ringenberg (574) 621-2676 mfrancesvr@gmail.com

Transitional Pastor: Steve Thomas (574-202-0048)

steveforpeace@gmail.com

Elders: Dorothy Wiebe-Johnson, Lois Longenecker, Anna Ruth Hershberger, Leo Rodriguez

For pastoral care you are welcome to contact a pastor or elder directly, or call the church office to make an appointment.



PRAIRIE STREET MENNONITE CHURCH

1316 Prairie Street, Elkhart IN 46515-1687

Sunday, December 23, 2018

*Joyfully following Jesus in a spirit of celebration,
hospitality, and caring so that others may know
Jesus and follow his way of peace.*

ADVENT 4 - LOVE

GATHERING TO WORSHIP AND WELCOME

Hymnal 180 – “The angel Gabriel”

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Behold! Mary is with child! God’s long-awaited promise fulfilled!

People: Rejoice in his name! Emmanuel, God with us!

Leader: The little baby in his mother’s womb has become the Savior of this hurting world.

People: Bringing us new life, filled with joy and peace,
calling us to faith, to right hope and reconciling action.

All: Praise be to God. Alleluia! Amen!

SINGING

Sing the Story 1 – “Praise the One who breaks the darkness”

Sing the Journey 13 – “My soul is filled with joy”

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.

I believe that in Bethlehem there was born a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.

I believe in the Word that has become incarnate
and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the redemption and hope of all people – of all creation.

I believe in the name of the incarnate One, as Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;

Of the increase of whose rule and of whose peace,
there will be no end.

The zeal of the God of hosts has done and will do this!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HEARING THE WORD

Children's time: Mary Kathryn Miller

Scripture reading: Luke 1:39-45

Sermon: Frances Ringenberg
"The blessing...for you"

RESPONDING

Sing the Story 11 – "No wind at the window"

Sharing joys and concerns: Carolyn Gardner Hunt

Offering – Choir – "And the Glory of the Lord" (G.F. Handel)

Pastoral Prayer: Leo Rodriguez

SENDING

Sing the Story 124 – "My soul cries out"

Benediction: Carolyn Gardner Hunt

A prayer team is available to pray with you at the front of the sanctuary following the service. You are welcome to request anointing.

THIS MORNING:

Worship Leader: David Miller

Song Leader: Kyle Weirich

Visuals: Worship team and friends

Prayer team: Leo Rodriguez, Carolyn Gardner Hunt

AV Technician: Anthony Hunt

Usher: Becky Miller

Greeter: Mary Kathryn Miller

Hall Monitor: Jerry Miller

Church Nursery: LaNasha Taylor

Fellowship 15 **Please see Mary Alice to Sign up!**

Building Lock-up: Jim Bixler

Second hour:

Children (through grade 8) will meet in the lower level Hartzler Room.

Adults: Sermon response discussion, Fellowship Hall – *Ellen Morey*

Sing "The Messiah", Sanctuary – *Eleanor Kreider*

Clase en español: Continuamos con una clase en español para compartir testimonios y aprender sobre cómo nos conectamos con la historia de la Iglesia Prairie Street. También continuamos estudiando la Biblia y desarrollando liderazgo. Esta mañana, nos reuniremos en la Graber Room (nivel bajo) durante la segunda hora para hablar sobre Hebreos 13 y Romanos 12, dirigido por nuestro hermano Julián.

Cualquiera que entienda el español es bienvenido, ya sea que haya hablado español toda la vida o simplemente esté aprendiendo ahora.

NEXT WEEK: Christmas Music Sunday

Worship Leaders: Eleanor Kreider, Kyle Weirich

Song Leader: Kyle Weirich

Children's Time: TBA

AV Technician: Orion Blaha

Usher: Marie Troyer

Greeter: Mary Kathryn Miller

Hall Monitor: Stan Robinson

Church Nursery: LaNasha Taylor

Fellowship 15" **Please see Mary Alice to Sign up!**

Building Lock-up: Al Longenecker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

"Ray of Hope" Candle light vigil: Today at 5:30pm. This year marks five years since the death of Devonte "Ray" Patrick in our church parking lot. This event will include sharing of stories, song and remembrance for Devonte and others who have died from gun violence.

Christmas Eve Service: Monday, December 24, 5:30pm. Come, sing and worship! Bring cookies to share afterward if you are able.

Our sympathies and prayers extend to Olive Grace Miller's family as her sister-in-law of many years, Esther Yoder, passed away on December 12. Especially remember Olive Grace's brother Galen (Esther's husband of 70 years) in your prayers.

Sign up for transition task teams!

On December 9, we approved a grid of transition tasks divided between three groups: **Community**, **Leadership**, and **Formation** (each group's tasks are explained in more detail on our Transition Tasks document). Our congregation identified these tasks as the priorities we need to attend to before we move ahead with renewed pastoral leadership. These tasks won't get done on their own! We would like *all PSMCers* to either **sign up for one of the three task teams** OR **encourage someone else to sign up**. Also, we request your ongoing prayers and counsel. PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens! Please contact a transition team member with your desire to get involved.

Transition Team: Dorothy Cutrell, Simon Gingerich, Tacy Heisey, Karl Stutzman, Steve Thomas, Steve Wiebe-Johnson