

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2009

**Prelude**

Michael Stauffer

**Welcome**

**Celebrating upcoming birthdays**

**Introduction of guests**

**Announcements**

**Musical preparation for worship** “O Holy Night”

Julie Deaton

**Call to worship** Isaiah 9:2-7

**Opening prayer**

**Hymn #172** “O come, O come, Immanuel” v. 1-4 with refrains

**Lighting of the Advent candles** Miriam’s Daughters

**Hymn #211** “Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”

**Pastoral prayer**

Rene Hostetter

**Hymn SS#16** “Peace before us” v. 4 & 5

**Choir** “In the Silence”

**Offering**

**Alleluia SS#17** “Alleluia”

**Children’s Time**

**Dance** “In the First Light”

Miriam’s Daughters

**Drama** “Joseph’s Dream”

Ryan Ahlgrim, Paul Hartman, Mary Liechty, & Rusty Umble  
Matthew 1:1-21

**Hymn of response #215** “What child is this?”  
SS#26 “Helpless and hungry”

Congregation  
Ensemble

**Passing the friendship register**

**Sharing of joys and drama responses**

**Closing hymn #210** “Good Christian friends, rejoice”

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

**Pastor:** Ryan Ahlgrim

**Associate Pastor:** Rene Hostetter

**Elders:** Gloria Hood (chair), Donna Haines, Elvin Plank, Randy Stoesz

**Elder Apprentice:** Tricia Short Yoder

**Worship Leader:** Lisa Schloneger **Song Leader:** Art Umble

**Accompanist:** Rod Deaton

**Choir Director:** Julie Deaton **Choir Accompanist:** Jana Miller

**Liturgical Dancers:** Emily Fontaine, Rene Hostetter, Ella & Emma King,  
Joyce Kuntz, Patty Kuntz, Laura Moshier, Margo Talbott

**Ushers:** Maurice Graber & Lynn Irelan

**Greeters:** Mary & Mel Swartzentruber

**Nursery:** Rachel Potenza & Cal Swarbrick

**Ministers:** Each participant in the congregation

## **UPCOMING SERVICES:**

December 24: (Christmas Eve Service): “The Shepherds Meet the Magi” (drama)

December 27: “Luke Interviews Mary” (drama)

January 3: “Experiencing God in 2009”

Michael Z. Miller, Jacqueline Okeyo, Gerald Miller

**FELLOWSHIP TIME:** 10:40 a.m. Beverages are served in the fellowship hall.  
[Remember to wash your coffee/tea mug and help us with being “green.”]

**There is a combined children’s class this morning and that meets in the library.**

**MYF meets in the corner overflow room; JYF across from the kitchen**

**Adult choir will meet during the Sunday school hour.**

## **Financial Update**

Budget contributions on December 13:	\$ 10,012
Contributions YTD:	\$354,843
Projected contributions needed YTD:	\$414,902
Surplus (Deficit) YTD:	(\$ 60,058)

**Sunday morning attendance for December 13: 335**

### TODAY—December 20, 2009

Children should bring their mission banks to the combined Sunday school class in the library.

There are Kenyan crafts and dried apples available for purchase today to benefit the Kaimosi Friends Hospital in Kenya.

### THIS WEEK

Our **Christmas Eve Service** is this Thursday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. This is a family service and we will be observing communion. We will have the traditional candlelighting and Silent Night to conclude the service.

**A message from JoAnne Lingle:** “I will be traveling on Christmas Day to join the Gaza Freedom March, an historic initiative to break the siege that has imprisoned 1.5 million Palestinians who live in Gaza. Marking the one-year anniversary of the December 2008 Israeli invasion of Gaza and conceived in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and nonviolent resistance to injustice worldwide, the march is designed to draw attention to the ongoing siege that continues to cause unabated suffering to the people of Gaza. Such notables as author Alice Walker, Nobel Peace Prize winner Maraid Maguire, and 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Hedy Epstein will be among the 1,360 internationals coming from 43 countries for the march. On December 31, we will be met by a projected 50,000 Palestinians, walking hand in hand to the Eretz border with Israel. On the Israeli side, there will be a gathering of Israelis and Palestinians who are also calling on the Israeli government to open the borders and lift the siege. Upon reaching the Eretz border, participants on both sides will release balloons, fly kites and wave flags to demonstrate their solidarity with one another. After the march, I will stay in Gaza with other internationals accompanying farmers and fishermen, working at children's centers and hospitals, writing, video taping and doing repair and construction work.”

### NEXT SUNDAY

There will be no Sunday school classes next Sunday, December 27. All classes will resume on January 3 with some utilizing the new building. Watch for room assignments.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**New adult classes to begin on January 3:** (1) We will have a class on human sexuality taught by Ryan Ahlgrim, (2) “Time in the Bible and Our Spiritual Lives” taught by Dennis Mishler and John Hofstetter, (3) adult Bible study taught by Marj Rush Hovde. Locations to be announced.

Are you interested in **exploring other styles of worship** that we could try out **on occasional Sunday nights**? We want your ideas and input! Ryan Ahlgrim and Rene Hostetter will lead a **creative worship brainstorming session** on Sunday, January 3, after Sunday school. Bring a sack lunch, and we will explore ideas and possibilities (noon to 1:30 p.m.).

There will be a **baby shower** for Alison Schumacher and Sam Carpenter on Sunday, January 3, at 2:00 p.m. here at the church. They are having a boy and are registered at Babies R Us and Global Gifts. Everyone is welcome.

**Comfort quilt preparation** will conclude at Kathy Snyder's home on Tuesday, January 5, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Anyone welcome. Questions: See Laura Moshier or Kathy Snyder.

Ryan Ahlgrim will be leading an eight-week **Faith Formation Class** beginning on Sunday, January 10, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch. This class is for **anyone who wants to explore the Christian faith, Mennonite beliefs, and the mission of First Mennonite**. This class is required for those who wish to **join the church or be baptized**. If you would like to be in this class, e-mail Ryan.

With the cold weather setting in, everyone likes a great bowl of chili! All you cooks out there need to brush up on those chili recipes, and get ready for the **MYF chili cook-off and silent auction**. The event will take place on **Saturday, March 13**. We will need lots of pots of chili and some great items for the auction. We will be looking for some great repeat items, like wonderful dinners, Colts items and sermons of our choice. Get those items ready and join us for lots of food and fun.

**Food for Thought** is the 2010 theme for Spirit & Place. If anyone is interested in planning or has ideas to have an event here at FMC please contact Carolyn Martin. Please let her know by Jan. 10. Meetings to begin applying to host an event begin Jan. 14.

### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The expansion of our church building is now complete and it has been turned over to the congregation. We will begin using it on Sunday, January 3.

**Reminder from Buildings & Grounds** to all groups using the church other than Sunday morning: Please help us save energy in making sure thermostats are set back to 60 when you leave the building. Also make sure all lights are turned off and doors locked. Thanks for your cooperation.

Mary Ellen Kessler is grateful for the many prayers and helpfulness by many in the congregation. As a token of appreciation, Mary Ellen is offering fresh apples to thank you.

Mennonite Mission Network mission workers, Lois and Wayne Hochstetler, have a blog. Check it out at [www.loisandwayne.blogspot.com](http://www.loisandwayne.blogspot.com)

**Peace pole languages?** The new landscape triangle and other areas on the FMC property offer the opportunity to place one or more new poles. If you have suggestions for additional languages that are significant to adoptees and others in the congregation, please send them to Gwen White.

Wildlife Friendly Places of Worship: Presentations given at the recent Spirit & Place Festival are now online. Take a look at all the great garden designs for wildlife and people at various churches around the city--and dream about spring! Slide shows are on the Indiana Wildlife Federation website at <http://www.indianawildlife.org/placeofworship.htm>.

A note from Ned Geiser and Marie Harnish: “We greatly appreciate the Anabaptist Scholarship given to Nathan and Hannah. They have enjoyed their first semester at Goshen College.”—Nathan, Hannah, Ned, and Marie

**Living Christ's mission of reconciliation  
through service,  
with justice,  
by God's grace.**

**Yearly Communion Schedule:**

**First Sunday in October (World Communion Sunday)**

**First Sunday in Advent**

**Christmas Eve**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Easter Sunday**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Third Sunday in August**

**All-church potlucks: February 28, 2010  
June 13, 2010**

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