



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:45 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

*Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT #218

View the Present VT #407

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9 Pew Bible p. 392

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Worship Music

Advent Drama

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37 Pew Bible p. 537

Message

How Long?

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

Poor of the Earth VT #213

We Walk by Faith HWB #570

*Benediction

Postlude

*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY Dec. 3, 2023 9:45 a.m. First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: Donovan Friesen

Accompanist: Paige Hofer

Song Leader: Aprille Birkey

Children's Time: Joline Thomas

Advent Drama Team: Natalie Johnson and Monica Clem

Worship Music: John & Monica Clem

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Kenneth & Aprille Birkey

Christmas Program practice during Children's Sunday School.

Two Adult Sunday School classes gather after coffee time in the Education Wing. All are welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 10, 2023 9:45 a.m.. Second Sun. of Advent

Worship Leader: Les Rensink

Accompanist: Amy Hofer Vetch

Song Leader: Les Rensink

Children's Time: Joline Thomas

Advent Drama Team: Brandon Waltner and Isabel Waltner

Worship Music: Mixed Ensemble

Message: "What Now?" - Pastor Randall Koehler

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:1-18

Coffee Time: Kenneth & Aprille Birkey

Christmas Program practice during Children's Sunday School.

Two Adult Sunday School classes are gathering after coffee time in the Education Wing. All are welcome.

Calendar:

December 6: HMC Annual Meeting - 7 PM

December 13: HMC Church Board Meeting - 7 PM

December 14: HMC Deacon Team Meeting - 7 PM

December 17: Children's Christmas Program with brunch following in the fellowship hall downstairs

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for December:

Cash for MCC for Israel/Palestine Conflict Victims

Please give donations to Joyce Hofer, C.M. Treasurer, or place in the C.M. mailbox.

Call to Worship:

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains would quake at your presence!

High voice: No one has heard,

Low voices: no ear has perceived,

People: no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for you.

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

People: How long must we wait?

(Pause)

All: Together we wait.

Benediction Litany:

Speaker 1: Together we wait.

Speaker 2: How long must we wait?

Speaker 1: No one knows when the time will come. So, go! Keep alert, strengthened by God's faithfulness to you.

Sunday School project (all ages): Freeman Food Pantry, donations of nonfood items are needed examples are toothpaste, tooth brushes, Shampoo, body wash, and soap. A display by the Library, is where you can drop off any of your donations.

Everyone enjoys **coffee time** at HMC. It's a great chance to meet visitors and connect with regulars. In December, you can contribute to the cost by making a donation in the designated "gift box" located in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time. Thank you! - Coffee Time Committee

Everyone is invited to stay for **brunch following the children's Christmas program** on December 17. If you are able to provide an egg bake (9 x 13" pan) or a dozen muffins or slices of quick bread, that would be appreciated! Sign up on the sheet in the upper foyer.

Freeman Regional Health Services is seeking **drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels**. Your commitment, even just a few hours, can make a huge impact on the well-being of those who depend on this essential service. For more information or to sign up, contact Richard Blue at 605-925-4000.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Carsen Hofer on December 4; Darlene Hofer and Joann Stahl on December 8; Barbie Hofer and Gordon Waltner on December 9
- This Advent season, we hear the stories of those who have been waiting... for restoration, for vindication, for hope. We, too, have been those who wait. When we watch the news, when we hear of wars and rumors of war, when children don't have enough to eat, when cancers and illnesses impact lives, we cry out with our spiritual ancestors, "How long, O Lord?" How long must we wait? The answer is not forthcoming, yet we know: God is with us in the waiting.
- Pray for the participants in Mennonite Mission Network's Tucson, Arizona, Mennonite Voluntary Service unit - Nely Cotuc, Hannah Nuest, Ally Weaver, Magdalena Wenger and Deborah Yoder - as they help extend the ministries of their host congregation, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, through welcoming immigrants, promoting literacy and working to protect the environment.

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Office: call or email to make an appointment

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

OAA Hours: Thursday mornings

Church Office phone: 605.925.7186

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

The HMC Board recommends making changes to the Constitution and By-Laws to add the word 'Christian' to the title of the 'Education Committee' and 'Education Committee Chair'.

Here are the proposed constitution and by-law changes being voted on at annual meeting. Bold, red lettering notes the suggested additions.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1: List of Officers

A. The officers of the church shall be: Church Chair, 3 *Deacons, Secretary, Treasurer, **Christian** Education Committee Chair, 3 Trustees and such other officers as the congregation deems necessary.

Section 3: The Church Board

A. The church board shall consist of the Church Chair, Deacons, Secretary, Treasurer, **Christian** Education Committee Chair, Trustees, and Advisor of the Youth Group.

F. Duties of Sunday School Officers

1. The **Christian** Education Committee Chair shall direct and oversee the work of the Sunday School and give reports thereof to the congregation.

BY-LAWS

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The **Christian** Education Committee shall consist of three elected members, two members to be appointed by the **Christian** Education Committee (sec-tres. & member at large) and the Pastor.

2023 Gifts Discernment Process

The members of the Leadership Selection Committee (Brandon Waltner, Rina Hofer, and Kenneth Birkey) offer the HMC congregation the following slate of candidates for affirmation at the HMC annual meeting on December 6 to begin serving in 2024.

HMC Board Treasurer: Matthew Tschetter(3-yr term)

Trustee: Les Rensink (3-yr term)

Deacon: Amy Hofer Vetch (3-yr term)

Assistant Head Usher: Rodney Mettler (1-yr term and will become head usher in 2025)

Ushers: Cameron Hofer, Joline Thomas, Phil Thomas, Cole Hofer, Brandon Waltner (all 1-yr terms)

Connection Advisory Board:
Kenneth Birkey (3-yr. term)

Leadership Selection Committee:
Michelle Neuharth (3-yr term)

Pastor Congregation Relations Committee:
Les Rensink (3-yr term)

Auditing Committee: John Clem (3-yr term)

Education Committee: Suzanne Koerner (3-yr. term)

Music Committee: Aprille Birkey (3-yr. term)