



# Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, December 1, 2024

9:45 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Call to Worship & Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candles

\*Welcoming One Another

\*Gathering and Praising

*To Us a Child of Hope Is Born* VT #259

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* VT #218

Scripture Reading Daniel 6:10-13 Pew Bible p. 469

Sharing Time and Prayer

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Worship Music *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Scripture Reading Luke 23:1-5 Pew Bible p. 558

Message Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Offering Prayer

\*Responding and Sending

*How Many Times We Start Again* VT #553

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* HWB #191

\*Benediction

Postlude

**\*please stand if you are able**

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

[www.HMCFreeman.org](http://www.HMCFreeman.org)

**TODAY      Dec. 1, 2024 9:45 a.m. 1st Sun. of Advent**

**Worship Leader:** Donovan Friesen

**Candlelighters:** Jessica Scheetz and Isabel Waltner

**Accompanist:** Paige Hofer

**Song Leader:** Aprille Birkey

**Time for the Young & Young at Heart:** Suzanne Koerner

**Worship Music:** Randall & Morgan Koehler

**Message:** Pastor Randall Koehler

**Coffee Time:** Todd & Suzanne Koerner

**Children are practicing for annual Christmas program;**

**Adult SS following coffee time in the Education Wing.**

**NEXT SUNDAY: Dec. 8, 2024 9:45 a.m. 2nd Sun. Advent**

**Worship Leader:** Todd Koerner

**Candlelighters:**

**Accompanist:** Paige Hofer

**Song Leader:** Morgan Koehler

**Time for the Young & Young at Heart:** Suzanne Koerner

**Worship Music:** Darnell & Lori Tschetter

**Scripture:** Joel 2:12-13, 28-19; Luke 11:13

**Message:** "Opening Hearts" - Pastor Randall Koehler

**Coffee Time:** Kenneth & Aprille Birkey

**Children are practicing for annual Christmas program;**

**Adult SS following coffee time in the Education Wing.**

**Calendar:**

Dec. 4: HMC Annual Meeting at 7 PM

Dec. 18: Church Board Meeting at 7 PM

Dec. 22: Worship at 9:45 AM, followed by Children's Christmas Program and a fellowship meal

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service at HMC at 10 AM

Dec. 29: Time of Remembrance during worship

Jan. 8: Winter Midweek Bible Study at 7 PM

### **Call to Worship:**

Leader: Responding to the call of the living God,

**People: our rescuer and Savior,**

Leader: we welcome the Holy Spirit's presence,

**People: among and within us.**

Leader: In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,

***All: we offer ourselves in worship.***

### **Lighting the Advent Candles:**

Reader 1: When we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, we may ask how to continue on.

Reader 2: When Daniel's persistent prayers brought him between opposing laws of the land and the mouths of hungry lions in a stone-covered den, despite the risk, he chose to trust God.

Reader 1: When Jesus found himself faced with persecution and false accusations, he chose forgiveness over self-defense.

*(Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope)*

***All: Our path may meander through rocky situations, but we will hold Christ as our center as we journey together.***

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The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, December 11 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

### **Prayer Requests and Praises:**

- **Birthdays:** Marcia Schrock on Dec. 1; Avery Waltner on Dec. 2; Brandy Lima on Dec. 7
- As the conference ministers for all area conferences of MC USA and MC Canada gather at the Kineo Center in Puerto Rico, we pray for safe travels, formative conversations, and good fellowship.
- Today, Mennonite Mission Network's Anchorage (Alaska) Service Adventure unit is participating in a community performance of Handel's Messiah. Pray for leader Samir Knego and participants Samuel Landis, Briana Nyveldt, Armando Perez and Aviva Setiawan as they worship and share the good news of Jesus' birth, ministry and salvation offered to all people.
- As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter situations where the way forward seems blocked. In troubling times, we try to patiently trust and obey God. This depth of faith grows from daily seeking God's wisdom and choosing God's ways as we wait in hope.

### **HMC Congregational Ministry Project for November:**

Cash for Mennonite Disaster Service  
Please place donations in the CM church mailbox  
or give to Joyce Hofer, the CM treasurer.

### **Pastor Randall's contact information:**

**Pastor Office Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 8:30 AM -12 PM**

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - [pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com)

**Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey**

Church Email: [hutterthal@goldenwest.net](mailto:hutterthal@goldenwest.net)

Church Website: [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)

All are invited to join the deacons and pastor for **winter midweek bible study**, starting Wednesday, January 8. We will be studying Meghan Larissa Good's book, The Bible Unwrapped. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book through a group order for our congregation, please email, text, or call our HMC Administrative Assistant, Aprille by December 18. You can also order your own copy of the book from wherever might be most convenient for you.

Thank you to all that helped out with the **Sunday School MCC goat project**. We received \$325, so we purchased 5 goats for people who need them. - Christian Education Committee  
There will be a **Congregational Ministries meeting** immediately following the Annual Meeting on Dec. 4th. Things we will be discussing are taking Celebration of birth, Christmas program food (Education Board is in charge of this), Showers of Celebrations, and Sending of cards off the list.

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

The **MDS November edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, learn about Bridging Together, a new partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response, read how hope is being renewed in Santa Cruz plus get all the details for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration.

<https://conta.cc/4fWz7HD>

Mennonite Church USA convention planners have released the tentative event schedule and learning track descriptions for next year's convention, **Follow Jesus '25, which will take place July 8-12, 2025**, at Koury Convention Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Read more here:

[mennoniteusa.org/news/schedule-seminar-followjesus25](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/schedule-seminar-followjesus25)

For the second year in a row, Heritage Hall Museum & Archives is inviting the public to a **free community Christmas Carol Sing-Along**. It will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Bethel Church on the museum grounds. The church, decorated for the season, will be open free to the public prior to the carol sing-along starting at 10 a.m.; light refreshments will be served.

**"Christmas at the Bethel Church"** will continue through December. The historical church features 14 decorated trees sponsored by community businesses, families and organizations. The church will be open to museum guests, as well as those making a \$10 purchase at the HHM&A Mercantile or by donation. Passes are available at the museum. In addition to the Dec. 7 event, the museum is also extending its regular hours – noon to 4 weekdays – to include Saturdays, Dec. 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have questions or want to schedule an event of your own at the historic Bethel church – a Sunday school class, youth group, family, etc. – please call 605-925-7545.

**Join the Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon!** MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 is collaborating with Mennonite World Conference as 500 voices will join together to read through the entire Bible – in multiple languages. Register here:

[mennoniteusa.org/global-anabaptist-bible-read-a-thon](http://mennoniteusa.org/global-anabaptist-bible-read-a-thon)

# The HMC Board recommends making changes to the Constitution, which will more clearly align it with the Pastor Job Description & Pastor Accountability Policy.

Here are the proposed constitution changes being voted on at the annual meeting. Bolded red lettering notes the suggested additions and struck-out letters notes the suggested deletions.

## ARTICLE IX: PASTOR

### Section 1: Calling a Pastor

B. The Pastor ~~shall be elected for a term of 3 years~~ **will be called to serve the congregation** by a 2/3 majority vote of HMC members present at a meeting announced in two Sunday church bulletins, a minimum of 15 days prior to the public meeting. One-fourth of the active HMC membership shall constitute a quorum for the meeting to call a Pastor.

### Section 3: Duties of the Pastor

C. The Pastor is an ex-officio member of all committees of all branches of the church with the exception of the pastor review committee, the pastor congregation relations committee, ~~and~~ the pastoral search committee, **and church board.**

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The **December 2024 Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Vine** is now available for download. The PDF is posted in the prayer resources section of our website.

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/resources/prayer/>

# 2024 Gift Discernment Process

The members of the Leadership Selection Committee (Brandon Waltner, Kenneth Birkey, and Michelle Neuharth) offer the HMC congregation the following slate of candidates for affirmation at the HMC annual meeting on December 4 at 7 PM. They will begin serving in 2025.

**Church Chair:** Todd Koerner (3-year term)

**Deacon:** Suzanne Koerner (3-year term)

**Trustee:** Cole Hofer (3-year term)

**Christian Education Committee:** No candidate (3-year term)

**Leadership Selection Committee:** Brandon Waltner (3-year term)

**Pastor Congregation Relations Committee:** Brandon Waltner (3-year term)

**Assistant Head Usher:** Jaden Thomas (1-year term and will become head usher in 2026)

**Ushers:** Aprille Birkey, Reiny Hofer, Mary Rensink, Marcia Schrock, Larry Tschetter, Brandon Waltner (all 1-year terms)

**Connection Committee:** No candidate (3-year term)

**Library Committee:** No candidate (3-year term)

**Music Committee:** Morgan Koehler (2-year term)

**Scholarship Committee:** Les Rensink (3-year term)