

IMPORTANT NOTES

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Restoration is Near!: Second Sunday of Advent

Message Naomi Yoder

Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12

Toddler Room Attendants Caleb & Jana Yoder

Breaking Bread Groups

BBG scripture for this week is Matthew 3: 1-12

May God continue to bless these groups in deepening relationships with God and one another!

The Bread of Life Food Pantry

This week on Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Food Pantry served 39 families and 156 individuals. The Food Pantry is open each Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please continue to pray for our guests and the faithful volunteers who distribute food each week.

Last Week by the Numbers - November 20, 2022

Thank you for sending your tithes and offerings by mail or online. The mail is collected regularly and a deposit made each Wednesday. Working together enables us to continue to support the services we provide.

General Fund	\$5,296.00
Food Pantry	800.00
FP Christmas project	50.00
Mission Fund (Deus project)	1,000.00
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	\$7,146.00
Attendance last Sunday	114
Amount needed per Sunday for 2022 General Fund	\$7,705.40
Amount currently behind projected budget	(\$34,435.49)



WELCOME!

Worship Service

Online 10:30 a.m.

Pastoral Team

Merle Hostetler

574 849-4654

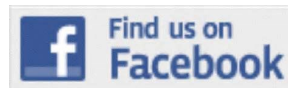
merleh@eastgoshenmc.org

Naomi Yoder

865-924-3983

naomiy@eastgoshenmc.org

You are welcome to call anytime to make an appointment. Occasionally pastoral responsibilities take pastors away from the office.



www.eastgoshenmc.org

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Church Staff

Office Administrator

Carol Birky

Church office hours are 9:00am

-12:30pm office each weekday

morning.

carolb@eastgoshenmc.org

Custodians

Ray & Jenny VanDaele

Church Treasurer

Ina Kauffman

Assistance Available

There are large print hymnals available on the Welcome Center. For a hearing assistance device, stop by the tech booth in the northwest corner of the sanctuary.

Please send information items for the *Pathways* newsletter to the church office by Thursday morning. The email address is egmc@eastgoshenmc.org.

IN OUR CONGREGATION

Following Up on the Survey about Inclusion: Thank you to all who recently participated Wednesday evening in the first Congregational Conversation on the Survey about Inclusion! Your energy and insight blesses our process moving forward. Following are (at least) two distinct but intersecting ways to engage this topic. All are encouraged to participate in either or (ideally) both of these processes as ways to contribute to this discernment:

- **Congregational Conversations:** Be on the lookout for details about upcoming opportunities to discuss and discern together about God's calling for EGMC related to inclusion.

- **Book/Bible Study** using the Study Guide *Human Sexuality in a Biblical Perspective*: This 6-7 session series on Faith and Sexuality will begin Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

PATHWAYS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Ted & Co. Christmas Show**, Dec.14 at 7:30pm. At EGMC.
- **Christmas Program**, Dec. 18 at 6:00pm
- **Men's Lunch**, 11:30 am each Thursday, will meet here in the lower level kitchen. All men are welcome to come. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the fellowship time.
- **Ladies Lunch**, 11:30am each Thursday, will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the fellowship time. All ladies are welcome.

Birthdays & Anniversaries this week

Nov. 27, Mara Miller

Nov. 28, Roger & Dorothy Mertz

Nov. 29, Judy Yoder

Randy & Debby Ouimet

Nov. 30 Merle & Mary Hostetler

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our congregation, as we discern together what inclusion means for faithful living, inviting, equipping, and loving as Passionate Followers of Jesus.

Katherine, food pantry guest, asking for prayer for a little girl and her father who are dealing with loss.

Rick, Aphanphanh & Sydney Nussbaum, as they grieve the loss of their beloved son and brother, Logan.

Jerry McNutt, who suffered a heart attack and had surgery to place several stents. He is back home and doing well.

Kent & Rocky Wildman, parents of Kari Wildman, who are dealing with Kent's health issues related to Parkinson's Disease.

Our Food Pantry: Sara Chupp and other volunteers as the food pantry returns to an indoor distribution model. May guests receive not only food but a witness to the love of Jesus, source of the Bread of Life.

Adrian, Susie and family are inviting us to pray with them about their upcoming decisions and family needs.

Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference Weekly Prayer Focus
Fairhaven Mennonite Church, Fort Wayne, IN

Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for Northern Ireland, where tensions between Catholics and Protestants are resurfacing. These increased conflicts are being driven by Queen Elizabeth's death, as well as inflation and the rising prices of heating oil and electricity due to Russia's war in Ukraine. Mission workers ask us to pray for "a swift and peaceful end to this aggression," for the benefit of the people of Ukraine and surrounding Europe.

IN OUR CONGREGATION

Announcements During Advent: To give more space for other pieces of worship in the seasons of Advent and Christmas, there will not be open announcements during the service. If you have announcements for the worship leader to read, please get them to the church office (egmc@eastgoshenmc.org) by noon the Friday before.

Save the date: The EG Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 at 6:00pm. Plan to join in an evening of fellowship and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Would you consider being an usher for our worship service? It's not a high paying job monetarily, but the rewards are the pleasure of meeting and greeting worshipers. Thank you to those who have expressed interest. More are welcomed. Contact Merle or Naomi if you have interest in serving on this team.

Food Pantry: Thank you for your support of our Thanksgiving food drive. We regularly need clean used plastic grocery bags, happy willing volunteers, prayers of God's people, financial donations for food, non-perishable food items (cereal, peanut butter, canned vegetables & fruit (15oz.) pasta, rice, noodles, canned meat, etc.).

December means hats, gloves, scarves! The Christmas Project of passing out hats, gloves, scarves and socks through the Food Pantry in December will again be done in honor of Marv Graber who passed away in 2016. Marv supported the food pantry with car loads of food donations and part of his estate was gifted to the pantry.

You can help by supporting financially, marking your donation for the Food Pantry Christmas Project. As in the past, we have been able to buy waterproof gloves, socks and scarves in bulk at a discounted rate. If you prefer buying items to donate, we can especially use boys school socks (size large) and men's black crew socks. Crafters are encouraged to make hats and scarves to donate. Donations will be accepted until the end of December. Questions can be directed to Dorothy Mertz at 574.536.7748 or dmertz51@gmail.com.

The Pastoral Resource Team (PRT) has completed the EGMC employee handbook, a resource regarding benefits, policies, procedures and general working conditions. If you have interest in receiving a copy digitally via Goggle documents or a hardcopy, please contact the church office.

OUR CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY

Ted & Company Christmas Show: We here at EGMC are excited to host Ted & Company TheatreWorks as a fundraiser for Elkhart Co. Clubhouse (Goshen and Elkhart) on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm. The performance will be *Just Given 'Em the News*, "an original, delightfully askew musical take on the first Christmas." Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught weave original songs and comedic theater around a new look at familiar Christmas stories. "So what did Zechariah sound like before his temper rendered him mute? Did Gabriel ever tire of needing to tell people to 'Fear not?'" An offering will be taken, all funds raised will go to support the work of The Clubhouses in Goshen and Elkhart.

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the MCC Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen! More than 350 people knotted 470 comforters over the two days of this fun-filled event. Thanks to you, people around the world will not only be kept warm but can go to sleep knowing that someone cares about them. Stay tuned for information about next year's Comforter Bash!

Pathways Retreat is offering two opportunities to Engage Advent in a "Soul Seeing" Way: the Advent Rest, Reflect, and Renew Retreat on November 19, and Visio Divina Retreat: Engage Advent through Art and Imagination. Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

Elkhart County Jail Ministry is one of our financially supported Mission Ministry organizations. As EGMC's representative, I have been uplifted through personal involvement! I'd like to facilitate the same for you through two specific involvements. One as a transportation volunteer and another in helping to provide "Freedom Bags" for folks being released from the jail with scant resources. You will find detailed information and a box in the foyer area in which you can place items. More information via a verbal announcement, hopefully a morning with Cory Martin sharing, an invitation to Breakfast With the Chaplain the 4th Thursday of the month, and online at <https://elkhartcountyjailministry.org/>
Together, in Christ's freedom, Kathy Holsopple