

Prayers and Praises

Mennonite Mission Network Asher and Lindsey Fast, serving through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, are helping to build the after-school program at the Mother Theresa Resource Centre in Botswana. They are also assisting in a local elementary school. Pray for wisdom and energy, and healing for Lindsey's back and neck.

VMMissions: Lift up those attending a Community Church Planting training through VMMissions on Thursday and Friday. Pray that church planting efforts will be enriched and made more biblically faithful through this training.

Pray for the local services for people in need: Love Inc., Shelter for Help in Emergency, Food Bank, Salvation Army, IMPACT – a justice ministry and PACEM- the initiative for the homeless.

If you would like your birthday added to the list please contact the church office.

Advent 1 focus: We awaken to God's purpose which begins in darkness — whether seed in the ground, child in the womb, or new self in the soul. We are shaking, fearful, and resistant, yet we call upon God to tear open the heavens and be present with us in our uncertainty.



Charlottesville
Mennonite
Church

701 Monticello Ave.
Charlottesville, VA 22901
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Pastors: Roy & Maren Hange
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Advent 1: Let it be...

December 3, 2017

Gathering in God's presence

Pre-service music

Call to Worship

one: Awake! The invitation to carry light
comes from the God of trembling mountains
and shaking foundations.

**all: Oh God, your expectations terrify us.
How can our small selves
hold your blazing presence?**

[silence]

one: Quiet our questioning souls.

all: Lead us beyond our resistance. Let it be.

Lighting of candle

Opening Prayer

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| Hymns | God is here among us | HWB 16 |
| | O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem | STS 32 |

Noticing God's presence

Children's story

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| Hymn | All who love & serve your city | HWB 417 |
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Scripture Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Who is the God *you* worship?

Confession

O God of power and might,

*we want you to tear open the heavens and come down,
yet we tremble and quake at the thought.*

*We confess that even though we know your light,
we do not like the dark, empty void
where your spirit hovers over the waters.*

*We shake like leaves in the wind,
fearful of what you might ask,
afraid to trust you completely.*

*Caught up in the swirling of our world
we struggle to "Let it be..."*

Forgive us, O God...

(silence)

Words of Assurance

O God, Immanuel,

In Jesus, the Christ you have come among us.

You have given us life and we are restored.

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| Hymn | O Come O Come Immanuel | HWB 172 |
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Communion

Responding to God's presence

Sharing of joys and concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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| Offering | Praise God | HWB 119 |
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| Hymn | Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee | HWB 71 |
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Benediction

As you go from this place,

may you be given peace.

*When the presence of God shakes the world
in which you live,*

*may you remember that the invitation
to walk with Jesus is not a promise of safety
but rather a call to courage.*

May the Spirit embolden you to let it be. Amen.

Today

Sermon: Maren Hange

This week

Wednesday supper, games, conversation at church 5 pm

Sunday Christmas Play & finger foods 4:30 pm

Upcoming Events

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| Dec 12 | Board of Elders | 7:15 pm |
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| Dec 13 | Ad council | 7:00 pm |
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| May 18-20, 2018 | Annual church retreat | |
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Announcements

Please email all bulletin announcements by Wednesday evening 8:00 pm. Please include the word “bulletin” in the subject line of the heading.

PACEM UPDATE; Our church partnered with Belmont Baptist Church this week in helping with the women's shelter. On Sunday night we provided the evening meal and a overnight volunteer. There were 12 guests, plus one Pacem staff. The lasagna, salad, rolls, and veggies were delicious and much appreciated by the guests!! Big thanks to those helping with this: Maren, Joyce, Alyce, Becky and Michelle

Welcome to a new book discussion: The Discussion Class that meets in the back of the sanctuary will begin discussing the book Borders and Bridges: Mennonite Witness in a Religiously Diverse World edited by Peter Dula and Alain Epp Weaver. <http://www.cascadiapublishinghouse.com/bab/bab.htm> It is a description of Mennonites engaged in transformational peacebuilding internationally. Books are available in or before the class from Roy. The class meets at 9:30am Sunday mornings and this discussion will begin on December 3.