

Souderton Mennonite Church ~ 12/17/2017

darkness to Light

CELEBRATE THE
BIRTH OF JESUS

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light,
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned. ~ Isaiah 9:2*

"Gesu Bambino" (Wagner) ~ *Adult Choir*

Call to Worship ~ *Eric Bishop*

Lighting the Candles of Joy & Love ~ *Brooke Leaman, Leah Kaercher*

SS#16, "Peace Before Us" vs 2,4,5

"Children's Story" ~ *Sarah Scorzetti*

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

"What Child Is This"

"Christmas Offering"

Mission Blessing for *Keith & Dottie Reed* who will be serving in Texas with MDS

Congregational Prayer ~ *Pastor John Engle*

Children ages 3 to Kindergarten are invited to Children's Church

Offering, "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (Gaither)

~ *Tim Benner, Ken Clemmer, Dave Dengler & Feryl Souder*

Hymn #178, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

Message: "The Revolution of Christmas" ~ *Pastor Tim Bentch*

Hymn #318, "Joy to the World"

Benediction

Following our service, members of our Prayer Team are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.

Sunday School for all ages will begin at 10:50am. Stop by the Welcome Table for a listing of our classes and their locations.

SMC Nursery Care is available each Sunday morning during **Worship and Sunday School**. Loving caregivers will be in the Toddlers Nursery each week to care for your infants-3 years old.

Young Adult Brunch ~ TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 17th, 11am ~Join us in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday School for a time of food and fellowship.

Women's Walking Group - Are you looking for a fun way to exercise and be with people? Come join the walking group **Mondays from 7-8pm**. Meet at SMC's front doors rain or shine. Any questions contact Thea Moyer #267-882-6305. **Join us on December 18th as we Christmas Carol around town.**

Dementia Caregiver's Support Group ~ Thursday, December 28th, 6:30pm
Facilitated by Debbie Hedrick (215-350-6452) and Erin Toth (215-872-5144), this group is open to friends, family members and caregivers of someone with Alzheimer's Disease or a related Dementia. If you are caring for someone or love someone with Dementia and would like to better understand the progression of symptoms and how to relate to them in helpful, meaningful ways this group could be helpful to you.

Thursday, December 21 at 6:30pm ~ Longest Night Service
For ALL who struggle and grieve. You are invited to bring your pain and sorrow during Christmas to this service and know that you are not alone in your struggle. May you hear a word of hope and comfort as we remember that the joy of Christ's birth is about God bringing peace and hope to all, and most especially to those in pain and hardship.

2018 Offering Envelopes ~ If anyone WOULD LIKE to receive offering envelopes (or a church mailbox) who does not have one now, please contact the church office: jgillespie@soudertonmennonite.org or call #215-723-3088.

Service Opportunities

Our December (MCC) Project is Hygiene Kits ~ Use one of the provided cloth bags to assemble a whole kit or donate single items such as (new, individually wrapped) toothbrushes, large bath bar soap, fingernail clippers and dark hand towels.
A great project for families and mentor pairs this Holiday season!

SMC Video & Sound Tech Teams:

Are you interested in sound and video? Join the TEAM! SMC is looking for those who would like to operate the computer projection system, sound system or our new video recording system for worship services on Sunday mornings. Help make our worship services and teams look and sound great. Training is provided. Please contact Phil Detweiler if you are interested. 723-3088 x102 or facilities@soudertonmennonite.org

Upcoming 2018 Events



Meet & Greet, Sunday January 7th. If you have been attending SMC for a few weeks (or a few years!) and would like to learn more about our church and/or how to become a member, please join in the Main Lobby during Sunday School for an informal gathering and hear ways you can become more connected at SMC.

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Wednesday Night Community Meals & Activities resume

Men's Retreat at Spruce Lake Retreat, **January 11-12.** Sign up in the Main Lobby or with Fred Cole (215-393-6754) if you are interested in a great time of playing, eating, singing and inspiring teaching. \$117 a person includes one nights lodging and meals Thursday dinner through Friday lunch. Key speakers are David Akers and Shawn Hart.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Congregational Meeting during Sunday School. (No Adult Classes scheduled.)

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Save the date for our annual Youth Auction and Dinner.

Doors open in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm for the Dinner & the Silent Auction.

Live Auction will begin at 6:30pm. (Child care provided for ages 2-5th grade.)

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Mission Sunday and a Fellowship Potluck Lunch after Sunday School

Saturday, February 3, 2018

SMC Marriage Ministry hosts: The Great Date Night at 6:30pm.

An evening of great music, laughter, encouragement and a delicious dessert buffet!

\$20 a couple and signups will begin in January.

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Hymn Sing led by Pastor Tim at 3pm in the Sanctuary.

Statistics for Sunday, December 10, 2017

Worship Service Attendance: 324

MEP ~\$16,609 ❖ Missions ~ \$1,797 ❖ General Fund~ \$56,036

PACT offering to date: \$24,155 (\$38,000 Needed)

Balance to fund the remaining 2017 MEP Financial Commitment ~ \$29,995

Balance to fund the remaining 2017 General Budget ~ \$176,553

This week at a glance...

Sunday, December 17 **Third Sunday of Advent ~ "Darkness to Light"**

Message by Pastor Tim Bentsch ~ Luke 1:39-55

8:15 to 9am

Prayer Gathering

9:30am

Worship Service

10:50am

Sunday School for all ages

Young Adult Brunch, Fellowship Hall

5 to 7pm

Pickleball, WSCC

Monday, December 18

7pm

Women's Walking Group, Christmas Caroling!

Tuesday, December 19

7 to 10pm

Young Adult Volleyball, WSCC

Thursday, December 21

6:30pm

Longest Night Service, Main Lobby

7:30 to 9pm

Men's Over-40 Basketball, WSCC

Saturday, December 23

9 to 11am

Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary



2pm ~ Christmas Eve Worship & Pageant

(In lieu of a morning service)

This afternoon service includes an original play and music written and performed by members of SMC which tells of Jesus' birth through the eyes of a shepherd boy. We will also worship together by singing hymns, scripture and special music by our SMC Choirs to celebrate the birth of Christ.

6:30pm ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Celebrating the birth of Christ with readings, carols, prayers, hymns and candlelight worship.

SMC Office Hours:

Monday (Closed) Tues - Thurs 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Friday - 8:30 am to 12:30pm



January 10—March 14

Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)	6-6:45pm
Youth Activities (Youth Center) For grades 6-12	7-8pm
Boy's, Girl's, & PK Club (Children's Dept.) For ages 4 - 5th grade	7-8pm
Unique Women Hang-Out (Nook) Young Women with differing abilities	7-8pm
Women's Bible Study (Room 119) "Getting to Know God"...a study of God's character using scriptural names that provide a glimpse of who our God really is.	7-8pm
Men's Bible Study	7-8pm
Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)	7-8:30 pm
Divorce Care (Connections Café) Support, counsel & encouragement to people who have been through the pain of divorce or are separated from their spouse.	7-8:30pm
Narcotics Anonymous (Room 305/307)	7-8:30pm

