

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

- **Keenagers Choir Christmas Program, Tues., Dec. 15, 3 pm** at Braeside EM Church, 1011 Munroe Ave.
- **Christmas Giving** - Un-frustrate your Christmas shopping this year! Give a gift of hope with **MCC's Christmas giving program**. Visit <http://donate.mcccanada.ca/> or call our office at (204)261-6381.
- **CMU Advent Vespers, Sun., Dec. 20, 7 pm, in the Laudamus Auditorium**. The worship will be led by choir conductor Alan Janzen and worship leader President Cheryl Pauls. A reception will follow.
- **Urgent need – housing for refugees**. Do you have a basement suite, or know others who do? Are you a landlord who could make a house or apartment available at a very reasonable rent? If you can help, please contact MCC at (204)925-1910 or joannaschellenberg@mccmb.ca.
- **Come gather for house made soups, paninis, coffee, and seasonal treats at Folio Café, CMU, this December!** Folio will close for the Christmas break between December 24 and Jan. 3 2016, so make sure to plan your visits before then! For more information see foliocafe.ca.
- **Help needed - MCC's IVEP midyear conference** needs your help! 57 young adults from all over the world are coming to Winnipeg this Feb. We're looking for billets from Feb. 4-8 (5 nights). We're also looking for groups to provide lunch or supper on February 5, 6 and 8. If you can help with billeting or a meal, contact ionkahrizozovadyck@mccmb.ca or (204)925-1929.
- **Copies of Eden Health Care Services Annual Report** are on the back table for your interest.

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**Aberdeen Evangelical Mennonite Church**  
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204 - 221-3000 (office)

**Sunnie Friesen, Pastor**                      **204 - 226 - 8080 (cell)**  
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Office Hours:                                      Tues. - Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Mo Klippenstein, Secretary**                **204 - 221-3000 (office)**  
Office Hours:                                      Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
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**Third Advent December 13, 2015**  
**Freedom Bound: The Path of Mercy**

**Focus Statement:** *Fear of the unknown, fear of the past, and fear for our security entangles and paralyzes us. On this third Sunday of Advent we bring our fears to God. We long to be released from their power over our lives. Instead of life-denying servitude or joyless acceptance of our fate, our passages counsel God's people to an impassioned, resolute, joyful, and trusting response to life.*

Congregational Song O Come, O Come Emmanuel (HWB 172)  
Special Music Men's Choir

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing aloud, O people,  
Shout out your worship in a loud voice!

**People: God takes away the judgement against us;  
There's no need to fear disaster.**

Leader: The Lord our God exalts over us with gladness;  
Singing loudly as on a day of celebration.

**People: God delivers us from all that oppresses us,  
Changing our shame into praise.**

**All: Rejoice! For God is our strength and our might  
And has become our salvation.**

Welcome and Introductions

Congregational Song Walking Slowly Unto Beth'lem (STS 20)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Special Music Men's Choir

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 12:1-6

Response Judith

Congregational Song Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (HWB 178)

Special Music Everett

New Testament Reading Luke 3:7-20

Response Jeremy and Teresa  
Special Music Deb, Darlene and Mo

Congregational Sharing

Prayers of the People

Prayers of Confession and Assurance

Congregational Songs O Little Town of Bethlehem (HWB 191)  
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (HWB 190)

New Testament Reading Philippians 4:4-9

Response Riana and Kezia

Announcements

Offertory Sokjakriya

Congregational Song I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (insert)

Sending

**People: Let us not worry about anything,  
But in everything, with thanksgiving,  
Make our requests known to God.**

Leader: And may God's peace, which is beyond our understanding  
Guard both our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Congregational song Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (HWB 201)

Worship Leader: Sol  
Accompanist: Emily



**Advent Themes: Freedom Bound**  
**Today Advent 3 The Path of Trust ~ Christmas Coffee Time**  
**Dec. 20 Advent 4 The Path of Love**

**Isaiah 12:1-6**

You will say on that day:

I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Philippians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Luke 3:7-20**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.



### **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**

I heard the bells on Christmas Day,  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **Aberdeen Food Bank** - Next meets on Jan. 9 and Jan. 23, 2016.
- **Jan 24, 2016** - Aberdeen Church retreat at Camp Assiniboia.



**Birthdays This Week** Mak – Dec. 15

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Please join us for coffee time in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service today.
- **Sat., Dec. 19, 1:30-3 pm** – Come celebrate Melinda's birthday! We will meet in the TeaHaus at Bethania Care Home. Bring snacks to share.



Coffee for next week Dec. 20 – John and Kathy  
Upcoming coffee for Jan 3 – Mo and Rudy

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Continue to pray for Humam and Sabreen as they face personal struggles in a new Canadian context.
- Pray for our university students, those writing exams and papers, and those who are returning home to relax and celebrate with family!

### **Executive Highlights:**

- review of 2015 actual budget and 2016 projected budget
- building maintenance updates
- discussion of rental policies and fees
- review of support for Jeremy (ICYA Community Minister)
- benevolence policy finalized