

## **BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION:**

- **Christmas Giving:** This Christmas, give the gift that gives twice! Through MCC's Christmas Giving projects, you can bring joy to the people you love and transform lives around the world. Each gift comes with a card to give to your loved ones explaining the gift you've given, like the gift of food or education. Visit <http://mccmb.ca/christmas> to choose a gift today.
- There are 6 CMU international students needing housing for one or 2 weeks during the Christmas Break (**Dec 18 – Jan 2**). To offer space or for more information please contact Sandra Loeppky [sloppky@cmu.ca](mailto:sloppky@cmu.ca) or [204-487-3300 x. 340](tel:204-487-3300).
- Canadian Mennonite University's **Sunday@CMU radio program** is pleased to feature a special sermon series by Sue Sorensen throughout December. Sue explores Jesus's miracles and relates them to Advent/Christmas in the four-part series. Sunday@CMU airs Sunday mornings at 8:30-8:45 AM on CFAM 950 Radio and AM 1250 Radio and online at [tinyurl.com/Sunday-CMU](http://tinyurl.com/Sunday-CMU).
- Registration is now open for the **Canadian School of Peacebuilding, June 12-16 and 19-23, 2017**. Go to [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca) or e-mail [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca) for more information.
- **Sam's Place Book & Bake Sale** *Saturday, December 10, 1-3 pm, 159 Henderson Hwy* Join us as we celebrate the season with Christmas baking and songs from the olde days. All books will be 10% off and we'll host musical performers from the Winnipeg Early Music Society. Donated baked goods are gratefully accepted. If you're interested in donating your baking, please contact [manager@samsplacebooks.com](mailto:manager@samsplacebooks.com)
- Come to CMU Christmas Vespers on **Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 PM**
- in the Laudamus Auditorium. Eric Marshall will lead the choir and Cheryl Pauls will be the reader. A reception will follow. See [cmu.ca/vespers](http://cmu.ca/vespers).
- EMC Missions is looking for four to six people for the **Mexico Work Team**. Help the Ebenezer Church in Cuauhtemoc in their church construction! Dates: **January 13-24**. Cost: \$1,800. Contact Ken Zacharias ([204-326-6401](tel:204-326-6401); [kzacharias@emconference.ca](mailto:kzacharias@emconference.ca)) for information.

~~~~~

## Sunday, December 4: Second Advent

***The way of God's heart  
It's where we walk, how we walk  
Knowing God's with us.***

### ***Gathering***

Welcome

Opening prayer

In the nighttime of fear, we build walls and fences.

**Rather than showing hospitality, we keep the stranger away.**

**We forget the truth that God's love is for everyone.**

O God, show us the way of your heart.

***Come quickly, show us.***

Congregational singing

STS 2 Maranatha, come

HWB 186 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate

STJ 54 (v.1, 2) Longing for light

Candle lighting

Confession

God of harmony,

**we yearn to walk in your way**

**but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain.**

**Save us, Lord,**

**from the pride and foolishness of choosing our own course,**

**that we may humbly and confidently**

**follow your lead,**

**through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Words of assurance

Throughout the tumult of life,

God holds you close in love.

Rejoice,

because God's wisdom is your guide,

God's compassion is your strength.

God's love is your redemption.

***Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!***

### ***Hearing God's Word***

Scripture reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

Congregational singing STS 26 Helpless and hungry

HWB 199 The first Noel, the angel did say

Children's time

Sermon

Heather

### ***Responding***

Sharing

Congregational Prayer

Offering

Dana

Announcements

### ***Sending***

Closing song

HWB 318

Joy to the world

Benediction:

Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.

The dawn is breaking!

Christ is coming to set us free from chaos.

He will show us the way.

Worship Leader: Rudy

Song Leader: Deb

Accompanist: Esther

### ***PRAYER REQUESTS:***

- Pray for those who lost a loved one this year and who are grieving during the holiday season

**December 11** (not the 4th) we will celebrate our oneness in the kingdom of God through **communion**. It is an important time in the church, in that we remember that all of us share in the life of our Saviour together. Consequently, it's a reminder to give some thought to removing all barriers between us, to come with full intention of being one in Christ. As usual, all who share an interest in belonging to the kingdom of God are welcome, including children.

## FOR YOUR CALENDER

- **Food bank:** Next meets on December 10 and 17
- **Spanish Church:** Next meets on December 10
- **December 11:** Communion and Congregational Meeting
- **December 18:** Christmas Service



**Birthdays this week:** Marilyn and Nick - Today



**Coffee** December 11<sup>th</sup>: Paul and Brad

**Upcoming Coffee** December 18<sup>th</sup>: Rudy and Mo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The executive committee is planning a congregational meeting for **December 11<sup>th</sup>** after church. They are looking forward to listening to your thoughts and ideas and discussing issues that affect our church community.
- The **Christmas Program** will be held on **December 18<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is invited to bring something for the dessert potluck that morning.

## Isaiah 11: 1-10

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment. In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD. In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world.

The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

## Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming!  
Clear the road for him!'"

John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

