

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

- Be equipped for worship planning and leading at **Planning Well: A Workshop for Pastors, Worship Planners, Musicians and Leaders** with Dr. Christine Longhurst on **Jan. 30 from 9:30 am to 12 pm at CMU in the Chapel**. For more information see cmu.ca/leadingwell.
- **Green thumb?** The annual plant sale supporting the work of **MCC is looking for volunteers to join the planning committee** for the event, which will be held May 27-28, 2016. We also hope you'll keep the sale in mind as you begin plants for spring—vegetable and flowering plants are both appreciated. For more info, contact Ron Dueck at 204-896-5057 or ronwendy@mymts.net.
- **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 ionkahristozovadyck@mccmb.ca or (204)925-1929.

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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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**Mo Klippenstein, Secretary**                      **204 - 221-3000 (office)**  
Office Hours:                                      Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
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**Epiphany January 3, 2016**  
**The Path of Inclusion**

**Focus Statement:** *The light Jesus brings into the world challenges and illuminates all the distinctions between us that we elevate as ultimate goods. For if the light has the power to draw wise men from afar and overcome barriers of former religious outcasts, what power does it still have to bring new freedom into our church and the world.*

**Gathering**

Prelude  
Welcome  
Congregational Songs                      HWB 192 On this day earth shall ring  
                                                            HWB 66 O worship the King  
Call to Worship                                Isaiah 60:1-6  
Prayer of Invocation

**Hearing the Word**

Scripture Reading                            Ephesians 3:1-12  
Congregational Songs                      HWB 189 To us a child of hope is born  
                                                            HWB 215 What child is this  
Scripture Reading                            Matthew 2:1-12  
Prayer for Understanding  
Congregational Song                        HWB199 The first noel  
Sermon                                            John

**Responding**

Epiphany: Sharing the Light of Christ  
Congregational Sharing  
Congregational Prayer  
Passing The Peace: "The light of Christ be with you." "And also with you."  
Offering                                        Sokjakriya  
Announcements  
Benediction  
Sending Song                                STS 32 Beautiful star

Worship Leader: Sunnie  
Song Leader: Mo  
Accompanist: Esther

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **Aberdeen Food Bank** - Next meets on Jan. 9 and Jan. 23.
- **Sunday, Jan. 17** – Congregational meeting
- **Jan. 24** - Aberdeen Church retreat at Camp Assiniboia

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Adult Sunday School will resume next week, January 10. We will be continuing our series "Monday to Friday Faith Stories."
- Murray and Marg's grandson Addison is selling a very special calendar that is a compilation of his drawings. The calendar is \$20 and proceeds will go to L'Arche.



Coffee for Jan. 10 – Mak and Sokong  
Upcoming coffee for Jan. 17 – Jeremy and Teresa

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- CPT - Pray for the people of Hebron, living under foreign military occupation, just as Mary and Joseph did two millennia ago. Give thanks for the Holy Child whose tenderness was mightier than the Roman Empire. Pray for an end to empires and the coming of the Reign of God.

*Merry Christmas from all the staff, faculty and students at Providence.*

*"May your days be filled with peace, hope, and joy this Christmas season."  
(From SBC staff and faculty)*

*"Wishing you a heartwarming memory-making joy-filled Christmas."  
(From The Healthy Start staff)*



## Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

## **A Prayer for Understanding**

In my times of greatest self-doubt,  
whenever I torment myself...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever my mistakes loom large,  
or the future seems bleak...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever my ego ignores reason,  
when immediacy dictates my every decision...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Wherever I am patient with injustice,  
when I look to others to do the work that is mine...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever I deny the worth of others  
or ignore my worth to God...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever I allow stereotypes to shape my beliefs,  
or allow my ignorance to cause harm to others...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever, overwhelmed and frustrated, I say nothing can  
be done because the problem seems too big for me alone...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever I lack the courage to change my direction  
or participate in creating new life around me...

**God, grant me new understanding.**

Whenever I rush to judgment,  
whenever I value law over grace...

**God, grant me new understanding to honor what is true,  
to value myself while trusting others, and to always place  
my hope in you. Amen.**