



Community Mennonite Fellowship

“...’Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’”

Luke 2:10b-14

November 22, 2011

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Community Mennonite Fellowship, Sterling

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Note:

- Advent 2011
- Share life, share Christ
- Christmas program December 18
- Carry-in meal December 18
- Christmas Eve Service at Parkway Center—7PM

December 18 Christmas Program

Special music with the children’s bell choir and some special music by the praise team.

Just a week and a half ago, I found myself amazed by a moment in time that I want to share with you.

It took place within an hour of our new granddaughter’s birth when I was taking pictures of her with her parent’s camera. The camera was one of those tech plus ones that has facial recognition capability. So as I took those pictures, there was this little box that framed her face on the screen indicating that the camera program had identified her as a person. (I hear there are cameras that can identify the head of dogs and cats too.)

It that same moment, I realized that she was looking directly into her mom’s face. She was not scanning the room noting other things around her, but was directing her gaze towards the face (and/or voice) closest to her. I know there is

some discussion about what a newborn sees, before and after the treatments offered at this time, but it looked to me like Eleni was searching the face of this person nearest her.

As we come into this Advent season celebrating God’s presence with us, those moments in Bethlehem at Jesus’ birth hold a new wonder for me. As the baby Jesus looked at the faces around him what did he see? What would be those first impressions?

Mary and Joseph too would do their own pondering as they looked on the face of the Christ child. And this is the point to which I was heading: would they see God in this face? Would they see God at all in the rush of responsibilities and uncertainties of their time? When would they come to understand that God was with them



For the Sundays of Advent, bring your Nativity scenes to display during Worship and Sunday School. Bring them one or all four Sundays, we will enjoy the display of each one you share.

in Jesus?

Let’s take one more step down this road. Colossians 1:15ff tells us that Jesus is the Son of the invisible God... that God’s fullness dwells in him, and he is reconciling all things to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven. So if you want to know God and what God’s call is on you and the believers around you, look into the face of Jesus. DR

The Love of God,



¹⁵ Él es la imagen del Dios invisible, el primogénito de toda creación, ¹⁶ porque por medio de él

fueron creadas todas las cosas en el cielo y en la tierra, visibles e invisibles, sean tronos, poderes, principados o autoridades: todo ha sido creado por medio de él y para él. ¹⁷ Él es anterior a todas las cosas, que por medio de él forman un todo coherente. ¹⁸ Él es la cabeza del cuerpo, que es la iglesia. Él es el principio, el primogénito de la resurrección, para ser en todo el primero. ¹⁹ Porque a Dios le agradó habitar en él con toda su

Lived!

plenitud ²⁰ y, por medio de él, reconciliar consigo todas las cosas, tanto las que están en la tierra como las que están en el cielo, haciendo la paz mediante la sangre que derramó en la cruz. "

Colosenses 1.: 15-20 NVI





"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

-James 3:17-18



The Cotton Patch Gospel event we co-sponsored was a twofold response to the hunger of the region. It named an answer to hunger as it called for a change in the order of relationship between people. This 11/18/11 Sterling presentation invited the 95+ present to live the compassion and purpose defined and lived by Jesus as a retelling of the gospel of Matthew. It too offered a personal part in hunger response as \$1260 was contributed to feed the hungry.

CPG's 30 shows have now raised and distributed to hunger organizations a total of **\$33,180.71**.

Next carry-in meal:

Sunday, December 18th following worship. Bring someone to hear the message of Christ's love and share in the fellowship and encouragement around the table with believers.

ADVENT 2011

As we start the Advent season on Sunday, November 27, we become participants in a time of preparation for claiming anew that God is with us, through Jesus' birth.

So in the coming weeks of study, worship, and prayer we seek God's stirring and lead that will make it possible to lay down our burdens, expose our hearts, and renew our minds by living the wonder of God's presence with us.

The first candle we light on the

Prayer Support

Prayer is that significant conversation one has with God that begins with acknowledging who God is and who the one who prays is in the presence of God. With this relationship so established; one communes with God, purposefully seeks God's guidance, and lives a response as God both cares about and shares in every aspect of a person's life.

For prayer support contact Amy Glenn, Nancy Gale, Alan Beck, or Pastor Dan and the congregational members will pray for and with you as you direct.



We would like to keep the tradition going of bringing canned goods to put under a tree or just bring canned goods to donate to the FISH food pantry.



Advent wreath is the HOPE candle, with which we claim, "because of Christ we have hope".

The second candle to be lit on November 4 is the PEACE candle, naming that in Christ there is peace with God and others.

The third Advent candle is the JOY candle used to name the delight believers experience as they know the indwelling of God's Spirit, because God is with us.

The fourth candle is the LOVE candle. With this candle we are reminded that it is God's love that shapes possibility for you and me as God offers new life in Jesus.

A fifth candle is often lit on Christmas eve. It is the CHRIST candle that becomes the symbol of God's promised and purposed presence for each one as we believe and live the transformed lives through our Savior.

-DR

Romans 12:9-21 offers guidance for living the love of God.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matt McKimmy reflecting on this Romans' text and others states: Sometimes I wish Jesus was a little less clear than "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:9). A little more vague than "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). A little less straightforward than "my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). I wish the apostle Paul hadn't penned letters instructing, bless those who harass you. Don't pay back evil with evil. Live at peace with all people. I ache to forget the words of the prophets, telling me to "seek the welfare of the city, for in its welfare is your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7), to do justice, and to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).



Community Mennonite Fellowship



Committed to being a gathering of believers defined by the love of God evident in Jesus Christ, we seek to live, work, relate, and relax in ways that are life affirming on all levels.

Adults start a new study for Sunday mornings:

Growing in God's wisdom is a 13 week look at the wisdom and guidance of God from Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Matthew.

This study provides a suggested daily reading from scripture to guide one in the discovery. Begin with Proverbs 3:1-12.

Books are available on the table near the main entrance where the bulletins are generally located.



The Wise still seek him

Matthew 2 tells us: ^{1b} Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'...the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'""

COMMUNITY MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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Liberian Nobel Prize winner, EMU alumna, is well connected to peace-church tradition

By Bonnie Price Lofton, Eastern Mennonite University (edited)
HARRISONBURG, Va. — Nobel Peace Prize recipient Leymah Gbowee is closely connected with Mennonites and the peace-church tradition.

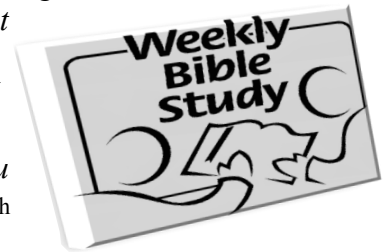
Gbowee, who shares the prize with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and women's rights activist Tawakkul Karman of Yemen, led a nationwide women's movement that was instrumental in halting Liberia's second civil war in 2003.

She earned a master's degree in conflict transformation from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. She attended CJP's Summer Peacebuilding Institute in 2004 and completed its Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience program in 2005.

Gbowee's links to Mennonites began in 1998, when she received training in trauma healing and reconciliation and then worked at

Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:30PM at the Sterling Library. Our current study revolves around Isaiah and God's instruction on the judgment of Israel and Judea and the redemption to be offered in the Messiah. Read Isaiah 36-43 for the coming studies.

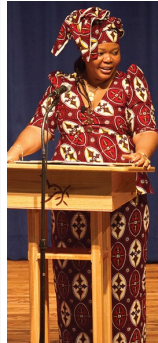
"...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." -Isaiah 43:1b



rehabilitating child soldiers. Though she may not have known about them, the first trainings occurred when Barry Hart, a Mennonite with trauma expertise, arrived in Liberia in the early 1990s. His work was funded by Mennonite Central Committee and what is now Mennonite Mission Network.

Hart trained Lutheran church workers who, in turn, trained Gbowee. Hart also arranged for Sam Gbaydee Doe, who became Gbowee's friend and mentor, to earn a graduate degree in conflict transformation

Living for Christ changes the world.



at EMU in 2007...

In her 2011 memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers*, Gbowee said she came to EMU because it was "an American college with a well-known program in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. It was a Christian school that emphasized community and service."...

For the full story go to: Mennonite Weekly Review, October 31, 2011

<http://www.community-mennonite.org>

Peace testimony

By Wayne D. Lawton Elizabethtown, Pa.
Thanks to Wil LaVeist of Mennonite Mission Network for an inspiring article about the Kniss family ("Siblings

Credit Parents for Love of Mission, India," Nov. 7).

When I was attending Eastern Mennonite College in 1971, Lloy Kniss spoke in chapel one day. He told about being conscripted to participate in World War I. They put a gun in his hand to teach him to kill, but he resisted, saying, "I don't kill humans." The interrogators began questioning this young Christian man. Knowing that humanity is imperfect, they said to him, "Have you ever told a lie (past tense)?" He replied, "I don't lie (present tense)." They said, "Have you ever stolen anything (past tense)?" His reply: "I don't steal (present tense)," and so forth. They made him stand for 36 hours without food or water while they questioned him. He stood the test.

I saw the Spirit of Jesus coming though Lloy Kniss that day. I was not part of a peace church, but I became a nonresistant follower of Jesus that day. There were students on campus opposed to war, but I never heard them testifying to love, joy and peace through the Savior. But the testimony of Lloy Kniss as a follower of Jesus was truly convincing.

Community Mennonite Fellowship



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October

- 2-Bob & Colleen anniversary
- 5-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 7-Matt & Amy anniversary
- 12-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 13-16-Men's Way of Christ
- 17-7PM Steering Committee-- Nancy's
- 19-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 21 Alan Beck's birthday
- 20-23-Women's Way of Christ
- 23-Shawn & Mendy anniversary
- 23-2 PM Worship at Parkway Center
- 26-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 28-Dan Rusmisl's birthday
- 29 -5 PM Pumpkin carving at Glenn's

November

- 2-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 9-Carol Dickhut's birthday
- 9-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 14-Eleni Melina Mourtzis' birthday
- 14-7PM Steering Committee-- Rod's
- 16-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 18-7PM Cotton Patch Gospel
- 25-Jacob Landis' birthday
- 30-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library

Way of Christ Weekends
Spring of 2012

Men's Weekend:
March 1-4, 2012

Women's Weekend:
March 8-11, 2012

Talk to Pastor Dan about your attending.

October 2011

S	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November Messages

- 6th
"Field Hands" Luke 10:1-17
- 13th
"So you want justice?" Luke 18:1-8
- 20th
"Prayer [?]" Genesis 32:9-12
- 27th
"Hope, see the invisible"
Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-5, 9-18

December Messages

- 4th
"Peace, built on justice"
Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-7
- 11th
"Joy, of the Lord is your strength"
Nehemiah 8:5-12, Isaiah 55:12-13,
Luke 1:46-56
- 18th
"Loved"
John 3:16-21, Luke 2:1-7
- 25th
"Christ, the Lord"
Luke 2:8-20, Hebrews 8:7-13

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December

- 3-Ladies fellowship trip to Chicago
- 4-Marcia Jackson's birthday
- 7-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 12- Lois Landis' birthday
- 12-7PM Steering Committee--Shawn's
- 14-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 18-10AM Christmas worship program
- 18-12noon Carry-in Christmas meal
- 20-Bruce & Marcia anniversary
- 21-Clayton Deter's birthday
- 21-4:30 PM Bible Study at Sterling Library
- 24-Christmas Eve Service-Parkway Center
- 25-Christmas--Celebrate of Jesus' birth
- 31-Kurt Gale's birthday

October Messages

- 2nd
"153" John 21:1-14
- 9th
"Feed the hunger and thirst for righteous"
John 21:15-25
- 16th
Youth Convention message
- 23rd
"Out of D'ark" Genesis 9:7-17
- 30th
"Harvest Justice" Genesis 8:15-22,
Galatians 6:7-10

November 2011

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 3rd is the ladies trip to Chicago for fun and shopping.

Visioning time,

In January will be an opportunity to celebrate the significant moments of the past year and name goals together as we respond to God's leading. This will be a time when we revisit our budget and share in a covenant renewal as we have shared at Pentecost Sunday some years.

Watch for this date. It



should be named by mid-December so we can prepare for this visioning and purpose work in January.

December 2011

S	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31