

Groffdale Mennonite Church



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

Groffdale Mennonite Church

Our Mission: To be a healing community of believers
passionately committed to Jesus as Lord
through worship, nurture, and outreach.

Volume 67

December 11, 2022

Number 50

Welcome! We are glad you are here!

Prelude by Linda Myers

Opening Hymn led by Lisa Zimmerman

“Emmanuel” (#134 Red hymnal)

Welcome and Call to Worship by John Shertzer

Offering for Leadership Support

Advent Reading (written by Miriam Auker)

and Candle-lighting

Children's Time and Collecting Relief Kit items

Worship through hymns

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (#143 Red hymnal)

“O Come All Ye Faithful” (#145 Red hymnal)

Scripture: Luke 1: 5-25

Sermon by Tom Eshleman

"The story of Zechariah; When the righteous
need renewal!"

Hymn of Response

“O Come O Come Emmanuel” (#123 Red hymnal)

Sharing time and prayer

Benediction

*Thank you to those serving in our worship service today!
Including Ushers Glenn Hershey, and those behind-the-
scenes: Projectionist Janessa Eshleman, Sound Tech
Dale Weaver, Live Stream Jim Evans, Camera Operator
Dawn Moore, Back Table Helper Fern Bauman, and
Nursery Worker Jen Eshleman.*

Bring to the Lord in prayer:

- Pray for Paul Gehman as he continues to recover from broken ribs.
 - Praise God that Fayth Roberts was able to return home after being hospitalized. Pray for continued healing.
 - Pray for the Groffdale visitation team as they meet on December 14 at 2:00 pm.
 - Pray healing for Helen Hershey as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
 - Pray for J and M as they anticipate returning to the States for Christmas.
 - Pray for the Discipleship/mentor class as they gather Sunday evening, December 11.
 - Pray for Tanner Eshleman as he anticipates his last week of discipleship training in Costa Rica and returns home next Saturday, December 17.
 - Pray continued healing for Leane Groff in rehab at Brethren Village.
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Advent Series: "God came near...to those far away"

December 18: Steve Lindsey

December 25: Christmas meditation by Pastor Tom

January 1: Special guests from Potter's House:

Lanny Millette and Rob Weatherholtz

Christmas Eve Service:

December 24 at 6:30pm

Exciting plans are coming together! Hot chocolate, hot cider and cookies will be served. We encourage you to invite friends, family and neighbors!



Please note: Sunday School classes will not be meeting on Christmas Day and New Years Day. The cafe will be open January 1 and classes are welcome to gather informally as you choose.

Events this week:

Wednesday: **Morning Prayer Group**, 8:30am

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kathy Heft: Tuesday, December 13



Today's Advent Reading, written by Miriam Auker:

The Candle of Joy



The third candle we light for Advent is the pink one. It is sometimes called the Shepherd Candle. From Abraham to Jacob, God's people were shepherds. When Joseph called his father and brothers to Egypt, Pharaoh asked, "What is your occupation?" "We are shepherds," they replied.

Hundreds of years later, now under harsh Roman rulers, some of God's people are shepherds watching their flocks on a hillside near the town of Bethlehem. As they watch and wait through the night by their campfires, sometimes they wonder when the one God promised will come to set his people free. They wait and they wonder.

Then one night....The angel of the Lord appeared and the glory of the Lord lit up the hillside as bright as day. They were terrified! "Don't be afraid!" the angel said. "There's wonderful news that brings great joy for everyone! Your Savior has been born in Bethlehem!"

Now, again many hundreds of years later, we can say with David, who was once a shepherd, became the king, and was promised the Redeemer through his family line, "I will be glad and rejoice in You, I will sing praises to your name, O most High!" (Psalm 9:2) and "Glory in His Holy Name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord rejoice." (Psalm 105:3)

Let us take joy, share joy, and rejoice in the Lord!

Norma Rutt's address during the holiday season:

Norma Rutt, c/o Gerald and Laretta Eshleman
2576 Georgia Highway 88, Hephzibah, GA 30815

Welcome to Paul and Edith Gehman

Many of you have met Paul and Edith Gehman who began attending Groffdale over the past months. We are grateful to welcome them! Their address is 351 East Farmersville Road, Ephrata, PA 17501. Paul and Edith would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many cards and notes as Paul recovers from his recent fall.

Relief in the Name of Christ

We will continue to collect items for MCC Relief Kits through Sunday, December 18. Thank you for your generous expressions of gratitude to God and care for our neighbors!

Each Relief Kit contains: 4 bars bath soap, shampoo, 4 bars laundry soap, 4 toothbrushes, 4 bath towels, 2 wide-toothed combs, thin sanitary pads, 1 nail clipper, 1 box bandaids.

Save the date: Stewardship University, March 18, 2023
Registration opens December 15.

A note from Everence for your consideration

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and you are over age 70½, you may be eligible to consider an IRA charitable rollover to our congregation (as well as to other certified 501(c)3 organizations). Everence Financial is here to help! Brochures with more information about QCDs (Qualified Charitable Distributions) are available on the back table.

Pastor Tom to Cuba in January

As part of his work with LMC, Pastor Tom will be traveling to Havana, Cuba from January 20-27, 2023 for a gathering of Cuban Mennonite churches who relate to LMC. We invite your prayers as Tom travels with Samuel Lopez, Tuyen Nguyen and several others.

OFFERING

Listed below are the totals for last week's offering and deposits. Thanks for giving so generously!

Capital Projects Fund	\$ 100.00
Church Facilities	\$ 396.50
Leadership Support	\$ 1,321.00
Missions	\$3,649.44
Program Fund	\$ 789.50
Sewing Circle	\$ 50.00

Serving Next Sunday, December 18

Prelude: Rick Umble

Hymns Leader:

Glenn Hershey

Worship Leader:

Brandon Snader

Sermon: Steve Lindsey

Projectionist:

Diane Weaver

Sound Tech: Dale Weaver

Live Stream: Keith Stoltzfus

Camera Operator: Levi Hoover

Usher: Minerva Nolt

Offering: Church Facilities

Back Table: Brian Snader

Nursery Workers: Joyce Shenk
and Ruthie Umble



Pastor: Tom Eshleman, 717-669-4578 (cell);

717-656-6388 (office)

Pastoral Team Member: Krista Snader, 717-466-8930

Administrative Assistant: Jess Kiefer,

churchoffice@groffdale.com

Treasurer: Henry Youndt, hyoundt@frontiernet.net

Bookkeeper: Pat Mast, finance@groffdale.com

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Dial-in LIVE Sunday AM Worship: 717-690-0477