

Groffdale Mennonite Church



December 17, 2023

Groffdale Mennonite Church

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

Volume 68 December 17, 2023 Number 51

Welcome! We are glad you are here!

Prelude by Bob Mohler and Rick Umble

Opening Song led by Keith Stoltzfus

“O Come All Ye Faithful” (Blue Hymnal #212)

Welcome and Call to Worship by Linda Myers

Advent Reading on Joy

Children’s Time

Offering for Church Facilities

Praise Team led by Ray Horst

Scripture: Isaiah 35: 1-10

Sermon by Pastor Tom Eshleman

“Gladness and Joy Shall Overtake Them!”

Closing Song

“Joy to the World “ (Red Hymnal #125)

Sharing Time and Prayer

Benediction

*Thank you to those serving in our worship service today!
Including Ushers Glenn and Helen Hershey, and those
behind-the-scenes: Projectionist Becki Day, Sound Tech
Dale Weaver, Live Stream Operator Keith Stoltzfus,
Camera Operator Harold Mohler, Back Table Helper
Rachel Gavilondo, Nursery Workers Jen Eshleman and
Joyce Shenk.*

Bring to the Lord in prayer

Pray for James and Melani as they spend time with family and friends over Christmas.

Pray for all who are suffering from war in Ukraine and Israel-Palestine.

Pray for Angelica Prins as she helps care for her father in Paraguay.

Pray for Daryl and Jenn Hoover and family as they move into the 170 house in the next week.

Pray for the Djari-Abdelkerim family as they look for jobs and continue to adjust to Columbia. Pray that the family would experience the love of Jesus during their first Christmas in the U.S.

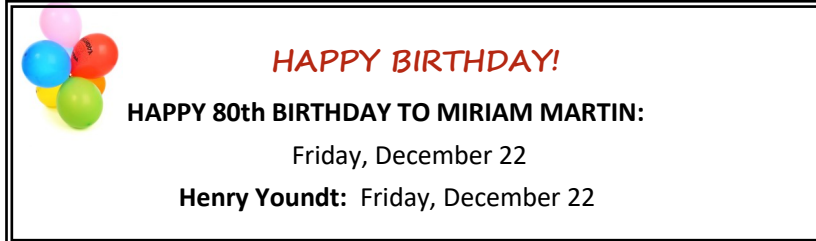
Pastor Tom and Tanner traveling to Guatemala January 4-11, 2024.

Tom and Tanner Eshleman will be attending the annual assembly of the Kekchi Mennonite Church in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. They will be traveling with Allen Eshleman, Isaac Burkholder and Erik Lehman from the Franklin District of LMC. Allen Eshleman served as an EMM missionary for many years among the Kekchi and will be leading the group as they represent LMC in this visit to the Kekchi churches. (The Kekchi are an Indigenous group in Guatemala)

Steve Nolt and Roger Martin's blessing through baseball cards!

This summer Ella Mae Martin's son Roger donated his childhood baseball card collection to Groffdale with proceeds going to the Refugee Fund. Steve Nolt has used his knowledge of baseball cards to sell Roger's collection online for good prices. There are still more cards to sell and thus far, Roger's baseball cards have earned over \$1,500.00 for the Refugee Fund. What an awesome way for Roger and Steve to use their knowledge of baseball cards to glorify God.

Morning Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 8:30am in the Conference Room. Everyone is invited to join this group for a meaningful time of prayer and fellowship.



Groffdale will be collecting items for MCC Relief Kits during the 4 Sundays of Advent. These kits are given to those in need due to war, natural disasters and other crises. You can place these items at the end of the benches and the children will collect them during the worship service. One relief kit includes:

- 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- Shampoo
- 4 large bars laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha®, Sunlight®, or Zote® brands)
- 4 adult-sized toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approximately (28 in x 50 in)
- 2 wide-toothed combs; (6-8 in)
- 1 nail clipper
- Adhesive bandages (minimum 40)
- Sanitary pads (thin)

There are copies of the minutes from the November Administration Support Team meeting on the back table.



There will be no Sunday School on December 24th. Pastries and coffee will be served in the All-Purpose Room at 9am followed by the worship service at 10am. The Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be on December 24th at 6pm.

For Sunday December 31 we are planning a time of reflection on the year 2023 and a time to name our hopes and fears as we anticipate 2024. This will be a time of prayer, scripture, writing and singing. We invite you to prepare for this worship service by reflecting on your joys, losses, ways you experienced God in your life, and your hopes and fears for the coming year.

Sunday School classes will not be meeting on December 31 unless the class decides together that they would like to meet. The cafe will be open at 9:30am.

NOTES OF THANKS

Many thanks to each one for your prayers and kind expressions of sympathy during the illness and home-going of our sister and sister-in-law, Dolores Musselman. It means so much to be part of a caring church family. The Musselman and Reiff families

I would like to thank the congregation for your love and support during my recent shoulder replacement surgery. Your prayers, cards, meals & visits were very special to me. I feel blessed to be a part of Groffdale.

Mary Jane Assis

A total of \$2,895.00 was given by Groffdale congregation for the earthquake relief efforts in Morocco. This money will be sent to Andres and Angelica Prins and they will use it for the reconstruction efforts of the families in need. Thank you for your generosity!

Note for quests and visitors

We are so glad you are joining us for worship this morning and we hope you come again. We invite you to fill out one of the guest cards found on the back of the church benches and place the completed card in the offering basket.

OFFERING

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

Leadership Support	\$ 3,692.43
Missions	\$ 1,230.00
Church Facilities	\$1,705.00
Refugee Fund	\$1,500.00
Program Fund	\$ 205.00

Serving Next Sunday, December 24

Prelude: Lily Zimmerman	Camera Operator: Lloyd Weaver
Hymns Leader: Mark Wenger	Ushers: Lee and Lisa Zimmerman
Worship Leader: Pastor Krista Snader	Back Table Helper: Mag Nolt
Sermon: Pastor Tom Eshleman	Nursery Workers: Faye Woods and Dawn Moore
Projectionist: Chris Martin	Offering: Leadership Support
Sound Tech: Brian Snader	
Livestream Operator: Levi Hoover	



Pastor: Tom Eshleman, tome@groffdale.com

717-669-4578 (cell); 717-656-6388 (office)

Associate Pastor: Krista Snader, kristas@groffdale.com

717-466-8930

Treasurer: Henry Youndt, henryyoundt@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Pat Mast, finance@groffdale.com

Administrative Assistant: Diane Weaver, churchoffice@groffdale.com

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