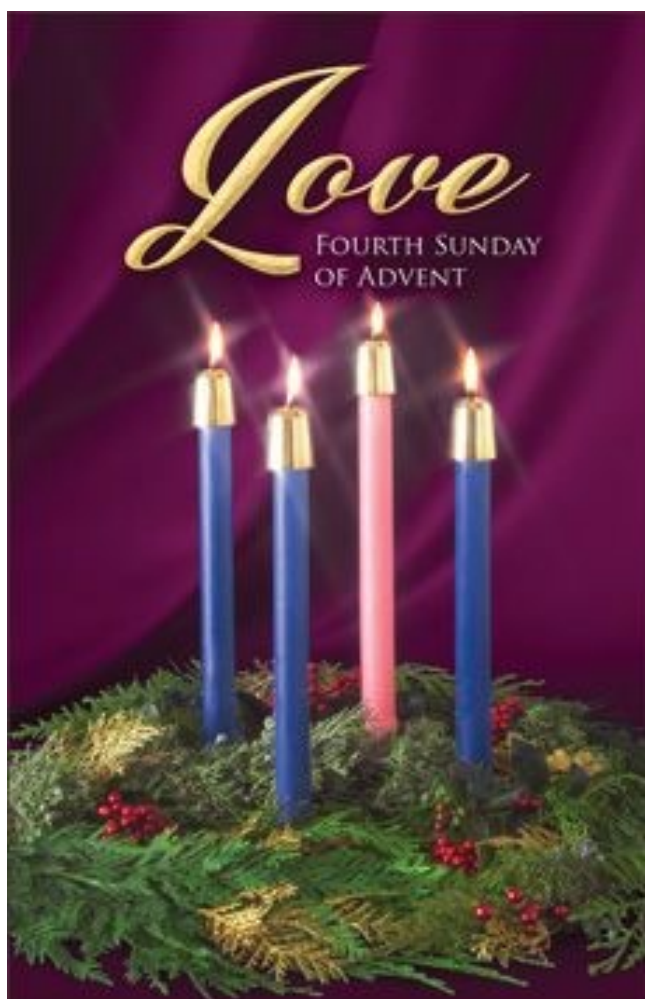


# *Groffdale Mennonite*



*December 24, 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 24, 2023**                      Number 52

### ***Welcome! We are glad you are here!***

Prelude by Lily Zimmerman

Opening Song led by Mark Wenger

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Blue Hymnal # 206)

Welcome and Call to Worship by Pastor Tom Eshleman

Advent Reading

Children’s Time

Offering for Leadership Support

Congregational Singing

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (Blue Hymnal #197)

“Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Blue Hymnal #211)

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” (Blue Hymnal # 202)

Sermon by Pastor Tom Eshleman

“A Light Has Dawned”

Closing Song

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Blue Hymnal #201)

Benediction

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*Thank you to those serving in our worship service today!  
Including Ushers Lee and Lisa Zimmerman, and those  
behind-the-scenes: Projectionist Chris Martin, Sound Tech  
Brian Snader, Live Stream Operator Jim Evans,  
Camera Operator Lloyd Weaver, Back Table Helper  
Mag Nolt, Nursery Workers Faye Woods and Dawn Moore.*

***Bring to the Lord in prayer***

Pray for peace in Ukraine and Israel-Palestine.

Pray for Lloyd Wenger as he heals after recent eye surgery.

Pray for Angelica Prins as she has now returned to Morocco after visiting her family in Paraguay. Continue to pray for Angelica's father who is experiencing declining health.

Pray for James and Melani and their family as they spend time with family and friends in the US.

Pray for Daryl and Jen Hoover and their family as they move into the 170 house. Pray that their time in Pennsylvania will be renewing and refreshing.

Pray that our Christmas Eve service this evening would be a blessing to our community.

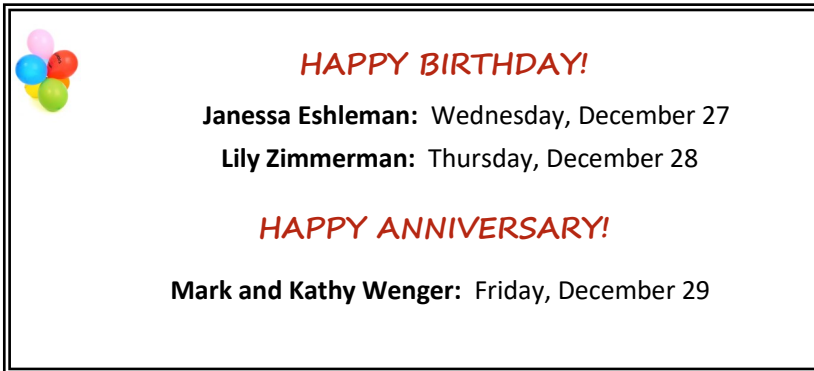
Pray for the Djari-Abdelkerim family as they continue to look for jobs and make the many adjustments to life in the US. Pray for their adult daughter who lives in the refugee camp in Chad who is seeking to come to the US with husband and three children.

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**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)

**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)

### ***Christmas Eve Service***

We encourage everyone to invite their family, friends, and neighbors to our Christmas Eve Service this evening at 6pm. Refreshments will be served in the café after the service.

The evening's offering will be for MCC Peace and Relief efforts in Palestine and Israel. Checks should be made payable to Groffdale Mennonite Church earmarked for "MCC Peace and Relief" efforts. The service will not be available on Livestream.

**NEXT 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.

Everyone is welcome to help pack up the MCC Relief Kits after church. We will assemble the kits in the conference room.

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

**NOTES OF THANKS**

Just a word of thanks for helping me celebrate my birthday. It is wonderful to be among so many kind people.  
Carolyn Wyble

Thank you to everybody who sent me Christmas cards and to the Sewing Circle for the cookie plate.  
Sharon Eberly

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Mark Wenger began serving part-time as bishop for the LanChester District of LMC on October 1, 2023. This includes Hershey, Maple Grove, Meadville, Old Road, and Parkesburg congregations. Groffdale will remain Mark & Kathy's home congregation; they will be active in GMC ministries and worship services as much as possible. Mark begins the role of Groffdale treasurer on January 1, 2024.

**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!

Church Facilities	\$ 4,612.52
Program Fund	\$ 675.00
Leadership Support	\$ 950.00
Missions	\$ 275.00

### Serving Next Sunday, December 31

Worship Leader: Ruthie Umble	Camera Operator: Clete Weaver
Service: Time of Reflection for 2023	Usher: Minerva Nolt
Projectionist: Diane Weaver	Back Table Helper: Linda Herr
Sound Tech: Clair Mast	Nursery Workers: Steve and Sharon Nolt
Livestream Operator: Keith Stoltzfus	Offering: Program Fund



**Pastor:** Tom Eshleman, [tome@groffdale.com](mailto:tome@groffdale.com)

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

**Associate Pastor:** Krista Snader, [kristas@groffdale.com](mailto:kristas@groffdale.com)

717-466-8930

**Treasurer:** Henry Youndt, [henryyoundt@gmail.com](mailto:henryyoundt@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Pat Mast, [finance@groffdale.com](mailto:finance@groffdale.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Diane Weaver, [churchoffice@groffdale.com](mailto:churchoffice@groffdale.com)

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