

**Worship Focus:** Rejoicing in God's comfort, we catch God's vision of shalom. We choose to join the Spirit that is already at work restoring creation.

**9:45**                      **SUNDAY SCHOOL**                      (More info below)

**11:00**                      **WORSHIP SERVICE – Third Sunday of Advent**

Prelude    Casey Horn  
Welcome and Announcements                      Ashley Albrecht  
Call to Worship

L:     Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from the God of restoration.

**All:    Our God, you amaze us with your promise to build up the ancient ruins. You say you will replace the ashes of the past with garlands of beauty. Your bold vision dazzles our doubting souls.**

L:     Quiet our questions, Lord..

**All:    Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path to peace.**

L:     Let us be whole.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle                      Willis & Eileen Freeman

Congregational Singing    Nichelle Bauman

“Beauty for brokenness” (v. 1, 2, 5)    STS#115

“My soul proclaims with wonder” (v. 1-3)    WB#181

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Our God of peace, your justice wells up like a spring, bringing dreams, laughter, and wholeness to the world. We confess we so often stifle your Spirit. We are afraid to claim that you anointed us to carry your upside-down vision into our broken world, where the lowly are trampled upon, the hungry go away empty, the rich increase in power and might. We confess we lack the courage to build up and repair what we have broken, imprisoned, and oppressed. Forgive us when we do not catch your vision. Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path to peace.**

(Pause for silence)

Words of Assurance (leader)

Emmanuel, Our God with us, in Jesus Christ you have come among us. You have given us life, and we are restored.

Choir

“The First Noel/Pachelbel’s Canon”    Arr. by Michael Clawson

“Messiah’s Lullaby”    David Schwoebel

Moment in Mission – Christian Peacemaker Teams Video

Children’s Story    Nancy Mann

Dismissal for Junior Church

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Scripture Reading – John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: “God’s Good News”

Hymn of Response

“My soul cries out” (v. 1-3)

Time of Sharing, Testimony and Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Sending Song

“Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

Choir

“His Life is Light from Heaven”

*Arr. by David Lantz III,  
Words by Herb Frombach*

Benediction

Postlude

*A big thank-you to all those who participated in the choir this year!*

Accompanist: Casey Horn     Flute: Barb Draper  
Soprano: Mary Bauman, Barb Draper, Nancy Mann, Merri-Lee Metzger  
Alto: Eileen Freeman, Florence Jantzi, Marj Metzger  
Tenor: Richard Bauman, Darrell Jantzi, Lester Kehl  
Bass: Cliff Bauman, Steve O. Bauman, Roy Draper, Richard Freeman

Children of all ages are invited to Jr. Church following the children's story. We ask that parents/guardians accompany very young children as needed. *An unstaffed nursery is available during the worship service.*

*Our morning worship services are being videotaped and put on our website. If for any reason you would not like a portion of the service to be included, please contact the AV person.*

*A warm welcome to our visitors this morning.  
We hope our time of worship together has been an encouragement to you. You are invited to drop by our Welcome Table and learn more about our church and our ministries. God bless you and we hope to see you again!*

**THIS WEEK AT FMC**

**Tuesday – January Calendar items due to the office**  
**Sunday, December 24 at 11 a.m.**

4<sup>th</sup> Advent Service. Children will sing in worship. - No Sunday School.

**Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.**

Join us for Christmas Eve Service.

**LOOKING AHEAD at FMC**

**January 3 – 4:00 – Events Planning Committee at Gloria’s**  
**January 9 – 9:00 – Ladies Quilting & Knotting**  
**January 10 – 8:00 – Elders**  
**January 11 – 9:30 – Let’s Connect**  
**January 11 – 7:00 – Women’s/Men’s Bible Study**  
**January 11 – 7:00 – Hopping Thursday starts up again**

Rick Martin  
Gary Knarr

STS#124

WB#178

January 14 – Meet Jim Loepp Thiessen

January 27 – 5:30 - Roast Beef Dinner - 7:00 – Rescue Junction Concert

Sunday School Classes available at 9:45		Upcoming Elective Classes
Kidz Korner	basement	Jan. 14 – Meet Jim Loepp Thiessen during Sunday School Hour.
Drawing Class	Room 12	
Discussion Class	Room 9	
Seniors Class	Board Room	
Adult Bible Study	Room 11	

No Sunday School December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Financial Report

As of Dec. 10: \$339,198.10 required

\$318,560.86 received

\$20,637.24 deficit

Three Sunday offerings remaining until 2017 year end.

#### ADDITIONAL FMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Jim Loepp Thiessen** – Church Council is recommending Jim Loepp Thiessen to the congregation as our full-time lead pastor. Jim and his wife Ingrid will visit us on the weekend of January 13 and 14. This is a brief summary of the events that are planned:

- January 13 – Jim and Ingrid will meet with Church Council, Elders, Staff Relations, the Pastoral Search Committee, and our staff for breakfast at The Stone Crock in St. Jacobs.
- January 14 – We will have three opportunities to experience Jim: Sunday School in the multi-purpose room, a sermon and children's story during the worship service, and a potluck lunch and presentation following the worship service.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. We will ask everyone to complete a brief survey sharing affirmations, concerns, and general comments. Church Council will evaluate the feedback and make a decision. Jim is available to start in the lead pastor role on May 1, 2018 if called.

**MCC Relief Kits** – Supplies for relief kits will be collected until Sunday, January 7. Please place items under the tree in the foyer. For items needed, refer to Dec. 3 bulletin insert or see <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/kits/relief>.

See announcement sheet for other announcements.



“Loving God...Loving Our Neighbour”

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*Interim Pastor Gary Knarr - 226-647-2858*

*Associate Pastor Nancy Mann - 519-575-0032*

*Music Ministry – Nichelle Bauman – 519-314-0067*

*Youth Worker – Kim Rempel*

#### Elders

*Rita Bauman 519-638-3624*

*Steve O Bauman 519-669-8630*

*Mary M Martin 519-664-2163*

*Derrick Burkhart 519-669-2624*