

**Worship Focus:** With Mary we say..."My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

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

Prelude Kim Rempel  
 Call to Worship Christine Knarr  
 Opening Prayer  
 Congregational Singing Merri-Lee Metzger  
 "Come, thou long expected Jesus" WB#178  
 "To us a child of hope is born" WB#189  
 Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle Eddie and Kaleigh Bauman  
 Scripture Reading – Psalm 89:1-4  
 Prayer of Confession  
 L: It's only a few hours till we celebrate Christmas, a few more hours of preparation, and maybe even some last minute shopping.  
**All: Lord, help us to slow down and breathe.**  
 L: The tree is decorated, the cookies are baked, the turkey is thawing...  
**All: Lord, calm our frantic minds.**  
 L: The Christmas Eve service is tonight...  
**All: Lord, help us to focus on You.**  
 Words of Assurance (leader)  
 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17  
 Children's Story Nancy Mann  
 "Angels we have heard on high" WB#197  
 Dismissal for Junior Church  
 Giving of Tithes and Offerings  
 Congregational Singing  
 "Oh, how shall I receive thee" WB#182  
 "Infant holy, infant lowly" WB#206  
 Scripture Reading – Luke 1:26-38 Lorenzo Fellycyano  
 Sermon: "He Came Down" Gary Knarr  
 Hymn of Response  
 "Arise, your light is come" STS#30  
 Announcements and Sharing Time  
 Pastoral Prayer  
 Sending Song  
 "Hark! the herald angels sing" WB#201  
 Benediction  
 Postlude

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!*

Church Greeters Today: Brent & Rita Bauman  
 Next Week: Oscar & Joan Martin

**THIS WEEK AT FMC**

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

Join us for Christmas Eve Service.

**Wednesday – Bulletin items due to the office.** Office hours will be Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 – 1:00.

**MYF CORNER**

**Sat. Dec. 30 - Youth serving at Stirling Suppers.** Meet at Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church at 4:30pm. Please let Kim know if you can come.

**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**

**January 14 – Meet Jim Loepp Thiessen – potluck lunch**

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

Sunday School Classes available at 9:45 starting again Jan 7		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**

\$30,186.14 required to meet FMC 2017 budget.

There are two offerings left this year.

Thank you for your support.

### **ADDITIONAL FMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jim Loebb Thiessen** – Church Council is recommending Jim Loebb 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>.

### **LOOKING AHEAD in the COMMUNITY**

**Dec. 29 – 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.** – **Blood Donor Clinic** – Lions Hall, 40 South St., Elmira

**Jan. 17 & 18 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** – Fairview Mennonite Home & Parkwood Mennonite Home invite you to join us for a **retirement celebration in honour of Tim Kennel** at Parkwood Mennonite Home Jan. 17 and Fairview Mennonite Home Jan. 18. Kindly RSVP by December 21. Barb (Fairview) 519-653-5719 ext 4837 or Stella/Joanne (Parkwood) 519-885-4810 ext 330

**Feb. 10, 2018 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** - **Worship Come to its Senses** at Waterloo North Mennonite Church with Don Sailors. In this workshop we will explore songs, texts, and a combination of verbal and non-verbal ways to communicate our worship. Through interactive learning, we will discover how, in the words of facilitator Don Sailors, "Christian worship, like a dazzling diamond, must continually be turned in the light of our living and dying, our struggles and our deepest hopes, in order to be fully appreciated" (*Worship Come to Its Senses*, p. 90). For registration go to: <https://uwaterloo.ca/anabaptist-learning-workshop/worship-come-its-senses-february-10-2018>

**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**