

Worship Focus: We marvel at the vastness of God's plan. We celebrate in exuberant praise what God has done and will continue to do.

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude Nichelle Bauman

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 148) Rita Bauman

L: We will give thanks and rejoice!

All: We will praise the Lord from the heavens, from the heights, and with the angels!

L: We praise the Lord with the sun and moon! We praise the Creator of the shining stars!

All: Fire and hail! Snow and frost! Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedars!

L: Young men and women alike! Children and aged ones too! Let us praise the name of the Lord.

All: Praise the Lord!

L: Yes! Let all things be made new.

Opening Prayer

Congregational Singing Nichelle Bauman

"Joy to the world" WB#318

"Good Christian friends, rejoice" WB#210

Scripture Reading – Galatians 4:4-7

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

O God, the time of waiting is over. Now you dwell among us, and we are in awe at the mystery of your birth. Yet we confess that, instead of marvelling at the vastness of your mercy, sometimes we scarcely take notice. Instead of allowing your Spirit to move within us and among us, we resist the mystery of your presence. Help us to open our hearts to the call of your infinite light. (Silence)

Words of Assurance (leader)

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

Children's Story Nancy Mann

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Congregational Singing

"What child is this" WB#215

"Worship the Lord in the beauty" WB#220

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:22-40 Mary Martin

Sermon: "Our eyes have seen your salvation" Nancy Mann

Hymn of Response

"Love came down at Christmas" WB#208

Time of Sharing, Testimony and Silence

Pastoral Prayer Gary Knarr

Sending Song

"Go tell it on the mountain" on screen

Benediction

Postlude

Children are invited to remain with their families during worship today. Jr. Church will begin again on January 7, 2018.

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: Oscar & Joan Martin

Next Week: Willis & Eileen Freeman

Congregational Prayer List

Irene Freeman is receiving palliative care at Parkwood Mennonite Home. We remember Irene and Cleason, Shirley and Gerry, Willis and Eileen and all their family during this time.

THIS WEEK AT FMC

Wednesday – 4:00 – Events Planning Committee at Gloria's

YAF CIRCLE

January 15 - Young Adult Spiritual Discussion group will start up again for 2018. We meet every other **Monday at 7:30 pm** at the home of Jake and Ashley Albrecht. Come and see what theme we will explore together this year.

January 27 - Join us for the **Rescue Junction concert** here at the church at 7 pm.

February 11 - Our February **Supper-at-Six** will be a joint event with young adults from Elmira Mennonite Church. It will be **hosted at Elmira**. Kandace Boos, a MCC Indigenous Neighbours Program Animator, will be joining us to lead an interactive blanket exercise. Bring food and come prepared to learn and explore something new. 6 pm as usual.

LOOKING AHEAD at FMC

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 13 – Leader's Breakfast with Jim Loepf Thiessen at The Stone Crock, St. Jacobs

January 14 – Meet Jim Loepf Thiessen – potluck lunch

January 16 – 12:00 – Ladies lunch at Crossroads - All ladies welcome to join us to celebrate two 80th birthdays - Eleanor Metzger & Wanda Kehl

January 17 – 7:00 – Finance Committee
 January 17 – 7:30 – Worship Committee
 January 19 – 7:00 – Interfaith Dialogue Men’s Volleyball
 January 27 – 5:30 - Roast Beef Dinner (Tickets available in the foyer today)
 - 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 31st.

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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