

**This month's focus for prayer: Jay & Em W. - Workers in Central Asia, serving on the business for transformation team. They are experienced B4T workers in the region and are cultivating current and future transformational businesses.** One of the interns who has been studying the language was walking to language class and was hit by a car. She has had a long recovery from this accident, and is currently not in Asia but is getting some help elsewhere, and hopes to return eventually. This has left a hole that Jay and Em have been trying to fill in for what she was doing. Pray for them in their very busy schedules.



# Weavers Mennonite Church

**1st Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023 - 10:30AM**  
9:30AM Sunday School classes

*Called into God's Family, we join together  
to be transformed through worship,  
to nurture one another,  
to be equipped to serve Jesus Christ, and  
to carry out His mission in the world.*

## Weavers Mennonite Church

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### PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

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### Welcome & Announcements

Brett Bechler

### First Fruits Giving

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-9

### Worship in Song

c/o Jake Mumbauer

VT 621 "My Hope is Built"  
VT 218 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"  
VT 59 "To Us a Child of Hope is Born"

### Children's Time

Bryanna Bechler

### Message "Hope"

Curt Stutzman

Scripture: Matthew 24:1-14

### Communion

Song of Response VT 419 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

*(live stream will end)*

### Sharing and Prayer

Sending Song VT 138 "Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"

VT=Voices Together hymnal

*Nursery is available during the Worship Service  
(staffed today by :Annie King, Emily Wenger, Barb Martin)*

Our Service is live streamed and recorded. A no-video zone is available; ask an usher

## Upcoming Weavers Calendar

- **Youth, Sunday eve 6pm**
- **Wed Prayers via Zoom, meet at 6:30pm** (contact Julia Alleman)
- **Outdoor Walk-Thru Live Nativity, Dec. 9 & 10**
- **Sewing Day, Wed Dec. 13**
- **Christmas Caroling, Sunday, Dec. 17** (more info coming)
- **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols** (in Shady Oak)
- **Save the Date: Vacation Bible School Saturday, June 29, 2024, so please plan your summer trips around it**

## Announcements

**Happy Birthday this week to:** Silas Driver, Robyn Brunk, Josh King, and Melody Driver.

**Thank you for your continued contributions.** We have a basket at the back of the sanctuary. Other ways to give may include your bank's bill pay, which is often a free service, via mail, paypal on the church website, bank transfer or dropping by the office. Designations from this past week: Budget - \$5,617.76; Building Fund - \$1,070

**Our committee assignments are in place for the upcoming year,** but there is still room to serve. Approval by the congregation is required for those serving on Administrative Council. Up for renewal this year is Debbie Rhodes and Ruby Yoder. We will receive a ballot of affirmation today.

**You are invited to hear Striking Accord and Voxti as they present GLORIA, an a cappella Christmas, today, Dec. 3, 7pm** at Park View Mennonite Church. There will also be a time of singing with the audience. Admission \$5, children 12 and under free

**Many Cookies are needed** for our Walk Through Bethlehem, and can be brought to Shady Oak anytime this week during office hours if we can freeze them, or by Friday to have them fresh.

**Our Walk Through Bethlehem Outdoor Nativity will be held Sat. Dec. 9 and Sun. Dec. 10, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.** Please invite friends and family. Anyone who would like to help as an actor, in set construction, with costumes, or be in the angel choir should contact Floyd Blosser (fjblosser@comcast.net; 540-236-4591).

**Our Weavers traditional January Event** will look slightly different this year: we will be meeting on Sunday evenings in January, meeting for a meal together at 5:30pm followed by a time of reflection, conversation, and counsel. Because we have a decision/direction called for at the end of January regarding our affiliation with MCUSA, the focus will be on the Biblical understanding of "church."

**Blood pressure checks will be offered in the classroom closest to the new exit on the first Sunday of each month, beginning today.** Someone will be available for 15 minutes after church is out.

**One last Sunday (Dec. 10th) to donate supplies for MCC hygiene kits** - Kits give families facing disaster or war access to necessities like soap & towels which they would otherwise struggle to afford.

Kits are often given to displaced people and are also distributed at schools or orphanages. Before the kits are distributed, MCC will add toothpaste that complies with import laws.

Contents (**New items only**)

1 adult sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)

1 large bar of bath soap (leave in wrapper)

1 nail clipper (good quality)

1 hand towel (medium weight dark or bright colors preferred, approx 16"X26")

1 wide-toothed comb (6-8")

**A steering committee has been appointed to flesh out what an After School Care program might look like at Weavers** with the goal of beginning next fall. Additional information sharing the vision is being distributed by email and you are invited to look over it and ask questions. There will be an expense that would need to be included in the Budget, probably for the next several years. The program will require some use of the Shady Oak facilities, as well as the new classrooms of the addition.

**Consider attending Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,** Jan 17-April 24. See your congregational email for more information.

## Walking lightly as we welcome the light

*By Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, MC USA Climate Justice coordinator*

**Traditions of Advent and Christmas assist us in welcoming light and joy into the darkest weeks of the year. Gifts and decorations, festive foods and gatherings with family and friends can nurture joy and wonder. Often, these holiday traditions come at a high price -- for our wallets, our stress levels and our planet. In the U.S., about one million EXTRA tons of trash are generated per week between Thanksgiving and Christmas. How can we welcome the light while also walking lightly on the Earth? Here are a few ideas, More-with-Less style:**

- **Light the darkness with LED Christmas lights**, which use 80% less energy and last longer than incandescent bulbs.
- **Make decorations that you can compost** when the season's over: pinecone creatures; wreaths or garlands of fresh evergreens; snowflakes from scrap paper or grocery sacks; garlands of popcorn, cranberries or dried fruit; or ornaments from applesauce and cinnamon.
- **Exchange names with extended families or co-workers**, rather than giving a gift to everyone.
- **Give "experience" gifts:** a homemade meal, a lesson in a craft you can teach or an outing that you plan and lead.
- **Instead of a package, give a (recycled!) card** letting your loved one know you've made a donation to a favorite non-profit organization in their honor.
- **Shop locally** to reduce the environmental impact of packaging and shipping, and to support local businesses and artisans.