



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
REEDLEY, CALIFORNIA

December 6, 2009  
10:45 a.m.

**Walking Together**  
Advent 2

**Get ready! God calls us to choose the path of peace**

**Gathering**

Music for Gathering	Eleanor Friesen
<i>Four Advent Carols</i> (Powell)	
Lighting the Christ Candle and the Peace Lamp	
Gathering Hymn	
<i>Sizohamba Naye</i>	
Gathering Words and Prayer	SJ 78
Gathering Hymn	Ruth Buxman
<i>Sizohamba Naye</i>	
Scripture Reading	SJ 78
<i>Malachi 3:1-4</i>	
<i>Luke 1:68-79</i>	
Hymns and Songs of Praise	
<i>Songs of Praise the Angels Sang</i>	
	WH 60
<i>Bless'd Be the God of Israel</i>	
	WH 174

**We Trust in God**

Lighting the Advent candle	Jim & Annie Compton-Schmidt
<i>I Will Trust in You</i>	
Leader: <i>The first candle reminds us to take heart.</i>	
<i>The second candle of Advent anticipates God's bursting in and breaking out: God bursts in and calls us to break out of cycles of hatred and revenge.</i>	
All: <i>Scripture teaches that the one who began this good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.</i>	
<i>We light this candle as a reminder to get ready, and choose the path of peace. God reveals the path for our feet to follow.</i>	
Leader: <i>Beloved of God, get ready and choose the path of peace.</i>	
Chorale Anthem	Church Choir
<i>Shepherds What Fragrance</i> (Willcocks)	
Time with the Children	Barbara Ewy
Chorale Anthem	Church Choir
<i>Follow a Rose</i> (Praetorius)	
Proclamation	Stephen Penner
<i>The Messenger Comes</i>	

**Responding in Trust**

Song of Christmas	
<i>Where is this Stupendous Stranger</i>	
	WH 200
Litany of Response	
Leader: <i>Lord, in this time of Advent, we long for your coming. We rejoice that you send messengers to prepare the way and announce the light of peace. Yet we are afraid of your judgment. Who can endure the day of your coming, and who can stand when God's messenger appears?</i>	
People: <i>Purify us, Lord. Clean out our souls and get rid of all that blocks our relationship with you. Help us to follow your ways, to love justice and pursue peace.</i>	
Leader: <i>We confess that we have tried many paths and that our wandering has made us weary. We have turned away from your ways.</i>	
People: <i>Guide us with your grace.</i>	
Leader: <i>Lord, in your loving kindness, draw near and finish the good work that you have started in us.</i>	
People: <i>We are prepared to choose the path of peace.</i>	
Leader: <i>Thank you for your tender mercy toward us as you guide us. Amen.</i>	
Sharing our Gifts	
<i>Cold December Flies Away</i> (Barker)	
Praying	Stephen Penner
Song of Christmas	
<i>O Come, O Come, Immanuel</i>	
	WH 172
<b>Sending</b>	
Spoken Benediction	
Postlude	
<i>O Come, O Come, Emanuel</i> (Powell)	



**Thank you** for choosing to worship with us this morning. If you are visiting with us today we ask that you sign the guest book at the back of the church and that you please accept a small gift prepared just for you. The gift can be found in a basket on the back table!

**The Oil Lamp** at the front of our meeting place symbolizes our prayers for peace between our country and neighbors around the world.

**Assistance for the hearing impaired** is available from the audio operator.

**December 13, 2009** This is the third Sunday of Advent. In our Spanish language service we will light the third candle and Juan Montes will be preaching. In our English language service we will light the third candle and Stephen Penner will be preaching.

**December 20, 2009** Our English language service on the third Sunday of Advent will include beautiful singing by our church choir. Stephen Penner will bring the morning message. Our Spanish language service will include a timely message by Juan Montes and spirited singing.

**Nursery Workers** are greatly appreciated. The staffed, early childhood nursery is in Room 3 of the Education Wing. The un-staffed infant nursery is in the back of the sanctuary.

December 6 – Peggy Unruh, Graciela Sandoval

December 13 – Jenny Penner, Carmen Montes

December 20 – Laura Penner, Jessica Ambriz

*If you are unable to take your turn on the scheduled day, please trade with someone.*

**Fellowship Time** Everyone is invited to come to the kitchen end of the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. after the Sunday School Hour for a time of food and fellowship. The following people are scheduled to help with coffee prep and bring food on the following Sundays:

December 6 – Annie & Jim Compton-Schmidt (coffee); Ligia Franco (food)

December 13 – Cathy Ratmeyer (coffee); Glenna Penner (food)

December 20 – Melinda & Dave Hasegawa (coffee); Augustina & Cruz Carrilo (food)

*If you are unable to take your turn on the scheduled day, please trade with someone.*

**Christmas Program Rehearsal** We continue our Christmas program rehearsal today at 3:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The program will be December 20 at 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Caroling** The Education Committee is sponsoring Christmas caroling at Sierra View Homes again this year. We will assemble at Sierra View at 6:00 pm on Monday evening, December 21. Afterwards we will enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring some goodies to share!

**Joys and Concerns** We lament the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the human toll they take. We pray for families in our own country who must say good-bye to loved ones as the troop levels in Afghanistan escalate. We pray for schools to be built, for the hungry fed, for hospitals to function, for people of all nations and persuasions to lay down their guns and shake hands.

Ed Jenkins has spent time at Community Hospital this week. We pray for his recovery.

**Peace Center** is not meeting on Friday, December 11, however, you are invited to join them as they attend the River City Theatre Company's production of "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*" on Saturday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. (advanced tickets are required). See Karen Peterson for tickets (896-6107).

**Join the Fellowship Sunday School Class** to study the book *Gandhi and Jesus: The Saving Power of Nonviolence* by Terrence J. Rynne. The Fellowship class began this study this morning and will continue for (at least) the rest of the winter quarter. You are invited to join the Fellowship class for this study.

**The Prayer Sunday School Class** will begin studying *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan on January 10, 2010. This is a book about how relentless God is in His pursuit of us and how our responses change the church. Anyone is welcome to join in the corner room in the basement.

**FPU Ensemble Performance** Members of the Fresno Pacific University music faculty will present a concert of Baroque string music at First Mennonite Church in Reedley on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Entitled "Musica Viva – Baroque Masters," the concert will include compositions by Bach, Handel, Mondonville, Purcell, Pachelbel, and Leopold Mozart, and features violinists Susan Doering and Claudia Shiuh, and Dieter Wulfhorst, violoncello.

**Thank You** Georgierena Harder would like to thank everyone who helped her to make her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday special.

**The Christmas Tree in Our Sanctuary** This Sunday and throughout the Advent season we will admire the beauty of the Christmas tree once again poised in our sanctuary. Every year Paul Ruth goes to the effort of procuring the tree and transporting it to our worship space. We thank Paul for this lovely contribution which adds so much to our worship during the Advent and Christmas season.

**New Deacons** We are pleased to report that Maxi Ambriz and Dorothy Boldt have said "yes" to serving as deacons in our church. They will begin three-year terms in January.

**Ken Seitz's Commentary** Our former pastor Ken Seitz is writing a regular commentary/response to the weekly Sunday School lessons. You can find his reflections at [www.mpn.net/abs](http://www.mpn.net/abs). You can also read his first two commentaries in the current *Vox Simonis* on pages 14-15.

**Treasurer's Report** As of the end of October, our church income was behind expenses by \$15,000. That is less of a deficit than any of the prior three years at this time. Anticipating our expenses for the rest of the year and taking into account the offerings thus far in November, to meet our expenses we need \$42,500, or an average of \$8,500 for each of the last 5 Sundays of the year. This is well within our reach, noting that offerings for the month of December are the highest of the year.



## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 6, 2009

- 8:45 a.m. Prayer Time in the Fireside Room
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education Classes for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. English Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Spanish Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Church in the Basement

### Tuesday, December 8

- 6:15 a.m. Anabaptist Prayer Gathering
- 8:00 a.m. Quilting
- 7:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, December 9

- 8:00 a.m. Quilting
- 9:30 a.m. Young Women's Group
- 7:00 p.m. Kids Club
- 7:00 p.m. MYF
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 10

- 7:00 p.m. FPU Ensemble "Musica Viva"

### Sunday, December 13

- 8:45 a.m. Prayer Time in the Fireside Room
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education Classes for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. English Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Spanish Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Church in the Basement

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 20 Christmas Program 5PM
- Dec. 21 Caroling at SVH at 6PM
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service
- Jan. 23, 2010 Bethel Banquet 6:30PM

**PRIMERA IGLESIA MENONITA  
REEDLEY, CALIFORNIA**

Diciembre 6, 2009  
10:45 am

Servicio de Alabanza y Adoración

**Caminemos Juntos**

**Visión PIM: "Hacer Mas Y Mejores Discípulos"**  
**Vehículo de movilización "PESCA"**

**"Jesucristo. El Espíritu Santo Nos Han Dado Los Dones Para Que  
Crezcamos A La Plenitud De Sus Conocimiento, Practíquelos."**

**J. Montes**

Coordinan

Jesús Durán

**TIEMPO DE PREPARACIÓN**

Bienvenida//Oración de Inicio

Coordinador

**ALABEMOS Y ADOREMOS JUNTOS**

Canto de Alabanza

Grupo de Alabanza

Cantos de Celebración

Grupo de Alabanza

Diezmos y Ofrendas / Oración

Coordinadora

Cantos de Adoración

Grupo de Alabanza

Jr. Church (Salón11)

Alexis Sandoval

**OIGAMOS LA PALABRA DE DIOS**

Lectura Bíblica/Oración

*Marcos 13:24-32*

Varones y Damas

Predicación

Pastor Juan Montes

*Camino a la Meta*

Testimonios / Peticiones / Anuncios

Pastor

**"Todos están convidados a gozarse con Dios en este ambiente familiar.  
En esta congregación basada y segura en Jesucristo y la guía del  
Espíritu Santo."**

**- PARA ABRIR LA IGLESIA O ALGUNA EMERGENCIA CONTACTE A:**

Sebastián Andrade (Diacono) 356-7640 (H) 356-7640 (c)

Juan Gómez (Sindico) 743-7005 - Maxi Ambriz 637-9067

**Hoy: 7:00 PM. "Red De Apoyo Matrimonial" – Habrá cuidado para niños**

**Próximos Eventos:**

**Enero 2, 2010. Por Primera vez en Reedley y en Concierto Erick Porta.**

**Nota:** Todos los Miércoles de 12:00-12:45 PM. Enseño un estudio bíblico en el River Packing. 7:00-8:30 PM Oración Estudio Bíblico.

Viernes y sábados. 7:00 PM, Actividades variadas para jóvenes.

Sábados de 5:00-6:00 PM. Instalación del sistema de sonido.

6:00-9:00 PM. Ensayo del Grupo de Alabanza

Loa domingos de 9:30-10:30 AM Escuela De Capacitación Y Entrenamiento  
Dominical

10:45: 12:30 PM Servicio de Alabanza y Adoración.

**El Informe del Tesorero** Desde el final de Octubre, nuestros ingresos de iglesia eran detrás de gastos en \$15,000. Es menos de un déficit que cualquiera de los tres años previos en este tiempo. Esperando nuestros gastos para el resto del año y teniendo los ofrecimientos en cuenta hasta ahora en Noviembre, para encontrar nuestros gastos necesitamos \$42,500, o un promedio de \$8,500 para cada uno de los 5 Domingos pasados del año. Este está bien dentro de nuestro alcance, notando que los ofrecimientos para el mes de Diciembre son los más altos del año.

