

Missionaries of the Month: Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their children are learning languages and building relationships in a sensitive region of northern Africa as part of a long-term vision to invite a people movement toward Jesus. " We ask for wisdom as we begin thinking very seriously about schooling options for our children here...that we would find healthy environments for them to learn and thrive in. Our oldest son has Trisomy 21 (Downs Syndrome), so there are additional challenges associated with finding a good educational program for him here."

VMissions Note: Lift up Don Clymer as he leads a four-day seminar in Switzerland beginning Wednesday with the theme, "A Spacious Heart." Pray that those attending will be able to receive a blessing from their time together. Pray that Don will clearly express his thoughts as it will be in German.



Weavers Mennonite Church

**Worship Celebration
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2016**

*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.*

Once again we stand amazed at the miracle of the Incarnation -- Immanuel, God with us. Let us fill the sanctuary of the Lord with praise, "Glory to god in the highest." As the family of God, we greet one another; a special welcome to those visiting with us today.

Weavers Mennonite Church

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Prelude (& Offertory)

c/o Sandy Byler

Welcome & Announcements

Luke Hertzler

Worship in Song

c/o Barry Koogler

Children's Story

Regina Brubaker

Advent Candle Lighting

c/o Jr. Youth

Special Music "All is Well"

Worship in Hymns

Larry Sauder

First Fruits Giving

Sermon: ""Noel! Hope Has Arrived"

Phil Kanagy

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Hymn of Response

Sharing & Prayer Time

Benediction

Closing Song

TODAY AT WEAVERS

- ◆ Hearing assistance units are available from the ushers.

Nursery services are available.

Attendants: Worship – Laura Wheeler, Lauren Rhodes

THIS WEEK AT WEAVERS

Wednesday, December 28

7:00pm Prayer meeting at Dorothy & Clayton Shenk, 2221 Lake Terrace Dr., North Park View

Sunday, January 1

Speaker, Phil Kanagy, "The Future Has Arrived" Scripture: Matt. 2:1-12

Nursery Attendants: Rachael Sauder, Ada Zhang

7pm New Year's Day Harmonia Sacra Sing

Statistics for Sunday Service December 18, 2016

Worship Attendance - 167

Offering: Budget - \$12,076

Announcements

Happy Birthday blessings this week to: Jake Wheeler (today!), Fae Deputy (turns 11 yrs.), Floyd Blosser, Jeff Rhodes, Kristin Eby, and Teresa Jackson.

You are invited to participate in the Food Backpack Project as a Christmas project. Please limit food items to the list previously shared (or find additional lists at the food basket in the foyer). These are specific items yet needed, and are according to what the school has requested for children.

Weavers will pay for half the registration: Consider attending **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**, a class for believers from all walks of life to get threaded into God's story and experience God's heart for all peoples. *Perspectives* will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they are relevant to your life. The Spring 2017 class will meet at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Center, 711 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, Va. The first two sessions are free. For registration details, find the class at perspectives.org or contact Carol Tobin at 540-435-9887. (See Janet Blosser for Weavers payment).

The **church office** will be **closed Dec. 26th for Christmas, and January 2 for New Year's Day**. May each one of you receive blessings of faith, joy and peace as we continue to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The **Annual Harmonia Sacra Singing** will be held at Weavers on **New Year's Day at 7 p.m.** This is 4-part, unaccompanied singing of Harmonia Sacra hymns and is a community event. Bring your songbook if you have one. There will be a few loaner books available also.

The offices of Virginia Mennonite Missions and Virginia Mennonite Conference will be closed December 26-30. If you would like to make a year-end contribution to either organization, checks can be mailed to 601 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, or placed in the secure drop box located beside the front door facing Parkwood Drive.

January Event 2017

Each Wednesday, meal in Shady Oak at 6:00pm (this is a bit later than in past years); input time starts at 6:50pm. There are separate activities for Kids & Jr. Youth for the input time.

The title of this January event is: *The Book that Breathes New Life: A Study of the Nature of Scripture and its Interpretation*. At the heart of this study is the conviction that the Bible is a living, breathing, life-giving, in-Spirit-ed document that gives life to its readers. It is not a static, dead, or unmoving text; it therefore warrants our approach with anticipation, openness, and yearning for the God it points to.

A brief synopsis of the sessions for each Wednesday evening in January are as follows:

Session 1—Wed. January 4: **In what manner does God speak in the Bible?** Or, how does the word of God come to us in the Bible? Be thinking about what has shaped your understanding of the Bible—its nature, purpose, and primary message.

Session 2—Wed. Jan. 11: **Making Sense of the Bible; What can we expect of the Bible?** It's a book that breathes new life, but it is also hard to understand at times. In this session we will look at some of the challenges and tensions within the Bible itself. In these tensions, however, we discover a richer and fuller texture of meaning that opens readers to creativity, imagination, surprise, and awe.

Session 3—Wed. Jan. 18: **The Lens We See Through;** these are the assumptions and presuppositions we bring to the Bible, consciously or unconsciously, and which influence the ways we interpret Scripture. This session highlights principles of Biblical interpretation (hermeneutics) that guide us as interpreters.

Session 4—Wed. Jan. 25: **Invitation to Hope: Navigating Risk & Opportunity, Peril & Promise** Diversity and differences offer both risks and opportunities; navigating them is never a completely rational process—that is, by reason only. They are also emotional processes. Seasons of ferment and tension can result in despair and a loss of hope, but ferment and tension also offer opportunities for learning and growth, for creativity and renewal. At the end of the day is the issue of faith and trust in God: can God be trusted to lead his people through tensions that diversity inevitably brings? Hope in God, or the lack thereof, is a profoundly spiritual matter. This session seeks to increase our capacity to trust God in difficult times, and to live into hope.