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## Worship in December

### Worship Theme

#### Flood of mercy

The scriptures for the season of Advent through Epiphany include many water images. In the Bible, water usually means two opposite things: destruction and life. Desert-dwellers, of course, realized how crucial water was for survival, and those of us who live in hot and dry climates know this too. We're in no doubt that the "righteous Branch" announced by the prophet Jeremiah and read on the first Sunday in Advent (Jeremiah 33:15) won't live long without regular watering. Yet while water is absolutely necessary for life, it also can be scary. The panic is there in the gospel passage for the same Sunday, where "the roaring of the sea and the waves" causes people to "faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world" (Luke 21:25-26). We can imagine the scene; we've seen videos of floods and tsunamis carrying away everything in their wake—or we've lived through this kind of destruction ourselves.

(continued on page two)

### Worship Leaders & Teachers

**Dec 2**—Worship leader, Doug; teaching by Jerry; Communion; potluck

**Dec 9**—Worship leader, Do-reene; teaching by Jerry

**Dec 16**—Worship leader, Vangie; teaching by Lois

**Dec 23**—Worship leader, Bret; teaching by Pat

**Dec 24**—Christmas Eve, Doug

**Dec 30**—Worship leader: Lois; teaching by Jerry

### Mission Focus

**Dec 2**—

**Dec 9**—MCC Native American ministry

**Dec 16**—Sharing Fund

### Nov Attendance

Nov 4            20

Nov 11          18

Nov 18          24

## Worship Theme (continued)

Our theme grew out of our conversations about how God comforts *and* disturbs, two ideas that are hard to hold together yet that seem impossible to separate in the Advent texts. We know what it's like to be flooded with joy or excitement, overwhelmed by God's love and the gift of a community of faith—the "positive" associations of flooding. We also know that sometimes floods carry away and destroy things that matter: houses, bridges, people, and animals. This is a darker picture.

In its life-giving power and in its sometimes frightening clean sweep, the image of a flood fits well with this season, which at the same time calls us to repentance and invites us into new life. If we're honest, we have to admit that we sometimes hang onto things that don't matter or last, things that may even get in the way of what God wants to do in us, in our communities, and in our world—things we may need to let go. Yet God's work is not about wiping things out simply to wipe them out. Even painful and difficult clearing away is for the sake of something bigger and truer, and it is always grounded in God's overwhelming mercy, in God's care and concern for all that God has made.

In addition to capturing the paradox of repentance and joy, releasing and receiving, we like the way floods are overarching and inclusive. A river overflowing its banks washes over *everything* in its path. This helps us see that whatever God is doing isn't just for us insiders, however we might define insiders (good Christians, cradle Mennonites, baptized church members, or nice people). What God is doing in Jesus is what God has been doing all along: loving the whole world. We see this most clearly in the story of the wise men, but it's there also in Isaiah's vision of the nations come to bask in the brightness of a new dawning where there's plenty of room for all.

From ***The Leader***

## Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for our church as we discern our future.
2. Please continue to pray for Jerry and Lori Acosta and their family and ministry. Pray that their Sunday morning services will be well attended. Pray that those that attend the Wed and Sun services will grow in faith.
3. Continue to pray for healing for Belinda.
4. Pray for spiritual healing of the neighborhood of the church.
5. Pray for Teresa and her health
6. Continued prayers for Erna
7. Pray for those needing work in our congregation.
8. Continued prayers for the youth of our congregation.

## Servant Groups

Immigration Servant Group: Lois (264 3686) or Pat (262 2644)

Women's Discipleship Group: Cindy (832 0050)

NT Greek Reading Group: Jerry (263 0204)

Ladies Reading Group: Vangie (263 0204)

Hospitality Group: Geneva (262 2644) or Doreene (265 3848)

## Offerings in November

Goal: \$768.00/month

Oct 28	\$116.00
Nov 4	\$308.00
Nov 11	\$834.00
Nov 18	\$343.00

*Thank you!*

## Peace Center Annual Meeting

Friday, December 7

The featured speaker is Tom Hayden. The event will be at Fairmount United Church of Christ, 1650 N Fairmount. The dinner & annual meeting will start at 6:30 pm, Tom Hayden will speak at 8 pm. The cost is \$20 for both the dinner and speaker or \$10 to hear Tom Hayden only. To RSVP for the annual event send an e-mail to [director@wichitapeace.org](mailto:director@wichitapeace.org) stating if you will be attending the dinner and speaker, or the speaker only.

Contact Pat for tickets: 262 2644

## Winter's Art

Winter is a poet who,  
In quiet meditation,  
Writes of mountains blanketed  
By white precipitation.

Winter is an artist, too,  
And softly draws the scene  
Of stillness in a frozen pond  
Against a silent screen.

Winter's a musician,  
And if we're listening,  
The grace-note of God's love is played  
Which no one's voice can sing.

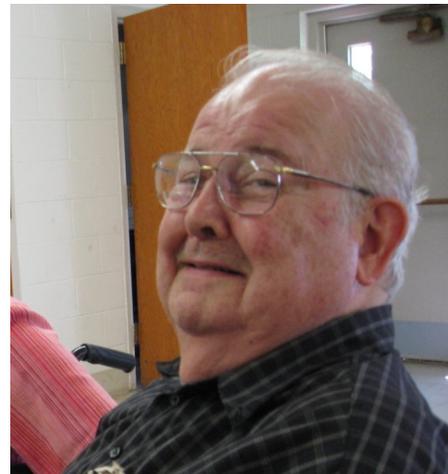
By Frankie Davis Oviatt  
*Submitted by Jenny Hurd*



## Russell Jeffries

Russell passed away Friday, Nov 23, late morning, with wife, Erna, and friend, Doug VonEhrenkrook, near by.

His funeral will be **Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 1:30 pm** at Cochran Mortuary, 1411 North Broadway, Wichita, KS 67214. A light meal at Mennonite Church of the Servant will follow the internment.



## OPERATION HOLIDAY

Our church has been invited to participate in Operation Holiday in one of several ways:

1. Youth groups, Sunday school classes or individuals can volunteer any time from now until it's over, December 15.

2..Sponsor a collection drive for new and gently used coats and new blankets, gloves, scarves, hats, nonperishable food, diapers and gifts for teen agers. That's what the big white box is for. My challenge to everyone is to bring the vegetables, tuna, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, cereal, etc, to create a meal for a family of 4. Another challenge is for our church to have at least 2 coats or 2 blankets and a gift for a teen ager in the box by the end of November.

A benefit of giving is the joy of sharing with 50,000 of your friends and neighbors. Another benefit is that for each donation you get a chance to guess what is in the bag by the mailboxes. The family who has the most guesses or guesses the closest to what is in the bag, will win a prize.

I have the information needed to qualify for assistance, how to apply and how to help if anyone needs it.

*Sally*

## Wise Sayings

Heard at SpiritLife from Sister Renee

"Be friends with our wounded part, with the parts of our self we don't like, and then it can be transformed."

"We become whole, not because we didn't sin; but because we did."

"The Spiritual Life has a lot more to do with subtraction than addition" by Meister Eckhart

## Verse of the Month Luke 1:76-79

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

## Song of the Month

Blest be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall:  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
before God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord,  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.

Words: Carl P. Daw. Jr.

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# MCS December 2012

**Verse of the Month: Lk. 1:76-79**  
**Song of the month: Blest be the God of Israel**

[www.mcswichita.net/calendar.htm](http://www.mcswichita.net/calendar.htm)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship 11:45 am: Potluck	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	17 <i>Happy Birthday, Theresa Turner!</i>	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	24 <i>Happy Birthday, Robert Esau- Rutherford!</i>	25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b> <b>Feliz Navidad!</b> <i>Happy Birthday, Christian Cheaney!</i>	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	31 <i>Happy Birthday, George Williams!</i>					





## Mennonite Church Of the Servant

Our mission is to welcome all people into a community covenanted to follow the way of Jesus Christ through

- Committing ourselves to radical and biblical spirituality
- Living in relational and accountable community
- Seeking Christ's peace within and in the world

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The Mennonite Church of the Servant Newsletter is published monthly. All literary, commentary, creative, and news contributions are considered.

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