

## LOOKING AHEAD

|                                       |                                |   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Tues., Dec. 19                        | 9:30 am                        | Worship Ministry Meeting  |
| Wed., Dec. 20                         | 9:30 - 11:00 am<br>7:00 pm     | Drop-in Neighbourhood Playgroup<br>Blue Christmas Service at FOOTHILLS Mennonite                                |
| Thurs., Dec. 21                       | 6:30 pm                        | Hand Bell Rehearsal   |
| Sun., Dec. 24<br><i>Fourth Advent</i> | 9:15 am<br>11:00 am<br>5:00 pm | Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal (breakfast provided)<br>Worship Service - Pastor Caleb<br>Christmas Play Program |
| Mon., Dec. 25                         | —                              | No Service at First Mennonite Church  |

| First Mennonite Financial Summary as of November 30, 2023         |                    |                    |            |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Budget Line   | Budget Amount (\$) | Actual Amount (\$) | % Complete |
| <b>Operating Budget</b>   |                    |                    |            |
| Income  | \$270,400          | \$218,586          | 81%        |
| Transfers to Conferences  | 42,000             | 2,000              | 5%         |
| Total Expenditures  | 270,400            | 215,077            | 80%        |
| Net Income  | 0                  | 3,509              |            |
| <b>Capital Budget</b>   |                    |                    |            |
| Income  | 5,000              | 4,583              | 92%        |
| Total Expenditures  | 15,000             | 0                  | 0%         |
| <b>Refugee Sponsorship</b>  |                    |                    |            |
| Income  | n/a                | 6,102              | n/a        |
| Total Expenditures  | n/a                | 12,274             | n/a        |
| <b>All Other Funds</b>  |                    |                    |            |
| Income  | n/a                | 30,796             | n/a        |
| Total Expenditures  | n/a                | 55,252             | n/a        |
| Amount of income needed by December 31 to meet our annual budget: |                    | \$51,814           |            |

## BEYOND FIRST MENNONITE

Join Foothills Mennonite Church tonight, December 17 at 6:30 pm., for their choir program, followed by Coffee Time.

First Mennonite Church, together with Foothills Mennonite Church, is holding a Blue Christmas Service at Foothills Mennonite Church (2115 Urbana Road NW) on Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm. This service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance for the weary and for those who have experienced loss.

The Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA) featured congregation for December in the "A Window Into...Our Mennonite Congregations" series is Bergthal Mennonite Church. Learn more at: [mcab.ca/windows2023](http://mcab.ca/windows2023)

This Christmas, countless children and families are caught in conflict around the world. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) invites you to share the peace of Christ with people spending Christmas in a war zone by giving the gifts of hope, comfort, and joy. To learn more, visit: [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas)

PASTOR: CALEB KOWALKO

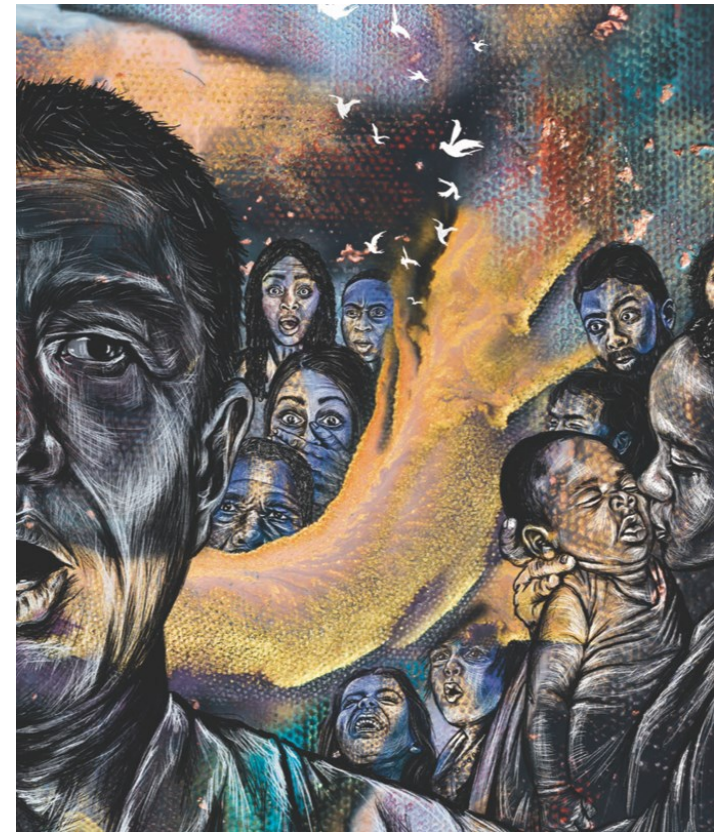
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# CALGARY FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023



"What Wonder Turns Into" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

2600 RICHMOND ROAD SW, CALGARY, AB T3E 4M3

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DECEMBER 17, 2023

THIRD ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 11:00 AM

Prelude

**Gathering**

Hymn of Gathering O come, O Come, Immanuel (VT #210) vv. 1, 4 & 7

Opening Words

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Call to Worship (Projected)

Passing the Peace

Prayer of Illumination

**Proclaiming**

Hymn of Praise We Come (VT #225)

Children's Visio Divina

First Reading Psalm 126

Hymn He Came Down (VT #239)

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 57 - 66

Message Pastor Caleb

**Responding**

Time of Reflection "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Hand Bell Choir

Congregational Response

Affirmation of Faith (Projected)

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People

**Sending**

News & Announcements

Benediction

Hymn of Sending Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (VT #216)

Worship Leader: Margo Ratzlaff  
Accompanist: Niko Schellenberg

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ~ 10:00 AM

Pre-kindergarten - Grade 2  
Grades 3 - 6  
Grades 7 - 12  
Adults

Christmas Eve Program  
rehearsals are underway  
for all grades

Lower Sunday School Wing  
Upper Sunday School Wing  
Upper Sunday School Wing  
**No class today**

PRAISE & PRAYER NOTES

**REDACTED.  
CONTACT THE  
CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS**

First Mennonite Church received a letter from the Calgary Food Bank thanking us for donating 125 items during our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our cash and food donations help to provide food for those in our community who are facing food insecurity.

Our Christmas Banquet & Silent Auction had 94 guests in attendance, including 31 guests from Trinity Mennonite Church. The Silent Auction brought in \$3,053.05 from the 43 donated items. With an additional \$100 from the Ugly Christmas Sweater Auction and \$82.05 from the Quilt Guessing Game, a whopping \$3,235.05 will go towards creating Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Kits. Thank you to all those who helped to make this event such a wonderful success.

HERE AT FIRST MENNONITE

Next Sunday, December 24, all of those involved in the Christmas Play are asked to arrive at 9:15 am for the dress rehearsal - breakfast will be provided. The Worship Service will begin at the usual time of 11:00 am. Remember to return at 5:00 pm for the Christmas Eve Christmas Program.

There will not be a Christmas Day Service on Monday, December 25.

Please place your offering into the collection box, located on the sound desk at the back of the sanctuary. Or, send your donations to Calgary First Mennonite Church through Interac e-Transfer to: [treasurer@calgaryfirstmennonite.ca](mailto:treasurer@calgaryfirstmennonite.ca)

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

This week the people in the logo may represent Zechariah and Elizabeth, both weary and joyful with the birth of their son.

Or, they may represent Elizabeth, weary with new motherhood, and her neighbours, who have come to share their joy for her.

The banner design, visible at the front of the church, incorporates symbols linking this week to the wider story - the smoke of the incense recalling us to Zechariah's angel encounter, and the waters of baptism leading us to the future of the baby named in the Scripture today.

