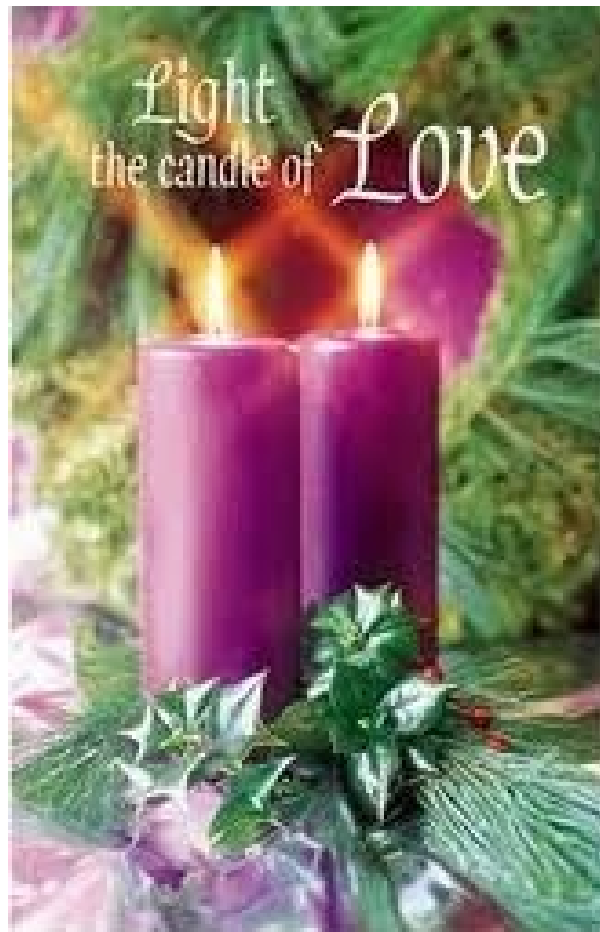


***Groffdale Mennonite  
Church***



***December 22, 2024***

## ***Groffdale Mennonite Church***

Our Vision: A growing community of disciples of Jesus,  
expressing Christ's redeeming love and reconciliation.

Volume 69                      **December 22, 2024**                      Number 51

### ***Welcome! We are glad you are here!***

Prelude by Caeley and Lily Zimmerman

Opening Song led by Henry Youndt

    "O Come All Ye Faithful" (Red Hymnal #145)

Welcome and Call to Worship by Pastor Tom Eshleman

Offering for Leadership Support

Advent Reading

Children's Time and Advent Offering led by

    Pastor Krista Snader

Worship songs led by Henry

    "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Red Hymnal #141)

    "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" (Red Hymnal #127)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:11-15.

Sermon by Lee and Lisa Zimmerman

    "Controlled by Christ's Love"

Closing Song

    "Go Tell it on the Mountain" (Red Hymnal #138)

Sharing Time and Prayer

Benediction

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*Thank you to those serving in our worship service today!  
Including Ushers Leonard and Mim Martin, Projectionist  
Chris Martin, Sound Tech Brian Snader, Live Stream  
Operator Levi Hoover, Camera Operator Lloyd Weaver  
Nursery Worker Anne Martin.*

***Bring to the Lord in prayer:***

- Pray for all the children and families impacted by the school shooting in Wisconsin this week.
- Pray for peace in areas of turmoil in the world; Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, Syria, Sudan.  
Pray for Andres and Angelica as they visit Angelica's family in Paraguay in the midst of many family medical concerns.
- Pray for Anne Martin's brother-in-law Joe Hackman who received a kidney transplant on Wednesday. (Joe's son Brian donated a kidney)
- Pray for Anna Nolt as she continues treatment for breast cancer.
- Pray for Richard Buckwalter as he undergoes hip replacement surgery on Monday December 23.
- Pray for James and Melani during this time in the US with family.
- Pray for the pre-school in Catel, Guinea -Bissau. Give thanks to God for the generous contributions that our congregation has been able to collect during Advent.
- Pray for Tanner Eshleman as he arrives home from Spain today (Sunday afternoon).
- Pray for our Christmas Eve service and the children and youth (and some adults) of our congregation who are participating in the play written by Lucinda Snader, Lily Zimmerman, Kathy Stoltzfus and Joyce Shenk.
- Pray for Lee and Lisa Zimmerman as they bring our message this morning.

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Note: Pastor Tom and Jennifer and their family will be traveling to Michigan on December 26 to be with Jennifer's family. They plan to return home on December 30.

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Dear Groffdale congregation: Join me in thanking God for answered prayers! This past Monday I picked up my chemo pills, and started taking my pills on Tuesday morning. This Friday I will go to the Ephrata Hospital where Dr K. will remove more fluid from my lungs. He will also put in a catheter for future draining. God bless you all for your prayers on my behalf; we greatly appreciate your prayers and support at this time! Glory be to God! Anna Nolt

The **Morning Prayer Group** will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 25 and January 1. We will meet again on Wednesday, January 8 at 8:30am in the Conference Room.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**TODAY: HAPPY 81st BIRTHDAY TO MIM MARTIN:** Sunday, December 22

**TODAY: Henry Youndt:** Sunday, December 22

**Janessa Eshleman:** Friday, December 27

**Lily Zimmerman:** Saturday, December 28

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

**Mark and Kathy Wenger:** Sunday, December 29

Our congregation will miss Norma Rutt while she is with her family in Georgia during the Christmas holidays. Norma enjoys getting mail from her Groffdale friends while she is away. Her address is:

Norma Rutt  
c/o Gerald and Laretta Eshleman  
2576 Georgia Highway 88  
Hephzibah, GA 30815

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Copies of the recent issue of the Everence Toolkit are on the front and back tables.



Everyone is welcome to attend our Christmas Eve service on **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30pm.** "A Shepherds' Christmas", an original play written by Kathy Stoltzfus and other Groffdale writers will be performed (and also during our worship service on Sunday December 29). The youth and several adults are involved in this wonderful performance of Christmas through the eyes of the shepherds! Refreshments will be served in the café after the service.

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During the 4 weeks of Advent the children will be collecting a special offering for the EMM-supported preschool in the town of Catel in Guinea-Bissau. These funds will be used for a printer and tablet, student scholarships and teacher salaries. Pray for this preschool as they share the Good News of Jesus with young children and their Muslim community! Checks can be written to Groffdale Mennonite Church, with "EMM preschool" in the memo line.

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***SAVE THE DATES!***

**Sunday, January 19, 2025—Two events**

Glen and Joyce Shenk will share about their ministry with the Djari/Abdelkerim family in the All-Purpose room during the Sunday School hour. We encourage all classes to attend.

In honor of Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday, Mennonite World Conference is holding a special offering called "One Lunch". We are invited to contribute the cost of a restaurant lunch to MWC. As part of remembering the global church on this day, we invite you to bring a bagged lunch to church as we will eat lunch together in the All-Purpose Room.

**Sunday, February 2, 2025—Congregational meeting**



**Note for guests and visitors**

*We are so glad you are joining us for worship this morning and we hope you come again. We invite you to fill out one of the guest cards found on the back of the church benches and place the completed card in the offering basket.*

## OFFERING

Listed below are the totals for the last week's offerings and deposits. Thank you for your giving!

Church Facilities	\$3,666.00
Leadership Support	550.00
Missions	230.00
Program Fund	130.00

*Serving Next Sunday, December 29*

Worship Leader: Pastor Krista Snader

Service: Christmas Play

Projectionist: Diane Weaver

Livestream: Jim Evans

Usher: Minerva Nolt

Offering: Program Fund

Nursery Workers: Steve and

Sharon Nolt



**Pastor:** Tom Eshleman, [tome@groffdale.com](mailto:tome@groffdale.com)

717-669-4578 (cell); 717-656-6388 (office)

**Associate Pastor:** Krista Snader, [kristas@groffdale.com](mailto:kristas@groffdale.com)

717-466-8930

**Treasurer:** Mark Wenger, [pastormarkwenger@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkwenger@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Jeff Martin, [finance@groffdale.com](mailto:finance@groffdale.com)

[jlmartin1213@yahoo.com](mailto:jlmartin1213@yahoo.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Diane Weaver, [churchoffice@groffdale.com](mailto:churchoffice@groffdale.com)

168 North Groffdale Road, Leola, PA 17540

717-656-6388 | [www.groffdale.com](http://www.groffdale.com)

**Dial-in LIVE Sunday AM Worship:** 717-690-0477