

**Oak Grove Church of the Brethren**  
**December 12, 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

\*Calling in Hymn *While we are waiting, come* # 1032

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** *Christmas Medley* arr by Christine D. Anderson

**Advent** *Christ has come...Christ will come again*  
**Scripture** Zephaniah 3:14-20 (OT, p. #877)  
**Choir and Congregation** *Advent Gathering Song*

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Emmanuel.

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God our Savior, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing.

**As we join in your holy work, make us into a people who are friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and bringers of joy to those whose hearts are broken,**  
 for you take delight in strengthening the weak, enriching the poor, and giving hope to those who live in fear.

**Look upon our needs this day and make us grateful for the good news of salvation.**

Give us ears to hear and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

**We light this candle as a symbol of the joy we have found in our faith, as we anticipate the coming—and coming again—of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn *Angels we have heard on high* # 197

**Moment for Mission**

**Bells** *The Birthday of a King* Neidlinger

**Hearing from God's Word**

**Scripture** Luke 3:7-18 (NT, p. #60)  
**Message** *Joy*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name.**  
**Amen.**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer, with the Lord's prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we**

**forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn *Joy to the world* # 318

**\*Benediction**

\*Sending Song *Soon and very soon* # 611

\*Please stand as you are able.

**THIS WEEK AT OAK GROVE**

Today	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	ESL Classes
	9:00 a.m.	Conversations Group
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	ESL Classes
	2:00 p.m.	Games
Friday	5:00 p.m.	Camp Bethel Dessert Pick-up
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Church Clean-up Day
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		Choral Cantata: <i>A Festival of Lessons and Carols</i>

## CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Tim Harvey  
pastortim@oakgrovecob.org

Minister of Nurture and Music Carol Elmore  
carol@oakgrovecob.org

Worship leader Cooper Purcell family

Nursery workers Julie Chumbley & Pam Connor  
Nursery workers (12/19) Tanya & Maggie Pizzullo

### Instrumentalists

<i>Stephen Wills</i>	<i>organ</i>
<i>Joe Blaha</i>	<i>piano</i>
<i>Kathie Robinson</i>	<i>flute</i>
<i>Sam Phillips</i>	<i>viola</i>
<i>Shelly Haas</i>	<i>bells</i>

## PRAYER

Wayne Cook, congestive heart failure  
Dawn Thomas, kidney issues  
Doris Light, in hospice care  
Dan Brogan, home rehab for broken leg  
John King, home rehab for broken leg  
Morton Witt, melanoma  
Hollie Craighead Johnson, breast cancer

## CONNECTING WITH OAK GROVE



Learn more about us, listen to recent sermons, keep up with current happenings: [www.oakgrovecob.org](http://www.oakgrovecob.org) and on Facebook



Find us on Facebook:  
Oak Grove Church of the Brethren



Interested in supporting our mission and ministry financially? You may contribute via the Tithely app on your smartphone or in the offering box.



We have a limited number of spaces reserved for those with mobility challenges. If you are able, please park in the spaces farther away from the church.



Our Meditation Garden is available for prayer in the side yard of our church property.



Need a hearing device, wheelchair, cushion, or have a question? Our head usher will be glad to be of assistance.

## ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING (12/05)

Sunday School- 49  
Worship- 116  
Received on 12/5- \$8,645.00



# Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

December 12, 2021

*Third Sunday of Advent*



## News of the Brethren

### **Cabool, Missouri, Church of the Brethren**

Nineteen people attended the *Who Will Be a Witness?* workshop on Saturday, Oct. 31, at Cabool (Mo.) Church of the Brethren. Discussion grew from the book of the same title by Messiah College and Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren member, professor Drew Hart., with the added subtitle, *Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance*.

The Witness Commission of the church planned the event to address the scourge of racism in light of Jesus' teachings and ministry. Highlighting portions of the book and enabling small group discussion resulted in substantive and challenging dialogue, and the group prays for courage as they attempt to address racism and prejudice of many kinds.

### **Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren, Weyers Cave, VA.**

The music leadership of Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren in Weyers Cave, Va., has produced an album of hymns and praise songs titled *While I Run This Race*, reports the Shenandoah District. The district is distributing the album with an invitation to make donations to the Haiti Medical Project, and an invitation to share it with friends and neighbors and invite them to donate.

### **White Rock Church of the Brethren, Floyd, VA**

White Rock Church of the Brethren's Fall Festival on Oct. 23 raised some \$2,200 to benefit a family who lost a loved one to COVID-19, said an article from SWVAToday.com. "Preparation for the festival began in September, when church members gathered to make apple butter, and culminated into more than 75 quarts and pints of canned food including apple butter, blueberry jam and blackberry jelly," the article said. The festival included a yard sale to benefit the family of Matt Moses, who died Oct. 6 at age 35, leaving behind his wife and two children. Michael Pugh pastors the church located in Floyd, Va.

## **Ankeny Church of the Brethren, Ankeny, Iowa**

Church members Rhonda and Jim Bingman installed a Little Free Library in the front yard at Ankeny (Iowa) Church of the Brethren, reports Northern Plains District. "Memorial money was used to purchase the library box, post, and memorial plaque. The box is made from composite material so little maintenance should be necessary. Jim was the first borrower when he checked out one of his own books that Rhonda donated. A bench is planned to be added in the Spring. Hopefully the neighborhood and our own members will enjoy taking a book and leaving a book."

## New Book by Rebecca Dali

Speaking of books—what fuels Rebecca Dali’s passion when “responding with compassion to the most vulnerable persons in northeastern Nigeria”? According to Dali it is her personal story and history—one of “poverty, frustration, rape, a son abducted (by Boko Haram) 11 years ago”—that inspire her life’s work.

Dali, a member of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), is founder and executive director of CCEPI (Center for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiative). CCEPI is an organization that serves the most vulnerable populations who have been traumatized by Boko Haram attacks. Her work has attracted worldwide attention and support. In recognition of her work, as part of the observance of World Humanitarian Day on Aug. 21, 2017, Dali was awarded the Sergio Vieira de Mello medal at the Palais des Nations, where the UN meets in Geneva, Switzerland. Her speech at the event was titled “We Have Walked in Each Other’s Shoes.”

Dali and her husband Samuel currently live in the United States. On Oct. 9, she spoke to 26 CCEPI-USA board members and guests in Manheim, Pa., attending the launch of a book about her childhood and life’s work. *We Have Walked in Each Other’s Shoes: Rebecca Dali’s Story* is written by Frank Ramirez with Rebecca Dali and is illustrated by the author’s daughter, Jessica Ramirez, who painted and photographed a series of nesting dolls in the Russian style, reflecting different stages of Dali’s life.

The book is targeted for middle-school students, but readers of all ages will benefit from this story. It begins with the award ceremony, then moves backward in time as the layers of her life unfold. The image of the nesting dolls reflects the fact that the person we are now was formed by what happened to us in the past. We carry the weight of our many experiences with us all the time. We are layers of our past and present selves stacked inside each other.

Dali has reflected on the suffering she has both witnessed and endured, and how the great traumas of her own childhood caused her to care deeply about the people of her country, and indeed, all suffering people.

At the book launch, she reiterated the history of CCEPI and outlined plans for construction of a new school in Nigeria. Rehabilitation services include crisis aid, trauma rehabilitation, skills training, and are open to Christians and Muslims. Basic medical services are provided, and access is arranged for more complicated medical needs. Classes are offered teaching sewing, knitting, computer skills, along with agricultural and livestock education. Legal services are offered to survivors.