

# PIONEER CONNECT

DECEMBER 5, 2015

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR 2015:



O Come, O Come,  
Immanuel

(VENI, VENI EMMANUEL)



## CHRISTMAS CHEER?

Tis the season of the advent! What will it bring? Even before the Thanksgiving table is clear, America is out the door welcoming the best deals of the year. From tech to trinkets we are primed not to want to miss capitalism's biggest giveaways. But is that all this tinsel and ribbon-laden time welcomes? These days the news cycle welcomes opinionated candidates, international crisis, and hard crime. We look around the family table to be greeted by failing relationships, crippling health issues,

and personal defeats. Unfortunately, it can feel like the cheer of Christmas only heightens the despair of the everyday. So let's turn it around by considering what this season can really welcome: hope, a satisfying future, and the certain promise Jesus will once again be "God with us." Let us greet each other this morning in a spirit of anticipation and expectation of an enduring peace. Today we invite you to receive the Gift that welcomes us into an eternity of joy. —José Bourget

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### YOUTH SATELLITE

*Kessia Reyne Bennett spoke to the youth for Satellite about the need to make a decision, because not deciding is actually making a choice.*  
(Photo credit: Ben Martin)



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CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO



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# WHERE'S THE BABY?

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

**T**he two young women, sisters, were out for a late afternoon stroll along the popular walking path in Compton, south LA. "Do you hear that cat?" one of them stopped. Both listened. Sure enough—from somewhere not so far away came a faint whimper. "Gotta be a cat." They strained to listen. "Sounds more like a baby to me." Impossible. Nothing there but the asphalt bike path and a chain linked fence. But they heard it again. "It's gotta be." They dialed 911.

Two deputies from the LA Sherrif's Department arrive. "Can you hear it?" The deputies nod. Nothing but asphalt and a chain linked fence, until one of them notices a crack in the paved pathway. Stooping over he pulls on the cracked asphalt—easily dislodging a piece of it, disclosing a crevice filled with debris. Scooping aside the debris, he spots the edge of a hospital blanket. And wrapped in the blanket a still breathing but cold to the touch newborn. Paramedics arrive, treat the tiny little girl at the scene, race her to the hospital—where she's doing fine! Although truth is, covered with debris and asphalt the baby would've perished had someone not scooped the rubbish aside.

What a grand narrative for Christmas!

Or rather, what a provocative metaphor for this season of Christ's birth—a

season that begins with the advent of Black Friday, followed by Cyber Monday, followed by Discounted Tuesday, followed by Wholesale Wednesday, followed by Slashed-prices Thursday? Et al. What is the Christmas season but twenty-four days of interminable shopping—credit-carding, lay-awaying, savings-spending, buying-buying-buying—until Christmas? But where's the Baby?

Shoppers in this nation spent an estimated \$12.1 billion on Christmas shopping this Thanksgiving and Black Friday. Add to that the more than \$3 billion spent online on Cyber Monday, and Americans have

already forked over \$15 billion-plus shopping in this season that celebrates the birth of Jesus. But where's the Baby?

Could it be the Baby now grown up wonders the same? Covered over with the asphalt of consumerism and the debris of materialism and got-to-have-it-ism, are we the nation that boasts "In

God We Trust" on our currency?

And are we the Americans who have declared to the planet we can't afford to allow even a 1000 Syrian refugees onto our shores or into our states for fear they might threaten our way of living and spending? Emma Lazarus' words inscribed inside the Statue of Liberty surely don't mean us—not this Christmas—do they?

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**...AMERICANS HAVE  
ALREADY FORKED  
OVER \$15 BILLION-  
PLUS SHOPPING IN  
THIS SEASON THAT  
CELEBRATES THE  
BIRTH OF JESUS. BUT  
WHERE'S THE BABY?**

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"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of  
your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

What difference can you personally make this Christmas? #1—You can cast your vote against our rampant consumerism by ramping back your investments at Walmart, Target, Macy's and their like. #2—You can choose to spend a comparable amount of money assisting a needy family in this community (mark your donation to Neighbor to Neighbor on a tithe envelope before Christmas). #3—You can decide to assist a refugee family even before they are granted asylum

somewhere on earth (maybe not here) by giving a Christmas gift through ADRA.org (Adventist Development Relief Agency). #4—You can save the money you would spend on Christmas and set it aside for your "My Student Missionary Fund" so you can put legs on your compassion and go somewhere on earth to help this suffering world. *You can do something!*

Where's the Baby? "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me" (Matthew 25:40). That's where He is. ■

*You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at [www.pmchurch.tv/blog](http://www.pmchurch.tv/blog).*





# LETTERS OF Encouragement

BY ANDREA JAKOBSONS

**P**aul is writing to his protégé Timothy. Paul, the spiritual mentor, is taking the time to leave Timothy, a young man, with instructions on how to fulfill the call that God has given him. My Evangelism and Leadership Class and I have been studying the two letters to Timothy for the past couple weeks. Thinking about the guidance that Paul offered Timothy, I can't help but look back at my own experiences with spiritual leaders. Although there were many people who influenced my walk

with God, there is only one person I can think of who has ever written me a letter in order to encourage me in ministry and to offer guidance: my dad. I specifically remember the time when I was going on my first “solo” speaking engagement in Poland and my surprise when I opened up my Bible and in it was a hand-written letter from my dad. The letter encouraged me throughout the two-week experience to speak boldly for Christ and to trust God. I think of my dad as the greatest spiritual mentor I’ve

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...I OPENED UP  
MY BIBLE AND IN  
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FROM MY DAD.

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ever had. But when I look at my life, the mentorship I have received from my dad and the mentorship I see in the letters of Paul, I can't help but wonder whether I have neglected "writing letters" to the youth? In fact, have we as an Adventist community neglected choosing protégés and "writing letters"? Sometimes I forget that I am not a youth anymore and that it is now my turn to mentor someone else. Perhaps it is because I hold the pedestal high and see Paul as someone much higher than I am, that I don't feel worthy of offering guidance to anyone else. So, what can I learn from Paul? What spiritual mentorship lessons are found in the letters to the young man Timothy?

- **Paul institutes a father-son relationship.** Paul calls Timothy 'son' (1 Timothy 1:2, 18) and treats him as family. He makes Timothy feel special because he loves him.

- **Paul encourages.** He points out that Timothy demonstrates "genuine faith" (2 Timothy 1:5) and calls him a "man of God" (1 Timothy 6:11). It is obvious throughout the letter that Paul is proud of this young man and is not afraid to let him know that.

- **Paul instills confidence.** He reiterates to Timothy that he has been given a gift and it should not be neglected (1 Timothy 4:14). Paul believed that Timothy was capable of being a leader despite his young age.

- **Paul challenges.** He entreats Timothy to be an example in behavior and godliness (1 Timothy 4:12) and to give himself completely to the ministry and the Word of God (1 Timothy 4:15-16).

- **Paul gives practical advice.** He instructs him how to handle different situations that may arise in the church by giving Timothy the right tools to use in order to

know how to treat others and to solve problems (1 Timothy 2-5).

The points seem simple enough and yet just because something is simple doesn't mean they are put into action. I would like to challenge myself and you as well because if you are reading this you are probably old enough to be a mentor to someone else—to "write a letter" to a young person in your life through the following actions (hint: establish #1 before going to the other 4):

### ❶ TREAT THEM AS SPECIAL.

Think of them as your son or daughter whom you want to blossom into a powerful leader for Christ.

### ❷ ENCOURAGE.

"I am so proud of you!" "You are so great at . . ." "These are the qualities I admire in you . . ."

### ❸ INSTILL CONFIDENCE.

Demonstrate that you believe in them and reiterate that they have been given gifts from God to do His work.

### ❹ CHALLENGE.

Don't be afraid to encourage them to live godly lives and to spend time in His Word. Ask, "How are you doing with God?"

### ❺ GIVE PRACTICAL ADVICE.

Tell them how to handle situations and life from the Word of God. ■

Andrea Jakobsons is the Religion Instructor at Andrews Academy.

# WE WORSHIP

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## Opening Voluntary

*In Sweet Jubilation • Johann Walther*

## Introit

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel • French Processional*

## Call to Worship

José Bourget

Where is the child who has been born to rule our hearts?

**Jesus is among us here. Let us seek him.**

Where is the child who has been born to rule our wills?

**Jesus is among us here. Let us seek him.**

Where is the child who has been born to rule our world?

**Jesus is among us here. Let us seek him.**

## Doxology

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2*

## Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

## Carols of the Season

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing • st. 1 & 3 of 122*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful • st. 1 & 2 of 132*

*Silent Night • st. 1 & 4 of 143*

*Joy to the World • 125*

## Congregational Prayer

José Bourget

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne • st. 1 of 140*

## Worship in Music

*Candlelight Procession • Adam Gorb*

## "By the Word of Their Testimony"

Dale E. Price with Rodlie Ortiz

## Children's Story

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear / I Saw Three Ships*

*S. O'Loughlin / L. Kerchner*

## Scripture

Matthew 4:13-17 NIV • Matthew Davis & Andrew Burrill

*(scripture continued on next page)*



Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

**“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”**

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

## Hymn of Preparation

*The Advent of Our God* • 117

## Sermon

“A Christmas Prayer for 2015:  
O Come, O Come, Immanuel (*Veni, Veni Emmanuel*)”  
Dwight K. Nelson

## Connect Cards, Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense

## Hymn of Commitment

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel* • 115

## Benediction

## Closing Voluntary

*In Sweet Jubilation* • Johann Sebastian Bach

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan  
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Wind Symphony; Alan Mitchell, director

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# MUSIC ALIVE

## "O COME"

**A**ction permeates much poetry of the Advent and Christmas seasons. "O come" is the ringing message of two hymn texts today. The first, "O Come, O Come, Immanuel," has an interesting background among Advent hymns. In the ninth century or earlier, Christian worshippers sang, from December 17 to 23 in anticipation of Christmas, seven pieces of music one daily at vespers. Each song contained a long

drawn-out "O," indicating earnest longing for the coming of the Savior, followed by one of seven names for the Lord such as Wisdom, Dayspring, and Root of Jesse. The second, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," is addressed toward Christian believers. Its text traces to the mid-1700s. Its melody is among the most familiar Christmas melodies, ADESTE FIDELES ("Come Near, Faithful Ones" in English). ■

# WE STUDY

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**Song Service** Rachel Sauer

**Welcome & Scripture** Adrienne Magsipoc  
B.S Bio-Pre-med

**Special Feature** Kevin Wilson  
MDiv

**Offering** Ev Milliner  
B.A Social Work

**Bible Study** "The Destruction of Jerusalem" • Classes

**Theme Song** *Make Me a Blessing*

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.  
Out of my life may Jesus shine.  
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

"Make Me a Blessing," Ira Bishop Wilson  
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

**Benediction** Rachel Sauer

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

**See page 18/19 for Sabbath School directory & map**

# WE PRAISE

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

## As We Begin

*I Saw Three Ships • L. Kerchner*

## Praise

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing • O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Silent Night • Joy to the World*

## Prayer

José Bourget

## "By the Word of Their Testimony"

Chris Ngugi with Ben Martin

Jane-Carla Esperance Idana Gedeon-Sainsurin with Rodlie Ortiz

## Baby Dedication

Emmett Elijah presented by Benjamin & Brianna Martin  
with José Bourget

## Worship in Music

*Candlelight Procession • Adam Gorb*

## Sermon

"A Christmas Prayer for 2015:  
O Come, O Come, Immanuel (*Veni, Veni Emmanuel*)"  
Dwight K. Nelson

## Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

## Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel • 115*

## As We Depart

*Joy to the Season • Sean O'Loughlin*

WORSHIP DIRECTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan  
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Wind Symphony; Alan Mitchell, director

**SUBMIT** announcements by emailing [bulletin@pmchurch.org](mailto:bulletin@pmchurch.org) or by going to [www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit](http://www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit). Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

**NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING**  
Adventist Community Services

**SUNSET TODAY** • 5:15  
**SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY** • 5:14

## PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 12 |

### CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

| 12 • 19 |

#### JOSÉ BOURGET

Annual Christmas Celebration/  
Breakfast in Church

## FINANCIAL FEATURE

### PMC OPERATING

#### LINE 2 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

My daughter recently mentioned that the non-material experiences we have given her, not the packages under our tree, are what is etched permanently in her memory. This made me think of the possibility of experiences at PMC: Young children awed as they learn about David, Esther and Daniel. Visitors eager to return after feeling our delight at having them here. Long-time members encouraged when worn out from a week of facing giants. Today our offering for Pioneer Memorial's church budget helps ensure that this church continues to provide the positive experiences that God intends us to have together.

### Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM  
PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

Tonight's topic is on prayer, including hymns, music from the Girls of Mercy, and testimonies of God's answers to prayer.

### Register Your GROW Group for Spring 2016

It's time to sign up your 8-, 10-, and 12-week GROW Group at [www.pmchurch.org/grow](http://www.pmchurch.org/grow). Have an idea for a GROW Group you'd like to lead between February 1 and April 24, 2016? It's not too early to begin inviting and praying for people who will want to join you. Let's GROW together.

### AU Wind Symphony Holiday Concert

TODAY • 8:00 PM  
HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The AU Wind Symphony, under the direction of Alan Mitchell, will present a Holiday Concert. The first half of the concert will feature *National Emblem March* by Bagley, and Gary Cooper, guest solo trombonist, performing *Colors* by Apperment. The Holiday portion will feature *Joy to the Season* by O'Loughlin, *I Saw Three Ships* arranged by Kerchner, and others. Tickets may be purchased online at [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu) or by calling the Box Office (471.3560).

## **Adventist Retirees of Michiana Christmas Banquet**

TOMORROW • 1:00 PM  
VILLAGE SDA FAMILY CENTER

Just a reminder for those who made reservations for our annual ARM Christmas Banquet—join us tomorrow as we enjoy the spirit of Christmas!

## **Soup for Students**

On December 8 let's give some bowls of love to students during finals week. We need commitments for at least 25 pots of soup. **Let us know by December 7** if you can help by calling Lailane Legoh at 269.471.3543.

## **Knitting Hearts Together**

DECEMBER 8 • 7:00 TO 8:30 PM  
MACCARTY HOME

The shawl ministry looks forward to having new members join us in ministering to those who have major health issues or the loss of a close family member. December 8 will be our last meeting before the Holiday break. We will resume January 12. For more info, contact Alice Williams ([alicew@andrews.edu](mailto:alicew@andrews.edu) or 471.3373) or Lyn MacCarty (471.9060 or 208.3377).

## **Mommy & Me**

We will meet December 8 then take a break for the Christmas season and resume on January 12. Join us in the Nursery at 10 AM for playtime, songs, and crafts with your 0-5-year-old.

## **Walking in Johnson Gym**

There is free walking in the Johnson gym 5 days a week Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 9:00 AM for all age groups.

## **After Hours PMC Access**

Effective Monday, December 14, after-hours access to PMC will be with ID card only. If you have reserved a room and made arrangements for doors to be open they will be open. Need your ID card activated or have questions, contact Lailane Legoh at 269.471.3543.

## **Feast of Lights**

DECEMBER 11 • 7:00 PM  
PMC SANCTUARY

All are invited to attend the 43rd annual Feast of Lights program presented by the Andrews Academy department of music. This spectacular night will be filled with music, Scripture and drama honoring the King of Kings. Enjoy lights, bells, instruments, choral and congregational singing, a Nativity scene, and the retelling of a glorious Christmas story. Portions of Vivaldi's Gloria as well as Handel's Hallelujah chorus will be performed, along with many other familiar carols.

## **Christmas Pops Concert**

DECEMBER 12 • 7:00 PM  
HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Join us as we bring in the holidays with a variety of well-known Christmas songs and holiday favorites performed by the Andrews Academy band, handbell ensemble, strings, and choirs.

## **Children's Celebration of Christmas**

Next Sabbath, December 12, during both services, you will have the opportunity to bring a new, unwrapped toy to share with the children in our community. Bring a gift for newborn through age 16 and it will be shared with the kids in our community.

### **Scrapbooking Together**

DECEMBER 13 • 1:00 TO 6:00 PM  
PMC COMMONS

Come and finish your Christmas cards or projects. Bring your favorite snack and we will provide the chocolate and prizes. If you have questions, email [davis@pmchurch.org](mailto:davis@pmchurch.org) or call 269.471.3134.

### **Handel's Messiah Sing Along**

DECEMBER 13 • 4:00 PM  
PMC SANCTUARY

Pioneer Memorial Church and WAUS are jointly hosting a glorious celebration with a Sing-along performance of Handel's Messiah. This event will be an exciting time to invite your family and friends, dust off your singing skills, or simply enjoy listening.

- Area choirs invited.
- Anchored by PMC Sanctuary Choir.
- Renowned soloists: Charles Reid, Julie Karpenko Reid, Stephen Zork, Carrie VanDenburgh.
- Kenneth Logan, organ.
- Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, conductor.

### **Foster Care Christmas Stocking Stuffers Collection**

We are looking for appropriate items to be used in Christmas Stockings for 0-18-year-old foster kids. Donations include handmade items such as: gingerbread cookies decorated and individually wrapped, knit and crocheted items, sewn stuffed toys. There are donation collection bins in the PMC lower lobby and the receptionist area, Village Hardware, Berrien Springs Public Library, South Shore Women's Health Care. For further information and to contact God's Hands 4 Kids go to [gh4k.org](http://gh4k.org).

### **Breakfast in Church**

DECEMBER 19 • 9:00 AM  
PMC COMMONS

Come and share our most joy-filled holiday tradition—a delectable Christmas Breakfast in Church. Bring your favorite holiday sweet rolls, and we'll provide the rest. If you would like to help serve, please call 269.471.3134.

### **Year-end Contributions**

December 26 is the last Sabbath to return your tithe and offerings for 2015. If you plan to bring in a donation, our office is closed December 30 and 31. Your donation needs to be postmarked no later than December 31 to be included in your 2015 tax deductible receipt. You can also make your contribution through Adventist Giving. Go to [www.pmchurch.org](http://www.pmchurch.org) and click the Adventist Giving tab. Contributions made until 11:59 PM on December 31 will be included in your 2015 tax-deductible receipt.

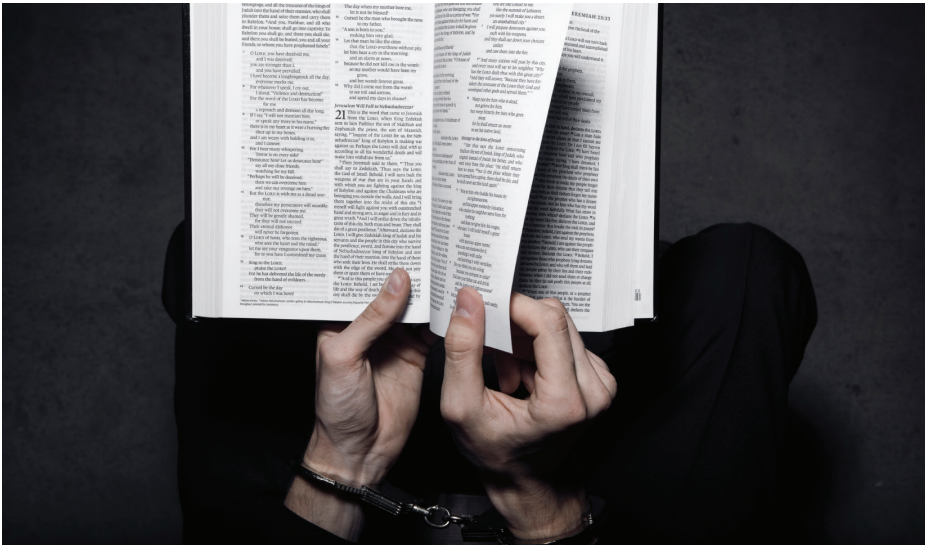
### **Volunteer Photographers**

Do you love taking pictures? PMC is in need of church photographers who are willing to take pictures of baptisms, baby dedications, and other special events on occasion. You don't have to be a professional but good with a camera and own your own camera. Contact 471.3134 or 471.3972.

### **Adopt A Family for Christmas**

It's that time again when you have the opportunity to help families who need help with meeting the needs (and some pleasures) of their children at Christmas time. To get involved please call Katherine Smith at 269.471.1502.





## JAIL MINISTRY

BY AUBREY HOPKINS

**W**e, the Pioneer Family and the jail ministry, have a unique opportunity to become more involved in adult education at the Berrien County Jail. We need donors and committed volunteers to create real change in the lives of many inmates. Statistics show that education does more to reduce recidivism than any other factor. Please help us help them. Here is a letter we received:

Dear Literacy Teacher / Aubrey,

Thank you very much for the time you spend at Berrien County Jail. Thank you for opening my brain to a whole other thought process. I now know and understand that my body is sober, and my mind is not. I've done a lot of mental spring cleaning, so to say. For, the first time in 14 years, I have a gap of mental thinking. I haven't had time to think like this, during that time. I really am grateful for the time in your class. Not just because it was a chance to get out of

the dorm, but it was a chance to expand my outlook on the world, religion, and understanding. You have a great skill with human understanding. Thank you very much for helping me through a milestone in life. Thank you very much for those interesting talks when Adam and I were the only ones who stayed in class. I hope to God that I will do my best to stay sober, that's one of the many things I pray about day and night.

Thank you very much and may God bless you for all you do.

Contact Aubrey Hopkins, Jail Ministries Director, or the church office at 471.6565 to become involved or for more information. ■

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**LIVE STREAMING**

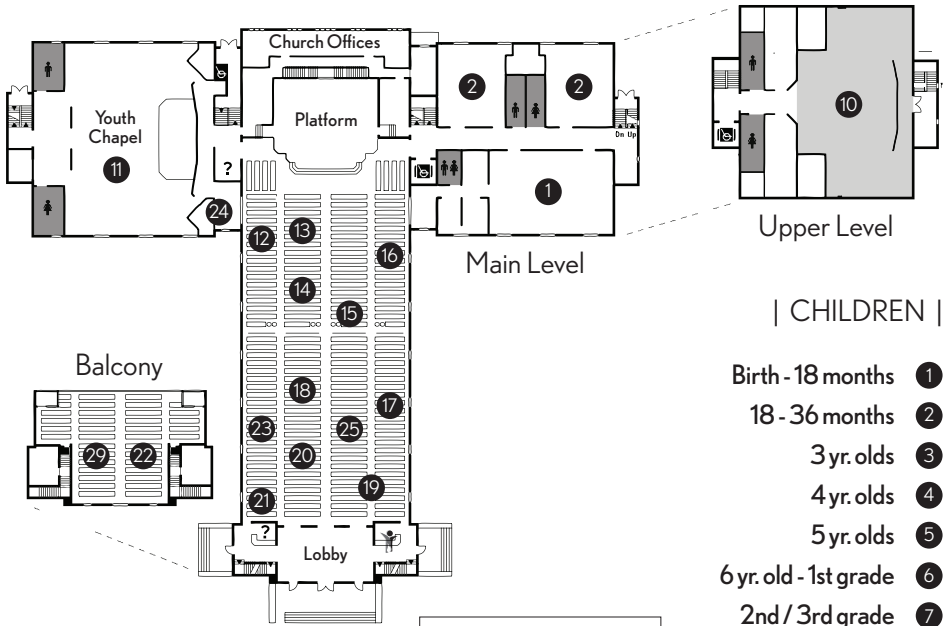
www.pmchurch.tv  
Sabbath 11:45 AM

**ONLINE**

www.pmchurch.org  
www.pmchurch.tv

**RADIO**

WAUS – 90.7 FM  
Sabbath 11:30 AM



| CHILDREN |

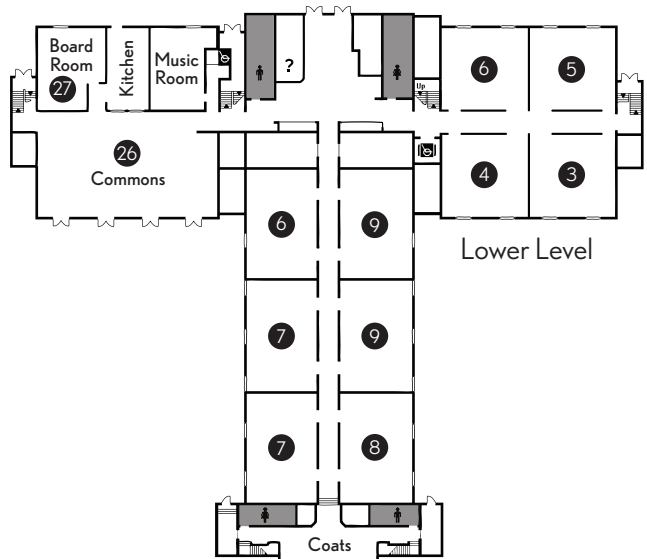
- Birth - 18 months ①
- 18 - 36 months ②
- 3 yr. olds ③
- 4 yr. olds ④
- 5 yr. olds ⑤
- 6 yr. old - 1st grade ⑥
- 2nd / 3rd grade ⑦
- 4th grade ⑧
- 5th / 6th grade ⑨
- Earliteen ⑩
- Youth ⑪

| ADULT |

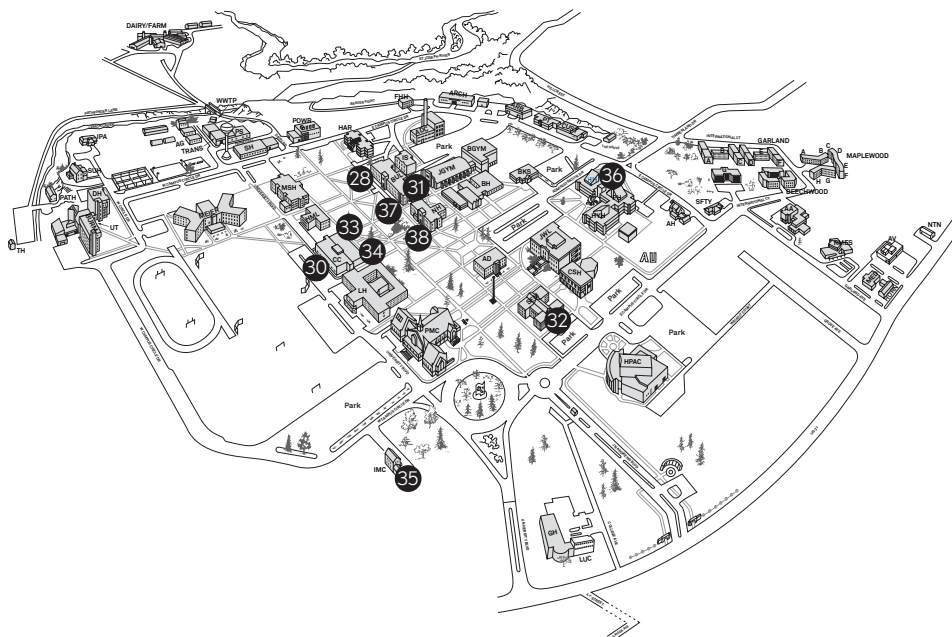
- ⑫ Group 1
- ⑬ Group 2 (Portuguese/Brazilian)
- ⑭ Group 3
- ⑮ Group 4 (Yugoslavian)
- ⑯ Group 5
- ⑰ Group 6
- ⑱ Group 7
- ⑲ Group 8
- ⑳ Group 9 (Spanish)
- ㉑ Group 10
- ㉒ Group 11 (Balcony)
- ㉓ Group 12 (French)
- ㉔ Conference Room
- ㉕ Indonesian Class
- ㉖ Something In Common
- ㉗ SDA Beliefs

| KEY |

- ? Welcome Centers
- E Elevators
- Restrooms
- Children's Activities & Lending Library



## Andrews University Campus Map



### | COLLEGIATE |

- 28 H&M (Hispanic - Religion Amphitheater)
- 29 People on the Move (PMC)
- 30 University Sabbath School (Dining Services)
- 31 Compass Sabbath School (Buller - Religion Dept.)

### | SEMINARY |

- 32 N108 (Collegiate)
- N110
- N120 (New Life Church Choir)
- N150
- N211 (Small Group)
- N235
- N310 (Russian)
- N335 (Spanish)
- S340 (Upper Room)

### | ADULT @ AU |

- 33 Main Lounge
- 34 Faculty Lounge
- 35 Back to Basics
- 36 Living Word Fellowship
- 37 Current Events (Buller - 135)
- 38 Bible Journey (Nethery - 143)

# CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

**NEXT SABBATH, DECEMBER 12**

We join with our community in collecting toys  
for families that need some extra kindness during  
this holiday season.

**BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY TO CHURCH  
FOR A CHILD AGE 1-16**

Come and invite your friends!

