

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

January 29, 2012

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: From Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem, from then to now.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: To heal the sick, to mend the broken-hearted,
to comfort the disturbed, to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple, to liberate faith from convention,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: To carry the cross, to lead the way,
to shoulder the burdens of the world, and take them away.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Today, to this place, to us,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

***Hymns:** “Brethren, we have met to worship” #8 HWB
“New earth, heavens new” #299 HWB

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:18-25

Children’s gathering song: “Come and see” #20 HWB

Children’s time

Song: “Praise, I will praise you, Lord” #76 HWB

New Testament Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Sermon: “The Burden of Former Things”

Hymn: “By Peter’s house” #378 HWB

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

One: God of mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Congregational Prayer

Our Father/Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. AMEN

Offering & Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** “Take my life” #389 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time

11:00 a.m. Christian ed. classes for all ages. Visitors welcome. Adult ed. class, The Heart of Mennonite Worship, in the education wing chapel.

Today’s topic: “Why do we gather songs for worship?”—consideration of new 50th anniversary song collection, led by Phil Stoltzfus.

TODAY

Greeter: Donna Minter

Ushers: Barb Beers, Cori Skogerboe

Worship leader: Chris Semanchin Jones

Sermon: Carol Wise

Song Leader: Anna Gambucci

Fellowship: *volunteers needed*

Nursery: Donna Minter & Melissa Hochstetler

Piano: Cathy Smetana

Fellowship buddy: Sandra Westby

Shoveling: Glenn Geissinger

Carol Wise is the Executive Director of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests that is housed here at Faith Mennonite. She is a graduate of the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado.

NEXT SUNDAY: Communion and Annual Meeting

Greeter: Beth Richardson

Ushers: Shawn Helmeke, Rhonda Martin

Meditation: Karen Wiebe, Melissa Hochstetler, Matthew Hendricks

Worship leader: Hermann Weinlick

Song Leader: Karen Wiebe

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Nursery: Mark Kaufman and Andy Martinson

Shoveling: Andy Martinson

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

January 15:

Attendance: 90

Offering: \$3,561

January 22:

Attendance: 59

Offering: \$ 673

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach (on sabbatical)

Ministry Staff: Phil Stoltzfus

Sabbatical Pastoral Care: Donna Stucky

Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks

Donna Minter, Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483

E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC office hours: January 30 – February 3

Pastoral Care: Mon 1-3, or leave message at any time on church phone

Ministry Staff: Mon 10-5; Wed 1:45-7

Email bulletin items before Wednesday noon to: faithmc@faithmennonite.org.
Bulletin will be finalized and printed this week on Wednesday evening.

Next Sunday, Feb. 5, 11:45 a.m., Annual Congregational Meeting. The **2011 FMC Annual Reports** have been emailed out as attachments. If you did not receive them and would like to, or would like a paper copy, contact the church office. Please read the reports before the annual meeting. The meeting will consist of commission reports and consideration of the 2012 budget, slate of officers, and marriage guidelines handbook amendment.

Childcare will be provided by the church during the meeting (no Sunday School classes will be held).

A potluck brunch will take place next Sunday at 10:45, immediately following the worship / communion service and prior to the start of the annual meeting. Juice and hot beverages will be provided. **Please bring something to share**; types of foods listed by household last names:

A-J Egg dish / potato dish/ other main dish

K-R Breads / muffins / coffee-cake

S-Z Fruit

We are **looking for musicians to present special music** during worship services. Music is especially important at FMC and we know that our congregation includes a lot of talented musicians. Contact a worship commission member: Gregg R., Chris J., or Donna S. to let us know your preferred date to honor us with your music. –*Worship Commission*

Church Meetings and Events

February 8 – Sustainability Team, 5 p.m., chapel

February 8 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

February 8 – FMC Crafters, 7 p.m., library

February 13 – Missions & Service, 7 p.m., chapel

February 19 – 2012 ushers meeting, 8:30 a.m.

February 22 – Deacons, 9-11:00 a.m., Hendricks home

Isaiah 43:18-25

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself,
so that they might declare my praise.

Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;

but you have been weary of me, O Israel!

You have not brought me your sheep for burnt-offerings,

or honored me with your sacrifices.

I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense.

You have not bought me sweet cane with money,

or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.

But you have burdened me with your sins;

you have wearied me with your iniquities.

I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,

and I will not remember your sins.

Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven', or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the paralytic— "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

L: For the Word of God in Scripture,

For the Word of God within us,

For the Word of God among us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Missions and Service is planning a spring trip for folks to **volunteer with Mennonite Disaster Service!** Our neighbors in **Minot, North Dakota** are continuing to recover from last spring's floods, and MDS has set up a base of operations there. We will volunteer in Minot **March 18-24**. We are hoping that a closer work site will enable some additional people to participate, and we're looking forward to strengthening our connections in Minot. 1,400 homes were significantly damaged; MDS is currently working on 4 homes that have been gutted down to the framing. Next steps will be to rewire, insulate, sheet rock, mud and tape, and either replace or refinish floors and trim. **Firm commitments needed by Feb.19.** Contact Glenn Geissinger, local MDS coordinator.

The next **Soup Groups** are:

• **Monday, Feb. 6**, at Joan Kreider's. RSVP by Sunday, Feb. 5
Soup group is a weekly opportunity to build community over a simple meal of soup and bread. Anyone is welcome to host and attend. Meals can be at someone's home, or at church. You can find info about upcoming times in the weekly bulletin, the Midweek Update, and the FMC online events calendar. **The open dates for hosting are: 2/14, 2/16, 3/15, 3/23, 4/10, 4/19, 4/27, 5/1, 5/17, 5/25.** If you are interested in hosting on one of these dates, either by preparing the food and/or providing the location, please **sign the sheet in the foyer** or contact Aryn Baxter.

Do you want to start off the new year with some **free clothes**? Come to a **clothing exchange at Kristin Green's house on Jan. 29, 4 p.m.** with your old clothes, and leave with new-to-you clothes! Free! Come if you have a little or a lot, there will be plenty. Leave what you don't want, Kristin will deliver leftovers to a thrift store. Men's, women's, and children's clothes welcome!

YOU can become a singing member of **One Voice Mixed Chorus!** **Auditions** for Spring 2012 are scheduled for **Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 30-31, 7:00 p.m - 9:30 p.m.**, Unity Church Unitarian, 732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul, 651-298-1954.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2:30 p.m., Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) **Faith Action Vigil vigil**, at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, St. Paul. St. Joan of Arc Church leading the program.

Artists and Crafters: Come to the church library at **7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8.** Bring whatever you are working on, enjoy some snacks and good fellowship with others from the FMC community. The gathering occurs on the second Wednesday and lasts until 9 p.m., or until all are ready to leave.

Missions & Service is a (non-financial) co-sponsor of the Iraqi & American Reconciliation Project (IARP) **exhibit, "Not About Bombs,"** beginning with an **opening reception at Intermedia Arts, Friday, Feb. 3, 7:00–9 p.m.** and running through March 3. The exhibit will feature photo-based works by **five contemporary Iraqi female artists.** "Not About Bombs" addresses how a female perspective can fit into the modern context of turmoil and conflict through art and avoid falling into the typical ways that women are represented... and misrepresented. Please help promote the exhibit by picking up and distributing postcards in the back. Visit <http://reconciliationproject.org/iraqi-art/not-about-bombs/>

Saturday, Feb. 18: Community sing led by Bret Hesla, Mary Preus, and Dan Chouinard, benefitting Minnesotans United for All Families in their effort to **defeat the Minnesota marriage amendment.** Come celebrate love, families, commitment, and justice. Suggested donation: \$15/adult, \$5/kids, \$25/family. 7 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 3901 Chicago Ave.

Needed: several people from our FMC community **to participate in the Central Plains 2012 Congregational Leaders Workshop**, "The Paradox of Power: Biblical Foundations of Authority," featuring J. Nelson Kraybill. Manson Mennonite Church, Manson, Iowa, **Saturday, Feb. 25.** Participants in the workshop will learn how to become more effective leadership teams for their congregations. **Contact deacons or the church office** for more info.

Missio Dei welcomes you to our semi-formal **Benefit Dinner, Saturday, March 3, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., FMC fellowship hall.** Please come enjoy a delicious meal while we share a little about who we are and our hopes for future ministry. Proceeds will help us with our goal of raising \$100,000 for a new hospitality house. Let us know if you are vegan or have other dietary concerns. Dinner will be accompanied by live music. Childcare will be provided, let us know if you will be bringing children and their ages. \$15 suggested donation. Please RSVP at missio-dei.eventbrite by February 27. If you have any questions, email: info@missio-dei.com. Hope to see you there! *–Missio Dei*

"And What Does God Require?" **Joint Religious Legislative Committee (JRLC) Day on the Hill, Tuesday, March 20.** Saint Paul RiverCentre and State Capitol. One of the largest lobby days at the Capitol each year. Join Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims at the State Capitol to publicly speak together to the legislature about key social justice issues before our state. Participants gather in the morning at RiverCentre in downtown St. Paul for inspiration and issue briefings. Buses then transport us to the Capitol for a short rally. Meetings are held with legislators in the afternoon. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Alika Galloway. **Register today** at www.jrlc.org and receive early bird rates.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 23-26, 2012, Washington D.C.

Explore economy, livelihoods, and our national priorities with hundreds of Christians at the nation's capitol. For four days worship side-by-side, hear from theologians and policy experts, equip ourselves to speak confidently on key policy issues, and take your message to our elected officials in Congress. Come to Washington and be heard! Register now at <http://advocacydays.org/registration/>.

You're invited to a **literary arts festival—Mennonite/s Writing VI: Solos and Harmonies, March 29-April 1 at Eastern Mennonite University**, co-sponsored by Conrad Grebel University College. Features playwright Vern Thiessen; poet Greg Orr; a growing list of Mennonite scholars and writers including Jeff Gundy, Ann Hostetler, Jean Janzen, Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Hildi Froese Tiessen, and Rudy Wiebe. Learn more and register by March 16 at www.emu.edu/mennos-writing. **Early registration discount available through February 3:** Regular, \$100; Senior, \$75; Student, \$35.

FMC Creating a Culture of Peace nonviolence training, April 13-15, save the date! Again this year Missions & Service will be hosting a weekend workshop, **facilitated by Phil Stoltzfus and Janet Chisholm (national executive director of CCP)**. We will explore dimensions of violence in our culture, spiritual and practical resources for interpersonal nonviolence, dynamics of nonviolent social movements, perspectives on community building, and action planning for future projects. It will be held at the church from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon (with time off for Sunday morning worship). Registration is open to FMC members and community folks, newcomers to nonviolence as well as those wanting to deepen their understanding. The registration deadline is April 1. Cost is \$100. **Contact the church office for a registration form.** For more info, see: www.creatingacultureofpeace.org.

April 30-May 4, 2012, Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) workshop in Minneapolis. The STAR mission is to strengthen the capacity of caregivers, leaders, and organizations to address trauma, break cycles of violence, and build resilience at the individual, family, community, and societal levels. STAR teaches alternatives to revenge for personal and institutional transformation. Register online at www.starmpls.eventbrite.com or contact Donna Minter for a registration form. Scholarship assistance and professional continuing education credits are available. STAR is a not-for-profit event hosted by the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute (MPLI) and FMC is MPLI's fiscal agent.