

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

February 26, 2012
First Sunday of Lent

Prelude

***Call to Worship** From Psalm 25:1-10

**Response: To you, O Lord, we lift our souls.
In you, O God, we trust.**

***Hymns:** “Come, gracious Spirit” #303 HWB
“God is working his purpose out” #638 HWB

Epistle Reading: I Peter 3:13-14, 17-22

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

Children’s time:

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

***Children’s Song:** “Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory”

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: “Making covenants/contracts in biblical times and now”

Hymn: “Lead me, Lord” #538 HWB

Prayer of Confession

God, you who established a covenant to renounce violence,
we confess that we have tried to eliminate our enemies and have
failed to protect vulnerable people with whom we share your earth.
Forgive and transform us,
so that every time we see your signature bow,
we will follow in your way of peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Leader: God of mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Congregational Prayer

Offering & Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** “Go, my children” #433 HBW

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time

11:00 a.m. Christian education classes for all ages. Visitors welcome.

Adult ed. today (see descriptions in the announcements): Theological
Explorations in the chapel; Jubilee Justice and Sabbath Economics in
the fellowship hall; Parenting Support Group in the sanctuary.

TODAY:

Greeter: Neil Okerlund **Ushers:** Darrell Martin, Cori Skogerboe

Worship leader: Alisa Bardo-Martinson **Sermon:** Bruce Brunner

Song Leader: Anna Gambucci **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Fellowship: *volunteers needed* **Fellowship buddy:** Hermann Weinlick

Nursery: Noah Skogerboe & Kristi Zabriskie **Shoveling:** Okerstroms

Bruce Brunner became an associate member of FMC last December.

NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Lent / Communion (*Psalm 22:23-31;*
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38)

Greeter: Donna Minter **Usher:** William Chittenden

Worship leader: Shawn Helmeke **Sermon:** Hermann Weinlick

Song Leader: Karen Wiebe **Fellowship:** Kathleen Harder

Piano: Sandra Westby **Nursery:** Cori Skogerboe & Melissa Hochstetler

Fellowship buddy: Jacob Schlabach **Shoveling:** Bob Mack

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.

February 19: **Attendance:** 89 **Offering:** \$1,426 (designated: \$100)

Today, 5:30-6:30 p.m., FMC chapel, Egyptian activist, TV show host and torture survivor Ahmed Tharwat will tell his inspiring story and reflect on the first anniversary of the Arab Spring at an event highlighting **Seward resident Burt Berlowe’s new book, *The Compassionate Rebel Revolution: Ordinary People Changing the World.*** Tharwat is one of more than 60 compassionate rebels whose stories are featured in the book.

Spiritual disciplines during Lent. Goshen College is offering **daily Lenten devotions** on its website, or you can **sign up to receive daily emails**, at: www.goshen.edu/devotions. Also, the National Council of Churches invites you to participate in **daily Lenten prayers** through Words Matter, an initiative of the Justice for Women Working Group. Prayers will be posted at www.WordsMatter.org or you can **sign up for a daily email**.

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach (on sabbatical)

Ministry Staff: Phil Stoltzfus

Sabbatical Pastoral Care: Donna Stucky

**Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks,
Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger, Neil Okerlund**

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

FMC office hours: Feb. 27 – March 2

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

Ministry Staff: out of town Feb. 25-27; Tues 9-5; Wed 1:45-7; Thurs 10-5

Email bulletin items by Wednesday evening. Bulletin is printed on Thursday.

Missio Dei Benefit Dinner, Saturday, March 3, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., FMC fellowship hall. Please join us for Missio Dei's second annual benefit dinner. Proceeds will help with their goal of raising \$100,000 for a new hospitality house. Dinner will include appetizer, dinner and dessert, accompanied by live music. Childcare will be provided. \$15 suggested donation. All are welcome. **Please RSVP by Feb. 27—sign up sheet in the back.** If you have any questions, email: info@missio-dei.com

Deadline extended to March 1: Spring trip to Minot, ND, **March 18-24**, to volunteer **with Mennonite Disaster Service**. We're looking forward to strengthening our connections to our neighbors in North Dakota, who are continuing to recover from last spring's floods. 1,400 homes were significantly damaged; MDS is currently working on four homes that have been gutted down to the framing. For more info, **talk to local MDS coordinator Glenn Geissinger**.

Please consider volunteering to provide snacks and beverages for **Sunday morning fellowship time**. A new spring sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary. —*Alisa Bardo-Martinson*

Directory Update: Phil Fuller, new phone #.

Church Meetings and Events (online calendar at: www.faithmennonite.org)

March 5 – Soup Group, 6 p.m., Joan Kreider home

March 8 – International Women's Day potluck, 6:00 p.m., fellowship hall

March 11 – Church potluck, 12:00 pm; **SLRJ Benefit Concert**, 2:00 pm

March 12 – Missions & Service, 5:00 p.m., chapel

March 14 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

Announcements

Darrell Martin and Cynthia Miller will both be participating in public health clinics outside the U.S. this spring and are **collecting new bottles of multivitamins** to be distributed. Cynthia is going to Haiti in March with a group of health care providers, and Darrell is going to Belize in May with a group of nursing students. If you would like to donate vitamins, please bring them to church and put them in the labeled box at the back. The goal is to collect as many vitamins as we can **by March 4**. Here are the particulars: 1) unopened, unexpired bottles of around 200 tablets (300 max); 2) multivitamins with iron, 3) children's chewable (not gummy) vitamins with iron, 4) pre-natal vitamins (not gel caps). Thank you!

This Thursday-Saturday, March 1-3, Nobel Peace Prize Forum at the Augsburg College and University of Minnesota West Bank campuses. This year the theme is "The Price of Peace" **with F.W. de Klerk (1983 Nobel Peace Laureate) the keynote speaker** on Saturday. Events and sessions are scheduled Thursday & Friday with the main event on Saturday. Naomi Tutu, daughter of Bishop Tutu, and CNN's Jonathan Mann are also featured speakers. Go to www.nobelpeaceprizeforum.org for registration. **Fliers available on the back table.** —*Orv Gingerich*

Soup Group returns! Dates coming up in March:

- **Monday, March 5**, 6 p.m., home of Joan Kreider, 2162 Carroll Ave. SP, RSVP by March 4 to: joan.e.kreider@gmail.com, 651-645-2660.

- **Tuesday, March 13**, home of Katie Hochstedler & Nicki Morgan.

- **Friday, March 23**, at FMC, host Marybeth Luing. Board games!

If you are interested in **hosting on one of the future dates, please sign the sheet in the foyer** or contact Aryn Baxter.

Saturday, March 17, **March Birthday Brunch**, 9:30-11 a.m., at Joetta's house, 248 Aurora Ave., SP, for all those with a March birthday and their families. **Sign-up sheet on the back table.**

Sabbatical update: *Tuesday, Feb. 21, I was invited to share about the history and current life of FMC in the weekly Mission & Peace Forum at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Former FMC member Walter Sawatsky, now AMBS Professor of Church History & Mission, chaired the session. He sends greetings to the congregation and was sorry not to be able to return for our 50th celebration. Ash Wednesday I visited members of North Goshen Mennonite Church, located in what has become a predominantly Latino neighborhood, to learn about their experience of interaction with their community. Feb. 27-March 2 I will be on a silent retreat at Cedars of Peace, a retreat center of the Sisters of Loretto in Narinx, KY. A former MCC friend, Susan Classen, is a member of this community and directs it. I will spend March 3-4, at Living Water Community Church, "a lively, diverse urban Mennonite congregation in Rogers Park on Chicago's north side." —**Joetta***

Hi from Saint-Louis, Senegal. I successfully made the trip I had planned by bike from London via the UK, France, Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania. It was a great trip and I especially enjoyed Mauritania. Follow my blog at <http://dafarafet.com>. Lots of love to everyone at FMC.—Steve Cayford

During March, FMC will participate in the 2012 **Community Emergency Service Food Drive**. Help fight hunger by donating food, hygiene items, or cash. Details coming soon. —Susan Weinlick

Volunteers needed for the Neighborhood Sustainability Fair, Saturday, March 17, 1-5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Do you have a sustainability skill to share? Could you volunteer to staff a recycling station, or the kitchen, or be a greeter, or provide music? See **sign-up sheet on the back table in the foyer**. Please **take fliers to pass out and post**.

The **Bethel College Choir** (KS) will be performing a concert at FMC on **Tuesday, March 20**, 7:30 p.m. The fellowship commission is hosting a pre-concert soup supper for the choir. We are looking for **volunteers** to provide pots of soup and cookies, as well as to set up/serve/clean up. There is a **sign-up sheet on the back table**. —Fellowship Commission

All girls and women are invited to a special **International Women's Day** event, on **Thursday, March 8, 2012**. We will gather in the church basement for a **potluck at 6:00 p.m.** followed by a talking circle and possibly a short film. Much laughter and meaningful conversation anticipated. **RSVP to Kristi Zabriskie**.

“Praying with and for the Earth” is the theme for the **Sabbath House Soup & Sabbath meetings every Monday evening in Lent, Feb. 27** through April 2. Interfaith reflections and prayers about living together on our earth. 6:30 p.m. simple soup, 7-8:00 p.m. prayers. Sabbath House, 3228 Portland Ave. S, Mpls., 612-822-2623.

Ecumenical Taizé prayer gathering, Wednesday, Feb. 29, 6:30 p.m., St. Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Benefit concert for Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership, Sunday, March 11, 2-4:00 p.m. at FMC. Musicians Linda Breitag, Sophia Breitag, Chris Semanchin Jones, Ray Makeever, Robin Nelson. Folk songs, songs of peace, roots music, Celtic fiddling, serious silliness, and *you* singing along. Freewill donations gratefully accepted. For info contact Michele Braley.

Missing microphone. We are missing a wireless microphone used in the sanctuary on 2/12. If anyone knows where it is please tell the church office. Also, take a look at the **electronic equipment** piled on the table in the room behind the piano. You can **take anything that belongs to you** after the service. Any leftovers will be recycled at the sustainability fair. In addition, check out the **lost and found box** on the table in the basement in which there are quite a few serving dishes, cups and containers.

Adult Christian Education – Spring 2012

The following three courses will be offered during the Adult Christian Education hour this spring session:

Jubilee Justice and Sabbath Economics: This class will discuss Ched Meyers' book, *The Biblical Vision of Sabbath Economics*. The book includes seven studies exploring themes of Jubilee justice and God's abundance. The book will be available to look at during fellowship time and education hour today if you are interested in looking at it. A descriptions is also available on: www.chedmyers.org

Parenting Support Group: This class is intended as a learning and support group for parents of younger-age children. Participants will delve into various life-themes together.

Theological Explorations: We will explore *one* of these two books: *Reimagining the Human: Theological Anthropology in Response to Systemic Evil*, by Eleazar S. Fernandez, or *The Naked Anabaptist—the Bare Essentials of a Radical Faith*, by Stuart Murray. Class members will meet during class today to decide which book to read.

Summary information about the book authors and books:

Eleazar Fernandez is professor of constructive theology at United Theological Seminary. Book description: “In exploring theological anthropology, the doctrine of what it means to be human and to be created in God's image, Fernandez argues that our life in the image of God is damaged and frustrated by the systemic evils of society, particularly classism, racism, sexism, and naturism (destructive practices against the ecosystem). At the heart of these four evils are matters of faith and idolatry, idols that demand the sacrifice of our souls, bodies, time, and anything that we cherish most. In response, Fernandez constructs an alternative anthropology that is nonanthropocentric. His proposed anthropology seeks connections while respecting individual integrity, moves beyond patriarchy, makes possible the development of an integrated self, and sees difference as a principle of interdependence and life.”

Stuart Murray is chair of the Anabaptist Network and has a PhD in Anabaptist hermeneutics. He has a particular interest in urban mission, church planting, and emerging forms of church. Book description: “Anabaptist Christians have been around for almost 500 years. But what does Anabaptism look like when not clothed in Mennonite or Amish traditions? Writing from Great Britain, Stuart Murray peels back the layers to reveal the core components of Anabaptism and what they mean for faith in his context and ours. It's a way of following Jesus that challenges, disturbs, and inspires us, summoning us to wholehearted discipleship and worship. Read this book, and catch a vision for a life of radical faith!”

1 Peter 3:13-14a; 17-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed...For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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.