

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

March 1, 2009

Lent 1: Our Lives Are In Your Hands

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

L: We gather in this Lenten season to remember, repent, and seek renewal.

P: **Creator God, open our minds and hearts to your Spirit and help us to claim your promises.**

L: We see your movement through history: from destruction to provision, from flood to foundation, from death to life.

P: **You are an active, responsive God. We trust your mysterious ways and rest in your mercy. Amen.**

Hymns: “You are all we have” #29 STJ
“All beautiful the march of days” #159 HWB

Readers’ theatre (Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15)

Prayer of Confession

Providing God, we’re often tempted by fruitless self-sufficiency. Help us instead to trust your faithful care and draw us close to you and our neighbors. We pray these things in Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Children’s Gathering Hymn: “Come and See” #20 HWB

Children’s Time: Rainbows remind us that God cares ~ Andy Martinson

Hymn: “Alleluia, the Great Storm is over” #71 STJ (vv. 2-3)

Sermon: “On the move with God: Remembering and Recreating”

Communion

Please come in a single row down the center aisle to receive the bread and cup and then return by the side aisles. The bread is gluten free; the cup is grape juice. All who have made a commitment to follow Jesus, even if it means sharing in his suffering, are welcome to partake.

Commissioning of the team who will serve with Mennonite Disaster Service in New Orleans, Mar 8-13 (Arlene Geissinger, Ruth Gerber, Katie Hochstedler, Joetta Schlabach, Teresa Wasick) #796 HWB

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

Our Father 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 and Offertory

Announcements (*please give in writing to the pastor or worship leader*)

Introduction of Guests

***Sending hymn:** “Great is thy faithfulness” #327 HWB

*Benediction

L: God of covenant, you are the one we trust.

P: **Our lives are in your hands.**

L: Send us out as your beloved children, fresh from the waters of the flood and the Jordan.

P: **Our lives are in your hands.**

L: Make us a sign for the world that your promise is reliable, your kingdom has come near.

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

- Fellowship time - 10:45-11:10 a.m.

- Children’s music – 11 a.m., Room 201, education wing

- Christian Education – 11:15 – noon

Adult classes:

- The Spirituality of Imperfection - Room 201, education wing
- Spirituality and Health – Library

TODAY: Lent 1: God Provides for Creation

Worship leader: Deedee Stevens Neal **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg **Organ:** David Mayou

Musicians: Chris Jones, Jenny Wandersee

Nursery volunteers: Gregg Richardson & Cindy Bjork

Fellowship: Kathleen Harder & Donna Stucky

NEXT SUNDAY:

Worship leader: Deedee Stevens Neal **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Nursery volunteers: Jennifer Wandersee & One Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: Joan Kreider & Karen Zeug

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Cleta Roth Gingerich,
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: March 2-6

Pastor: Tuesday 12:30-5:30 p.m.; Wed 8:30-4:30

Joetta will be in Iowa on Monday, attending a meeting of the Congregational Ministries Committee of Central Plains Conference. Thursday-Sunday she will be in Texas visiting her mother. Please contact a deacon for pastoral care needs or in case of an emergency during her absence.

Michael Bischoff: Thursday 9-noon

Office Assistant: Wednesday & Friday 8:30-1:30

*Email all bulletin items before **Thursday evening** to:*

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

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 22: Attendance: 91 Offering: \$2,940

Thanksgivings: Noah's recovery; the support of faith communities after tragedy (Erin); the lives of Dellis and Mike Schrock; the flowering plants we have enjoyed this past year; ministry of Families Moving Forward

Concerns: the Liberian community facing possible deportation at end of March (Rebecca); those facing illness (Matthew K's father; Rhonda; Shelly's friend Spiro; Leon & Karen's friend Kathy; Annette's sister-in-law); Hannah O's friend Nina, whose mother died

Church Meetings and Events

March 1 – Hymn Sing & Soiree, 4 p.m. St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship,

March 2 – Lectionary Discussion Group, (Exo 20:1-17; John 2:13-22) 8:30 a.m., Trotter's, corner of Marshall & Cleveland, St. Paul

March 3 – Missions & Service, 1:30 p.m., FMC

March 3 – Christian Education Commission, 4:15 p.m., FMC

March 3 – Women's Retreat Planning Meeting, 6 p.m., FMC

March 14 – Council & Commission Retreat, 9-11:30 a.m., FMC

March 18 – Deacon's Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardsons

March 21 – Musician workshop, led by Jane Ramseyer Miller, 9-noon, FMC

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; and 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. 13He was in the wilderness for 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, 15and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Announcements

Mennonite Artist Soiree and Hymn Sing, Sunday, March 1.

Hosted by the Saint Paul Mennonite Fellowship

4:00 Soiree and Hymn Sing

5:30 Appetizers & mingling

Join us for a spring afternoon of music, poetry and original writing by Mennonites in the Twin Cities. In addition to the soiree, the event will include lots of hymn-singing in true-blue Mennonite a cappella style. Location: Cherokee Park United Church, 371 West Baker Street, St. Paul. More information at 612-388-5016 or <http://saintpaulmennonite.org>

Meals needed - Leslie Minkler is having wrist surgery on March 5th and will be in need of about 5 days of meals. If you can provide a meal to Leslie, please contact Adam Nafziger at 612-722-3317 or adamnafziger@yahoo.com.

Soup & Silence —During the weeks of Lent we will offer a simple soup supper one night each week, followed by a time of centering prayer. This will be an opportunity to pause in the midst of our busy schedules, break bread with brothers and sisters, and to pray for ourselves, our church, our neighborhood, and our world. The day will change from week to week, to accommodate varying schedules. The schedule will remain constant:

6-6:30 p.m. – Soup & Bread, **6:30-7 p.m.** – Prayer

Wednesday, March 4, Thursday, March 12, Tuesday, March 17,

Wednesday, March 25, Monday, March 30 Location: FMC Chapel

Calling all women who love to sing: The Faith Mennonite Women's Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Mar. 15 at noon. Under Neil Okerlund's direction, the group will prepare to sing either Palm Sunday or Easter and again in the coming Spring season. Other rehearsals are scheduled for Mar. 22 and Mar. 29th. For more information, contact Neil Okerlund or Sandra Westby.

A Bible Study Group (BSG) has organized to study the Acts of the Apostles. ALL are welcome each **Sunday morning from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the library at FMC.** We will use the *Believer's Church Bible Commentary*, which has an Anabaptist twist to the understandings of the Scripture. Questions can be directed to Donna Minter, Joan Kreider, Leslie Minkler, Greg Renstrom, and Dick Westby.

Thank you to the Lent worship planners: Alisa Bardo-Martinson, Kristin Green, Joan Kreider, Adam Nafziger, Deedee Stevens Neal. Joan and Kristin created the the visual elements.

Council & Commission Members Retreat: All commission members and church council officers are encouraged to participate in a morning retreat, Saturday, March 14, 9-11:30 a.m. We will consider our shared tasks in our congregation's work, ways to facilitate consensus, areas of commission overlap, and the effectiveness of our communication. This will replace the March Council meeting. Beverages and snacks provided!

Forum on Affordable, Supportive Housing in Seward,

Sunday, March 15, 5:30 -6:25 pm FMC sanctuary. Faith is collaborating with the Community of St. Martin to offer an Adult Education session about a new affordable housing project that is proposed in the Seward neighborhood. The developers of this project have asked Faith Mennonite for our moral and public support as they work with the neighborhood, the city, and funders. Please come join this discussion to learn more about this project. MICAHA, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council for Affordable Housing, will present a program on the impact of the housing crisis on our neighborhoods along with a brief legislative update on housing and foreclosure bills. This presentation will be tied to the Bystrom site Franklin LRT Redevelopment planned by Seward Redesign. Currently, a partnership of Project for Pride in Living and Touchstone is proposing 40 units of permanent supportive housing in the first phase of this four-acre parcel redevelopment. Come to discuss current housing issues and the great potential in this critical transit oriented development right in the Seward neighborhood.

Immigration and Food Justice: A Multi-Faith Dialogue – Sunday, March 29, 2:30 – 4:30 pm. What impact do immigrants as people and immigration policy have on the production and distribution of food in the U.S.? Who benefits? Who suffers? A panel from different faith perspectives will discuss how the values of justice and respect apply to the connections between immigration and food. **Panelist Include:** Rabbi Morris Allen, Owais Bayunus and Tisha Rajendra **Held at Faith Mennonite Church.** Open to the public; free. For more information, contact Michael Bischoff at 612-521-1889.

Wilderness Wind is offering canoe trips, cabins, a yurt, and retreats this summer. A Mennonite camp based in Ely, Minnesota near the Boundary Waters, an encounter with the Creator and creation is perfect for families, friends, and youth groups. New this year - a Writer's Retreat canoe trip with Jeff Gundy, Survival Skills (outdoor challenges) with Cheryl Mast, Seniors in Denial canoe trip, and a Quilter's Retreat. Check www.wildernesswind.org or call 316-217-1129.