

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

March 6, 2011

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: God of love, light a flame of love in our hearts to you,

People: a flame of love to our families and friends,

L: a flame of love to our neighbors,

P: a flame of love to our enemies.

All: Light a flame of love in our hearts to all, from the lowliest thing that lives to the Name that is highest of all. AMEN.

*Hymns: "Let the whole creation cry" #51 HWB

"I want Jesus to walk with me" #439 HWB

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:1-3, 9-15, 27-30

Children's gathering song: "Come and see" #20 HWB

Children's time ~ Aryn Baxter

Song: "The Lord if my light" #97 STJ

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, 6-9, 17, 25-28, 32-35, 38

Sermon: "A Singular Purpose"

Hymn: "Be thou my vision" #545 HWB

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer & Lord's 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

*Sung benediction: "Go my children" #433, vv. 1 & 4

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Community Time

- 10:45 **Fellowship time** – basement fellowship hall

- 11:00 **Children's singing time & classes**

- 11:00 **Adult education** – fellowship hall

Adult series on "Family, Singleness, & Marriage" is part of a discernment process around marriage guidelines for our congregation. See insert for a description of the full series. Today we begin a two-week discussion of singleness. Two Benedictine sisters, Theresa Schumacher of St. Benedict Abbey, St. Joseph, MN, and Ann Marie Biermaier, will speak from their experiences of living a dedicated single life.

TODAY: Family, Singleness & Marriage, part 2: Singleness

Worship leader: Aryn Baxter

Sermon: Phil Stoltzfus

Song Leader: Adam Nafziger

Piano: Cathy Smetana

Reader: Melissa Hochstetler

Ushers: Nikki Nafziger & Rhonda Martin

Nursery: Anna Dadabo & *one volunteer needed*

Fellowship: Cori Skogerboe & *one volunteer needed*

NEXT SUNDAY: Lent 1: Becoming human - Shaped by testing

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Anna Gambucci

Piano: Melissa Falb

Ushers: Darrell Martin & Cori Skogerboe

Nursery: Shelly Hendricks & *01 volunteer Needed*

Fellowship: *volunteer needed*

Snow shoveling: Hermann Weinlick

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 27: Attendance: 93 Offering: \$2,116

(Weekly budgeted need: \$2984)

Sanctuary Painting Project Update

Received to date: \$16,500

Amount remaining: \$19,500

Please pray for Aryn Baxter, Matthew Blackwell Kinney, Arlene Geissinger, Neil Okerlund and Joetta Schlabach as they participate in a **Central Plains Conference unity conference**, "That the World May Know," **this Saturday, March 12, in Des Moines, IA.**

Faith Mennonite Church
Pastor: Joetta Schlabach
Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund
Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks
Donna Minter, Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: March 7-11

Pastor: Mon 1-5 p.m.; Wed noon-5; Thurs 9-3; Fri 9-noon. Tuesday is a study day.

Ministry Staff Person: Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.

Office Assistant, Julie Cross: Tues, Weds & Thurs 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org. Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

Stained Glass Window Washing, Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. – noon.

Final opportunity! **Please sign up on sign-up sheet** at back of sanctuary if you are able to participate. Thank you. –*Trustee & Stewardship Commission*

March 13, 2-4 p.m. Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership Benefit Concert. Come for an afternoon of live music by FMC musician Chris Jones and others and support this fine neighborhood organization.

Church Meetings and Events

March 8 – NO Lectionary Discussion Group this week

March 9 – Deacon Commission, 9 a.m., Richardsons

March 9 – Ash Wednesday Taizé Service, 7 p.m., sanctuary

March 12 – Stained glass window washing, 9 a.m. - noon

March 12 – Christian Education Comm., 3:30 p.m., Chatterbox in St. Paul

March 13 – Fundraising Concert for Seward-Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership, 2 p.m., FMC

March 16 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

March 18-20 – Creating a Culture of Peace nonviolence training, FMC

March 26 – March Birthday Brunch, 10 a.m., Schlabachs

March 30 – Missions & Service Commission, 7 p.m., FMC

Cover design by Dan Leisen

The Unmarried and the Widows

Matthew 19:1-3, 9-15, 27-30

Jesus left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he cured them there. Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?” He answered, “Whoever divorces his wife, except for unfaithfulness, and marries another commits adultery.”

His disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” He said to them, “Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have remained unmarried for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.”

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” And he laid his hands on them.

Then Peter said, “Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

1 Corinthians 7:1-2, 6-9, 17, 25-28, 32-35, 38

It is good not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man and each woman should have a partner. Yet, I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for you to stay unmarried, as I do. But if you cannot control yourselves, you should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to you, just as God has called you. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

Now about the unmarried: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for each person to remain as you are. Are you pledged to be married? Do not seek to be released. Are you

(continued other side)

free from such a commitment? Do not look for a partner. If a man marries, he has not sinned; and if a woman marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

I would like you to be free from anxiety. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the affairs of this world—how he can please his partner—and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman is concerned about the Lord’s affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is anxious about the affairs of this world—how she can please her partner. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. So then, the one who marries does right, but the one who does not marry does better.

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.*

Adult Education Series February 20-April 3 Family, Singleness and Marriage

February 20 & 27 – Family (coordinated by Ry Siggelkow)

March 6 & 13 – Singleness (coordinated by Kathleen Harder and Joetta Schlabach)

March 20 & 27 – Marriage (coordinated by Richard Westby)

April 3 - Vision for Christian Family & Relationships

In this series we will seek to explore each of these areas, and to offer opportunities for open dialog within the context of a trusting and safe community. In each focus area, we will discuss biblical, theological and historical perspectives; we will listen to testimony from our congregation, as well as to the testimony found in our *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. Planning committee: Matthew Blackwell Kinney, Kathleen Harder, Matthew Hendricks, Katie Hochstedler, Donna Minter, Joetta Schlabach

Announcements

Today - Anniversary Quilt Work time, noon-3 p.m. Quilters (and would-be quilters): Come to the chapel and work on a quilt / wall-hanging to celebrate Faith's 50th anniversary. We'll provide fabrics, patterns, sewing machines, and irons. Bring an idea and bring it to life on fabric! - Nikki Nafziger, Kristin Green, Arlene Geissinger or Sandra Westby

Today, 2:30 - 3:00 p.m., Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) - Support All Civil Immigrant Detainees and Their Families of All Nationalities. Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, SP. Led by MN Conference United Church of Christ Immigration Task Force.

Mennonite comedy troupe "Ted & Company" performs "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy", a hilarious and poignant satire that explores peace, justice and the American way. **Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m. at Scooters in the Murray-Herrick Campus Center, University of St. Thomas.** The UST Justice and Peace Studies program is hosting a thought-provoking show that allows us to laugh at ourselves & raise questions about the place of the U.S. in the world, why fear is a large part of our culture and how to work for peace and justice here and in the world. Online preview: <http://vimeo.com/11524863>.

All welcome to the **Launch Event of Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) Thursday, March 10** from 6:30-8:30 pm, Plymouth Congregation Church, Minneapolis. This is a free info session on the 5-day academic and experiential STAR workshop endorsed by FMC and community organizations. For info & to register www.starlaunch.eventbrite.com.

March 18-20 "Creating a Culture of Peace" nonviolence training, facilitated by Phil Stoltzfus and Candace Lutt. We will explore dimensions of violence in our culture, spiritual and practical resources for interpersonal nonviolence, and much more. Open to FMC members and community folks, newcomers to nonviolence and those wanting to deepen their understandings. **Registration deadline is March 4.** Cost is \$100. See: www.creatingacultureofpeace.org.

Organizing for FMC's 50th and Jubilee Anniversary Celebration is underway. From the beautiful quilt project, to a variety of projects now listed on a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. There is something for everyone in the joy of this occasion. **Please take a moment to review some of the tasks outlined on the sign-up sheet,** and expect a joyous & momentous celebration of our church history & its people as we plan to mark our very special upcoming anniversary!

Taizé Prayer Service



Ash Wednesday
March 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Faith Mennonite Church
2720 E. 22nd Street
Minneapolis

"Dust thou art, and to dust thou wilt return."