

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
March 14, 2010 Fourth Sunday of Lent
“Holding On, Letting Go”

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Brokenness and fear have narrowed our vision.

P: We yearn for true perspective.

L: Look. God shows us the path to walk.

P: In this we rejoice.

HOLDING ON

***Hymns:** “I sing the mighty power of God” #46 HWB

“We are people on a journey ” #8 HWB

Affirmation of faith: #114 HWB

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

Children’s time: Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

Hymn: “Far, far away from my loving father” #139 HWB

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Readers Theatre

New Testament reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon: “Prodigals of reconciliation”

LETTING GO

Confession

Assurance

P: Christ has set us free from the burden of sin and guilt.

L: Stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

All: Rejoice! We are indeed set free!

Hymn: “Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling” #491 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:** “There’s a wideness in God’s mercy” #145 HWB

(vv. 1, 2, 4)”

***Benediction**

L: God created us and said it was good.

P: In Christ we have become a new creation!

L: God has reconciled us through Christ

P: and given us the ministry of reconciliation!

L: Let us be ambassadors for Christ

All: as we go now to serve the world that needs God.

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

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

- **Children’s singing – 11 a.m.** Education wing chapel

- **Christian education – 11:15-noon** There are three adult classes:

- Parent connection to Gather ‘Round – Rm 202, Education wing
- Speaking of Faith – Library
- Ways to Pray – Chapel, Education wing

TODAY: Fourth Sunday of Lent: Be reconciled to God

Worship Leader: Ry & Marcia Siggelkow **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Karen Wiebe

Piano: Karen Zeug

Reader: Thaine Dirks

Nursery volunteers: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg, Pat Eliason & 1 Volunteer

Education hour: Jason Derrickson and 1-2 volunteers needed

Fellowship: Okerstroms

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Lent: Rivers in the Desert

Worship Leader: Joetta Schlabach

Sermon: Weldon Nisly

Song leader: Adam Nafziger

Piano: Cathy Smetana

Nursery volunteers: Laurie Kaufman & Barb Beers

Fellowship: Laurie Kaufman and one volunteer needed

Next Sunday Weldon Nisly, pastor of Seattle Mennonite Church, will be our guest speaker. Weldon is spending a sabbatical semester at the Collegeville Institute at St. John’s Abbey. In January he made a return trip to Iraq, commemorating his 2002 visit there with a Christian Peacemaker Team delegation as the US was beginning the Iraq War.

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.

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Greg Renstrom

Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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

FMC OFFICE HOURS: Mar 15-19

Pastor: Monday 1-5; Wed noon-5; Thurs 1-5; Friday 1-5. Tuesday is a study day. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m..

Ministry Staff Person: Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.
Phone messages for Kathleen can be left at VM #2 at the church. You can email her at minstaff@faithmennonite.org

Office Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:
faithmc@faithmennonite.org. Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

Mar 7: Attendance: 99 Offering: Not Recorded

Church Meetings and Events

March 16 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Luke 19:28-40; 22:14–23:56)

8:30 a.m., Trotter's, Corner of Marshall & Cleveland, SP

March 17 – Deacon Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

March 19 – FMC Variety Show, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

March 23 – Missions & Service Commission, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

March 28 - April 2 – MDS Trip to New Orleans

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Meal & Service, 6 p.m.

April 4 – Easter Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. (no Christian education)

April 14 – Church Council meeting, 7 p.m., chapel (**note date change to second Wednesday of each month**)

STAR: Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience Level-I Training, June 23-27, Augsburg College. Elaine Zook-Barge, MA STAR Program Director and **Donna Minter, PhD, STAR Associate**

STAR trauma healing workshops have trained thousands of caregivers and leaders worldwide to promote healing, revitalize their communities, and stop cycles of victimhood and violence. By attending this four-day experiential education seminar, you'll join more than 5,000 participants from 62 countries who have been equipped with strategies for handling post-traumatic stress and leading others beyond traumatic events, informed by the latest trauma healing research from the fields of neurobiology, psychology, restorative justice, conflict transformation, peace-building, and religion/spirituality.

For more information go to: <http://starmpls.eventbrite.com/> Register by April 30, 2010 and receive the discount rate of \$525.00 (full cost is \$625.00). **Four scholarships will be available to FMC participants.** Those interested in scholarship assistance should contact Kathleen Remund, Ministry Staff Person, for details *before registering*: minstaff@faithmennonite.org.

Central Plains Mennonite Conference is seeking a gifted leader for the position of Executive Conference Minister. This is a full-time position for an individual who will be able to give overall leadership to the conference through tending and articulating the vision of Central Plains. It also involves leading and working with a ministry team that has two members in place. A complete job description is available at www.centralplainsmc.org. If you know of someone who you think is especially gifted for this role please encourage them to apply. Interested individuals should forward their Ministerial Leadership Information Form and send a letter of application to moderator@centralplainsmc.org or Central Plains Search Committee, c/o Diane Zaerr Breneman, 3243 Johnson Iowa Rd., Wellman, IA 52356. The target start date for this position is August 1, 2010.

Peace Vigil, Wednesday, March 17; 5:00 - 6:00 pm at Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge WAR ON IRAQ: SEVEN YEARS TOO LONG, Not One More Death - Not One More Dollar. Withdraw all Troops and Military Contractors From Iraq and Afghanistan Now! These illegal, endless wars have not made us more safe, as our government would have us believe. They have resulted in immeasurable human costs and have fueled the economic crisis at home; depriving us of the funds needed for investments in jobs, health care, education, housing and environmental protection. Join us for this special vigil to say "War is not the Answer."

Luke 15: 1-3; 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."'

2 Corinthians: 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

With support from the Missions & Service Commission, **Eric Kasper** will travel to Washington, DC, this coming weekend to attend a demonstration on Sunday, March 21, being organized by Church World Service and other faith-based organizations to call for **comprehensive immigration reform legislation**. On Monday the participants will visit legislative offices on Capitol Hill. The Minnesota delegation will particularly target Senator Klobuchar who has not yet made a public commitment to support reform that would include a path to citizenship for undocumented residents currently in the United States. Let us support Eric in our prayers as he represents Faith Mennonite Church in this witness.

Announcements

Church Office Staffing Changes As a result of the growth in attendance and of commission and community-outreach activities, the trustees and pastor have recognized the need for reconfiguring our office staff position. We will soon post a revised job description, with an increased emphasis on administrative coordination, and hope to fill the position beginning in early May. Dan Leisen will continue in his current role until the new position is filled.

We are grateful for the dedicated service Dan has provided as office assistant these past two years. In addition to the routine office tasks, Dan has been instrumental in the ongoing development of our church website and has contributed his graphic design skills to a variety of projects, including a standard Sunday bulletin design and the new church sign. Dan has generously responded to the many tasks needing attention, within and outside of his job description.

Glenn Geissinger, chair of the Trustee and Stewardship Commission, will be happy to respond to any questions.

Nursery volunteers needed — **Today**, we need three volunteers to help with the younger children during the Sunday School hour. Meagan, our nursery coordinator, will be out of town, and we would like one volunteer to assist Brooke Derrickson in the teaching of the preschooler class (ages 3-5). **We also would like to start a separate nursery care space for younger children** (approx. 12 months to 3 years) in the nursery near the fellowship hall area, and we need to have two adults there to watch them. This will allow those children's parents to attend Sunday School, and it is a good opportunity for others in the church to have fun being entertained by cute, little toddlers! **If you can help**, please contact Shelly Hendricks at smhendricks2@msn.com or 612.501.3382. Thank you!

Peace March & Rally, Saturday March 20, 1 p.m. gather at Mayday Plaza (3rd Street and Cedar Avenue, Mpls.) and rally at Belam Theater, 1501 South 6th Street. On the weekend of March 19-21, the seventh anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq, thousands of people will come together in cities around the world to call for an end to the wars on and the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. **Protest the Wars in Iraq & Afghanistan on the 7th Anniversary of the War on Iraq**

Sign up NOW to share your talent at the FMC Variety Show – Friday, March 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dust off your tap shoes, warm up your voice and practice that comedy routine. Email Rhonda Martin at rmartinmsw@yahoo.com to reserve your spot in the variety show.

Benefit Concert for Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale, March 24, 7 p.m. — The Light of His Grace, Tabor College Concert Choir at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 725 E. 25th Street, Mpls.