

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

March 18, 2012

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Concerto a tre in F Major by G. Ph. Telemann

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 107)

Leader: We give thanks to the Lord, who in goodness has gathered us:

People: Gathered us from all directions, from many lands.

Leader: When we cry out in times of trouble, God hears our distress –
God hears our call and heals with constant love.

**People: Oh that we would praise the Lord for such goodness
and wonderful works!**

Leader: We suffer from our foolish designs and call out to repent –
God again hears and heals with peaceful command.

**People: We are thankful for such goodness and sing with joy
for all that God has done.**

***Hymns:** “Thou true Vine, that heals” #373 HWB
“Anoint us, Lord” #631 HWB (vv. 1-3)

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21

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

Children’s time: “A snake on a pole” – The Okerstrom family

Song: “In your sickness” #585 HWB

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess our impatience and complaints as we wander in the desert of modern life. Our closets and pantries overflow yet we’re not always content. We’re quick to raise our voices in criticism instead of breathing prayers for reason and wisdom. Help us, in honesty, to turn to your Son on the cross and find life.

Assurance of Pardon

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Sermon: “Dying isn’t the end; it’s just the beginning”

Hymn: “Healer of our every ill” #377 HWB

During the hymn any who wish are invited to receive anointing with oil.

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Leader: God of mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Congregational Prayer

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

**Please stand if you are able*

Offering & Offertory

Erbarme dich, mein Gott,

from St. Matthew’s Passion by J.S. Bach

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** “O praise the gracious power” #111 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time

11:00 a.m. Education Hour. Adult ed. classes: Theological Explorations in the chapel (chapters 2 & 3 of the Stuart Murray book); Jubilee Justice and Sabbath Economics in the fellowship hall; Parenting Support Group (theme: “the impact of pop culture on raising children”) in the sanctuary.

TODAY: Dying that leads to health and life

Worship leader: Gerald Schlabach

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Karen Wiebe **Piano:** Melissa Falb **Horn:** Neil Okerlund

Flute: Marybeth Luing **Violin:** Alison Fahy **Soprano:** Anna Gambucci

Ushers: Barb Beers, Aine McCarthy **Fellowship Buddy:** Richardsons

Nursery: Mark Kaufman, Hermann Weinlick **Fellowship:** Kristin Green

NEXT SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Jer. 31:31-34; John 12:20-33)

Worship leader: Adam Nafziger

Song Leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Piano: David Mayou **Ushers:** Shawn Helmeke & William Chittenden

Nursery: Casey Englund & Wendy Brunner (Meagan gone)

Fellowship: *volunteer needed* **Fellowship Buddy:** 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.

Mar. 5: **Attendance:** 85 **Offering:** \$1,482.10

Mar. 11: **Attendance:** 75 **Offering:** \$2,630 (\$100 designated)

Faith Mennonite Church
Pastor: Joetta Schlabach
Ministry Staff: Phil Stoltzfus
Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks,
Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger, Neil Okerlund

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FMC office hours: March 19-23

Pastor: Mon 8:30-4:00; Wed 9-5; Thurs: 11-3:30. On Tuesday Joetta will participate in the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition “Day on the Hill.”

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

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

I would like to thank everyone for the warm return welcome I have received. It is very good to be back after 10 weeks away from the congregation. I know that many of you took on extra responsibilities during my absence and for this I am deeply grateful. I will be looking for opportunities in the coming weeks and months to share some of my experiences. But the first order of business is re-connecting to my beloved FMC community. I'm anxious to hear your updates! —Joetta Schlabach

The **spring flowers** in the front are in memory of Cletha Roth's parents.

Soup Group upcoming dates:

- **Friday, March 23**, 6 p.m., soup and board games, at the church.
- **Monday, April 2**, home of Joan Kreider.

If you are interested in hosting in the future, please sign the sheet in the narthex or contact Aryn Baxter.

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

March 18-24 – MDS Trip to Minot, ND

March 19 – Christian Education Commission, 4 p.m., church office

March 20 – **Bethel College Concert Choir**, 7:30 p.m., sanctuary, reception following

March 21 – FMC Artisans and Crafters, 7:00 p.m., library

March 28 – April Newsletter deadline, noon to Gregg Richardson

April 1 – Palm Sunday

April 5 – Maundy Thursday supper, 5 p.m., fellowship hall

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in 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.

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches

of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Announcements

Over the next two Sundays (March 25 and April 1) we'll be collecting donations for the **March 2012 FoodShare Drive for Community Emergency Services**. In 2011, CES assisted 34,439 clients and distributed 683,644 pounds of food. Your participation is needed now more than ever.

- Grocery bags are available today; as you leave pick up a bag, and return it no later than Sunday, April 1.
- Envelopes are available on the table if you wish to mail a check, or put your check in with the offering, with a note that it's for CES.
- The bags will be delivered to CES on April 1. –*Susan Weinlick*

The 50-voice **Bethel College Concert Choir** from North Newton, Kan., **will present a concert for us on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the FMC sanctuary**. All are welcome! The fellowship commission is hosting a pre-concert soup supper for the choir before their concert here on Tuesday evening. **We are looking for volunteers to provide pots of soup and cookies, as well as volunteers to set up/serve/clean up**. There is a **sign-up sheet at the back** of the sanctuary. **Color posters** also available at the back. BC alums will be hosting a reception in the fellowship hall after the concert.

Mixed voice Easter Choir: Rehearsals Sunday, Mar. 25, 12:05, and Sunday, April 1, 11:50. If you plan to make either (or both) of these rehearsals, please let Anna Gambucci know.

Registration deadline April 1: Creating a Culture of Peace nonviolence training, Friday afternoon, April 13 – Sunday afternoon, April 15. 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. Registration is open to FMC members and community folks, newcomers to nonviolence as well as those wanting to deepen their understanding. Cost is \$100, scholarships available. **Registration forms available on the back table and on the website.**

From Crooked Creek Christian Camp (Washington, IA). **New brochures** with kids' **summer camp dates** in June and July, on the back lit. shelf.