

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
April 15, 2012 ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter

Prelude
Welcome

***Call to Worship** - from Psalm 133

Response

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is—

People: for God's people to live in unity!

***Hymns:** “Come ye faithful, raise the strain” #265 HWB (vv. 1-3)
“Filled with the Spirit's power” #289 HWB

New Testament reading: Acts 4:32-35

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

Children's time: “The Un-monopoly Game”

Hymn: “Jesus, help us live in peace” #52 HWB

Affirmation of Faith – from 1 John 1:1-2:2

Leader: This is the message we have heard and proclaim, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.

People: If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's son, cleanses us from all sin.

All: If we confess our sins, God the faithful and just one, will forgive, cleanse and free us through Jesus, our righteous advocate.

Gospel reading: John 20:19-31

Sermon: “One heart, one soul, one peace (and some ongoing questions)”

***Hymn:** “Spirit come, dispel our sadness” #290 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

***Sending hymn:** “New earth, heavens new” #299 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time

11:00 a.m. Education classes for all ages. Adult ed. options: Theological Explorations in the chapel, Sabbath Economics in the fellowship hall, Parenting Class in the basement parent resource room.

TODAY: Signs of the Resurrection: One heart, one soul, one peace

Worship leader: Joan Kreider

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Gregg Richardson

Piano: Sandra Westby

Musicians: Phil Stoltzfus, Karen Wiebe

Reader: Rich Deming

Ushers: Aine McCarthy & Cori Skogerboe

Nursery: Heather Wengerd & Candace Lutt

Fellowship: Beth & Gregg Richardson

Fellowship buddy: Jenny Wandersee

NEXT SUNDAY: Signs of the Resurrection: Caring for creation

Worship leader: Joan Kreider

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Gregg Richardson

Piano: Melissa Falb

Ushers: Rhonda Martin & Shawn Helmeke

Nursery: Laurie Kaufman & Noah Skogerboe

Fellowship: volunteer needed

Fellowship buddy: Hermann Weinlick

April 1:

Offering: \$2571

April 8:

Attendance: 123

Offering: \$2705

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: Phil Stoltzfus
Sabbatical Pastoral Care: Donna Stucky
Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks
Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger, Neil Okerlund

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FMC office hours: April 16-20

Pastor: Mon 9-5:00; Wed noon-5; Thurs 10-1. Tuesday is a study day.

Ministry Staff: Wed 1:45-7; Thurs 1:45-7

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

Easter Season Worship. Although we tend to think of Easter as a single day event, in reality it is a liturgical season (like Advent and Lent) that begins on Easter Sunday and continues until Pentecost, which this year will fall on May 27. During the coming weeks our worship theme will be “Signs of Resurrection.” We will continue to sing Easter hymns and we will look to the past, in Scripture, and to our present experiences, to discover and proclaim the signs of hope and life that emerge from Jesus’ death and resurrection. Here is a preview of the remaining Sundays of this month:

April 22: Signs of the Resurrection: An abundant and renewing earth (Earth Day/Car Sabbath)

April 29: Signs of the Resurrection: Giving one’s life for another (with sharing by several FMC members)

Car Sabbath next Sunday, April 22, coinciding with Earth Day.

Missions & Service Commission invites those who are able to walk, bike, bus, carpool, or find alternative methods of transportation to church, and minimize driving throughout the day. This is one small collective action we can take on behalf of this wonderful earth we inhabit.

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

April 17 – Sunday Text Discussion Group, 8:30 a.m., Trotters Café, SP

April 18 – Deacon Commission, 9 a.m., Nafziger home

April 18 – FMC Crafters, 7 p.m., library

April 21 – April Birthday Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Schlabach home

April 24 – Christian Education Commission, 4 p.m., church office

April 26 – Soup Group, 6 p.m., at the church

New Testament reading: Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Gospel reading: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the [Jewish leaders], Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Mennonite Central Committee appeal for Syria. In response to the crisis in Syria and its neighboring countries, where many Syrians are fleeing for safety, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has issued an appeal for \$500,000 and relief kits to assist partner organizations in the Middle East as they provide humanitarian aid and build peace at the community level. **FMC will take up a special offering for MCC's Syria work next Sunday, April 22**, when relief kits are due. List of items for relief kits can be found at: mcc.org/kits/relief.

April Birthday Brunch, Saturday, April 21, 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Schlabach's, 248 Aurora Avenue, SP. For those with April birthdays and their families/friend. Sign-up sheet in fellowship area. RSVP to Joetta by April 19 if you haven't signed up.

On the back literature shelf, new copies available of: 1) April *Scattered Seeds*, from Central Plains Conference; 2) Jan.-March *Signs of the Times*, from Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Yeshi Lemu recently completed requirements for earning her MPH (**Master of Public Health**) from the University of Minnesota. She successfully defended her dissertation last week and will receive her diploma soon. Congratulations!

Directory Update: Adam and Nikki Fitch Nafziger no longer have a landline. Please use their cell phone numbers.

Tax Day Rally and March for the 99%, Tuesday, April 17, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Minneapolis Convention Center. –Minnesotans for a Fair Economy and OccupyFaithMN

Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m., **Book-signing event for nonviolent activist and priest John Dear**, St. Francis Cabrini (1500 Franklin Ave., Mpls), in connection to his latest book, *Lazarus, Come Forth!*

Fare for All Express, Wednesday, April 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St., Mpls. Save up to 40% on groceries, open to anyone who wants to stretch their food dollar: www.fareforall.org.

Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, Saturday, April 21, 7:00 p.m., Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave., Mpls. Free-will offering to support the Dignity Center.

Longfellow Community Council **Resource Fair, Pie Potluck, and Annual Meeting**, Wednesday, April 25, 6-8:00 p.m., Minnehaha Academy, 3100 W. River Parkway, Mpls.