

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

April 25, 2010

Easter 4 ~ New heavens and a new earth

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** – based on Isaiah 65

L: For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;

P: Be glad and rejoice in what I am creating:

L: No more shall there be an infant that lives but a few days,

P: or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

L: for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,

P: and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

L: They shall not labor in vain.

P: Before they call I will answer.

L: New heavens and a new earth...

ALL: Be glad and rejoice!

***Hymns:** “I am weak and I need thy strength” #553 HWB

“The Lord’s my Shepherd” (insert)

Old Testament reading: Psalm 23 #814 HWB

New Testament reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1-10; 5:6-9

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

Children’s time: “A New Bravery”

Song: “Be still” #75 STJ

Offering and Offertory

Gospel reading: John 16:25-33

Sermon: “A New Courage”

Testimony of something new ~ Leslie Minkler

Hymn: “By gracious powers” #552 HWB

Congregational Sharing *During Eastertide we will light a candle after each thanksgiving or prayer request is offered.*

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.

(cont. next page)

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

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** “When the storms of life are raging” #558 HWB

***Benediction**

***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**

Adult classes:

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

TODAY: Easter 4: New Courage

Worship leader: Bob & Lauren Brown **Sermon:** Greg Renstrom

Song leader: Donna Stucky **Piano:** Adam Nafziger

Violin: Phil Stoltzfus **Candle lighter:** Sophia Harder-Kouay

Nursery volunteers: Annette Semanchin-Jones & Aine McCarthy

Fellowship: Arlene Geissinger & Rachel Hoskins

NEXT SUNDAY: Easter 5: A New Commandment (John 13:31-35)

Worship leader: Bob & Lauren Brown **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Sara Yoder **Piano:** Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Susan Weinlick & Leslie Minkler

Fellowship: Volunteers needed

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.

April 18: Attendance: 104 Offering: \$2,397

We thank Lauren Brown for preparing the visual elements for Easter tide. Throughout history and across cultures, birds have often been sacred symbols because they travel freely between heaven and earth. In the Christian tradition a bird is one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit. We are adding a new bird each week to emphasize our theme “New heaven’s and a new earth.”

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

***Please stand if you are able**

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Greg Renstrom
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483

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

FMC OFFICE HOURS: April 26-30

Pastor: Tuesday 1-5; Wed 9-4; Thurs 11-4. Joetta is open to receiving calls at home on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m.

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

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.

Tuesday, April 27, Choral Concert by Canadian Mennonite University Chamber Choir, 7 p.m. @ FMC The Menno'Faith will open the concert with two songs. They will rehearse at 6 p.m. in the chapel.

Thursday April 29, join MICAH in shaping the future of our region where all people thrive and have access to affordable housing options, transportation choices and living wage jobs. **Myron Orfield Director of the Institute on Race & Poverty at U of MN** will speak on ways that policies and practices disproportionately affect communities of color and those with low incomes. Join us in our efforts to educate candidates about challenges and opportunities in our region. **6:00 pm Dinner, 6:30 pm Program.** 500 Cedar Street (Cedar & Exchange), St. Paul, free on-street parking more info www.cpcstpaul.org **RSVP by April 26** to Jodi@micah.org \$7.00 donation appreciated FFI: 651-645-0612,

Church Meetings and Events

April 26 – Worship Commission, 7 p.m., chapel

April 27 – Lectionary Discussion (Acts 16:9-15; John 14:23-29), 8:30 a.m., Trotter's Restaurant, Cleveland & Marshall Ave, SP

April 28 – Women's Retreat Planning Committee, 7 p.m.,

April 30 – Scrabble night, Joan Krieder's at 7 p.m.

May 4 – Christian Education Commission, 7:30 p.m., church office

May 7-8 Women's Retreat, Carondelet Center

May 12 – Feed My Starving Children, Eagan site 8:00 p.m. -9:30 p.m.

May 19 – Deacon Commission, 9:30 p.m., Richardson's

May 19 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

Announcements

May 1, Stewardship University, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at FMC – This is a unique opportunity to consider “My lifestyle, faith & money: Are they speaking the same language?” Keynote presentation on Socially Responsible Investing by Mark Regier, manager of MMA’s Praxis Accounts. Break-out sessions on budgeting for contentment; self-care as part of good health; long-term care; wise use of credit and debit cards; and community development investing. Cynthia Miller, Minke Sundseth, and Shelly & Matthew Hendricks will be among the presenters. **Brochures are in your mailboxes. \$5/person if you mail in your registration in advance; \$10 at the door.**

Added bonus: FMC participants are invited to a **reception and presentations about community development investing on Friday, April 30, 6-8 p.m.**

6 p.m. Gather in lobby of Sheraton-Midtown Hotel

6:10 p.m. Tour of Global Midtown Market, led by CEO of Community Reinvestment Fund USA

7 p.m. Reception & presentation at Sheraton-Midtown Hotel

If you would like to attend the reception & tour, please **RSVP** to the church office by email or phone by **Monday, April 26 (leave a message).**

Women: Please return in registrations for the Women’s Retreat, May 7-8 today (to church office mailbox) The cost of the retreat is based on the cost of renting the meeting space, overnight rooms, and meals. We do not want the cost to be prohibitive – pay what you are able. **EVERYONE** is welcome!

South Minneapolis potlucks are returning on April 30! We’ll meet at Powderhorn Park on 35th Street and 15th Avenue at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Cancelled if raining.

STAR Scholarships for FMC Participants. There are four scholarships available for those in the FMC community who are interested in participating in the Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) workshop June 23-27. The application forms are at the back of the sanctuary. If you have questions please leave a message for Kathleen Remund at the FMC office or email her at minstaff@faithmennonite.org.

May 14-16, Restorative Justice Facilitator Training: Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership provides a community alternative to juvenile court for misdemeanor offenses happening in the 55406 zip code. **We need people who have a stake in Seward or Greater Longfellow neighborhoods to volunteer at the conferences as a community member or a trained facilitator.** For information contact Michele Braley at 612-338-6205 x108 or michele@sng.org.

2 Corinthians 4:1-10, 5:6-9

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

John 16:25-33

‘I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.’

His disciples said, ‘Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!’

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

Plans are underway for a one-week Vacation Bible School for children age 4 through grade 4, June 14-18, 9-11:30 a.m. Please mark your calendar and contact Shelly Hendricks if you would like to get involved: we'll need teachers, helpers, snack providers, etc. Help one morning or all five!

Parents: have received registration forms in mailboxes; please return soon!

Central Plains Mennonite Conference is facing a deficit of nearly \$50,000 as its fiscal year ends on April 30, 2010. Individuals may send contributions to Central Plains Mennonite Conference, P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029