

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
May 10, 2009 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter  
*None can stop the Spirit!*

**Prelude**  
**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

L: Let us proclaim God's name among the people,  
**P: shouting our praise in the assembly of believers.**  
L: God never scorns the afflicted,  
**P: never looks away, but hears their cry.**  
L: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
**P: all peoples bow before the Lord.**  
L: Tell the next generation about the Lord:  
**All: this is our testimony: God saves.**

**Hymn:** "Sing praise to God who reigns" #59 HWB (vv. 1-3)  
"God of Eve and God of Mary" #492 HWB

**New Testament reading:** Acts 8:26-40

**Children's Gathering Hymn:** "Come and See" #20 HWB

**Children's time:** "When do I pray?"

**Hymn:** "O God in heaven" #53 STJ

**Gospel reading:** John 15:1-8

**Drama:** "Coffee with Jesus" ~ Matthew Kinney & Chris Jones

**Sermon:** "Abiding in the Word and the Vine"

**Hymn:** "Abide with me" #653 HWB (vv. 1-3)

**The story continues:** Terry Gerber

**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:** "Thou true Vine, that heals" #373 HWB

**\*Benediction**

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- **Fellowship time - 10:45-11:10 a.m.** (in basement fellowship hall)

- **Children's music - 11 a.m.**, Room 201, education wing

- **Christian Education - 11:15 - noon**

**Adult class:** Today Michael Bischoff will lead us in an update of our work this year to build greater connections in the community. What are our next steps? **The May adult education** series is being organized by the Missions & Service Commission. Next Sunday, May 17, Leslie Frost from Families Moving Forward will speak about this important ministry to families who are homeless. We will take up a free-will offering for which we will request matching funds from the MMA Sharing Fund.

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**TODAY:** Abiding in the Vine

**Worship leader:** Chris Jones

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Hermann Weinlick

**Piano:** Melissa Falb

**Nursery volunteers:** Mark Kauffman & Kami Blackwell-Kinney

**Fellowship:** Hermann & Susan Weinlick

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Children's Day & Child/Parent Dedication

**Worship leader:** Joetta Schlabach

**Guest Speaker:** Harry Kingham

**Song leader:** Donna Stucky

**Piano:** Cathy Smetana

**Nursery volunteers:** Wolf Bartel plus parent volunteer needed at 10:30

**Fellowship:** Beth Richardson

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*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.*

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**May 3:** Attendance: 80

Offering: Not Recorded

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## Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Clea Roth Gingerich

Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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### FMC OFFICE HOURS: May 11-15

**Pastor:** Wed & Thursday 10-4; Friday 8:30-noon. Tuesday is a study day.  
Joetta is open to receiving calls at home on Monday and Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Michael Bischoff:** Thursday 9-noon

**Office Assistant:** Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

*Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:*

[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org)

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**Next Sunday, May 17, will be our second annual Children's Day service.** Children will participate in various parts of the service, and the sermon will be centered around children. We will have parent/child dedications for John Ratigan, Kristen Green and Siobhan Claire and Ry and Marcia Siggelkow and their son Owen. This will be the last day of Sunday School classes for the 2008-2009 Sunday School year. **Please bring a potluck dish to share at a picnic** (weather permitting) after the education hour. We will also use this occasion as a fund-raiser for Rhonda Martin who will be one of our FMC delegates at the Mennonite Assembly in Columbus, Ohio in July.

**Summer Nursery Schedule Needs Volunteers!** Brooke Derrickson is putting together the summer schedule of nursery volunteers. Nursery staff person Meagan O'Brien is requesting a 3<sup>rd</sup> volunteer to arrive at 10:30. We hope that this third position can be filled by parents of nursery-age children and that the two regular volunteers can be other members of the congregation. If you've never volunteered but would like to serve in this way, please speak with Brooke or sign up on the nursery volunteer sheet.

### Church Meetings and Events

May 11 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC Chapel

May 12 – Lectionary Discussion (Acts 1:14-17; 21-26; 1 John 5:9-13;

John 17:6-9) 8:30 a.m. Trotters, Corner of Marshall & Cleveland, SP

May 17 – Children's Day & Potluck Picnic (Last day of Christian Education)

May 27 – Deacon Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

May 28 – June Newsletter deadline, noon

### Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### John 15:1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

**Prayer Vigil — Invitation from The Interfaith Immigration Coalition May 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m.** On the Anniversary of the Postville Raid & In Remembrance of Raids throughout Minnesota – Held at the Ramsey Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, Saint Paul. This event is a unified call for humane and comprehensive immigration reform, just labor practices, family unity, and an end to raids of all kinds.

**Update from MCC Central States-Northern Tier** A copy of a letter from MCC Central States representative Rosie Epp is posted on the Missions & Service Bulletin Board in the fellowship area. A few of you also received a copy of this in your mailbox.

**Minnesota's health care system is failing.** 374,000 Minnesotans have no health insurance. The Governor's budget proposes to cut about 113,000 more Minnesotans from health care coverage, including 30,000 children. To learn more go to [www.jrlc.org](http://www.jrlc.org). **Call your State Representative and Senator.** Tell them: Every person has a right to basic health care, balance the budget fairly, stop inhumane cuts to health and human services. For phone numbers of State Representatives and Senators go to [www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/Districtfinder.asp](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/Districtfinder.asp)

**Alternatives to Violence Project's Conflict Resolution Training/ Workshop** (A program of Friends for a Nonviolent World), June 12-14, at Faith Mennonite Church. AVP will hold a 21-hour, hands-on workshop focused on building new skills which transform violence to cooperation and build community via affirmation, respect for all, and cooperation and trust. The Alternatives to Violence Project is national and international volunteer-run program that conducts workshops in conflict resolution and non-violence. See [www.fnvw.org](http://www.fnvw.org) for more information, pick up a flyer from the back of sanctuary, or talk to Rich Deming.

**From Kristin Green — On June 2, Open Eye Figure Theatre will be performing the play "Katie Tomatie,"** the driveway tour, in our back yard! Bring yourself, bring your kids, bring your neighbors, bring your grandkids! Refreshments will be served and a hat will be passed for a free will donation. I hope to see you there! No RSVP necessary. Another email will be sent out closer to the performance date.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer request.** MMN associates Dan and Jill Koop Liechty desire that Woodstock School in India will discern creative and motivational ways to encourage students to consider people who are ill, poor or powerless. Pray that the volunteer program at the school will instill in students the value of serving others.