

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
July 15, 2012 ~ Seek Peace and Pursue It

Psalm 34:1-3; 14

Sung response: "Seek Peace & Pursue It" by Gregg Richardson

Welcome

***Call to Worship** *From Words for Worship 2, edited by Diane Zaerr Brenneman,
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Response: How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

***Hymn:** "Heart with loving heart" #420 HWB

Prayer for Peace/Lighting of the Peace Lamp

Hymn: "How good a thing it is" #310 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

Hymn: "Jesus, help us live in peace" #52 STJ
(children come forward during final verse for scripture reading)

Scripture reading: Acts 15:1-35

Sending song for children: "Peace before us" (insert)

Children's Activity: Hermann Weinlick and Teresa Wasick

Sermon: "Lessons on Conflict Resolution from the Early Church"

Responses: Mike Okerstrom & Gerald Schlabach

Children's Response

Offering & Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** "We are people of God's peace" #407 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace**

Community Time

11:40 Fellowship time.

TODAY: Seek Peace within the Broader Church

Worship leader: Tyler Zabriskie

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Gregg Richardson

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Usher: Shawn Helmeke

Fellowship buddy: Richardsons

Nursery: Cleta Roth Gingerich & Heather Wengerd

NEXT SUNDAY: Seek peace through humility (1 Samuel 25:1-35)

Worship leader: Matthew Hendricks

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Usher: Darrell Martin

Piano: Sandra Westby

Song leader & fellowship buddy: Hermann Weinlick

Nursery: Jacob Schlabach & Noah Skogerboe

*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.*

July 8:

Attendance: 62

Offering: \$1,988

Weekly amount need to meet budget: \$2,692

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

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FMC office hours: July 16-20

Pastor: Mon 9-1, 3-5; Wed 2-5, Thurs 2-5. Tuesday is a study day. On Thursday Joetta will meet with area Mennonite pastors in Cannon Falls.

Ministry Staff: Mon 10-5, Thurs 10-5.

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

Prayer request: We hold **Jenny Wandersee** in our prayers as she grieves the loss of her father who died Monday night in Springfield, MN, following a time of declining health. The memorial service is being planned for July 20, to accommodate the travel of family members who live at a distance.

Today we are collecting **relief supplies** (tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, body soap, shampoo & conditioner, laundry soap, lotion, chap stick, hairbrushes, feminine products, hair ties and hairspray) to be sent to **Mennonite Central Committee** Central States as they respond to the 250,000-acre Ash Creek fire, affecting the Northern Cheyenne nation and Mennonite church communities in Montana. Thanks to Donna Stucky who will transport these items to Kansas later this week.

At the recent Central Plains Conference Annual Meeting, those in attendance pledged \$40,400 during one day to **support the building addition effort of Ashland Christian Fellowship, which has outgrown its meeting space.** Ashland is one of three CPMC **Northern Cheyenne** churches in Montana. Several of its members were affected by the recent fires. Gerald & Joetta Schlabach pledged \$500 thinking that others from FMC might want to **share in this pledge.** Anyone who would like to do so may **contact Joetta for details.**

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

July 17 – NO Sunday text discussion

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

July 18 – FMC Artisans & Crafters, 7 p.m., library

July 20 – Friday picnic potluck in Powderhorn Park, 6 p.m., SE corner

July 22 – Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., chapel

July 25 – Deadline for August newsletter, noon to Gregg Richardson

July 25 – Soup Group, Occupy Homes speakers, 6 p.m., fellowship hall

July 25 – Fall Retreat Planning Group, 7 p.m., FMC office

August 17-18 – FMC Women's Camping Weekend

October 5-7 – All Church Fall Retreat, Camp St. Croix, Hudson, WI

Acts 15:1-35

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.' Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues."

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us, though with no instructions from us, have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds, we have decided unanimously to choose representatives and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have

risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” So they were sent off and went down to Antioch. When they gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. When its members read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation. Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers. After they had been there for some time, they were sent off in peace by the believers to those who had sent them. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, and there, with many others, they taught and proclaimed the word of the Lord.

Leader: 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

Community Emergency Services Food Drive. Collection of cash, food, and hygiene items will take place at FMC during the next three weeks of **July, with delivery to CES on Sunday, July 29.** You can pick up a list of needed items at the back of the sanctuary. In March, FMC donated 183 pounds of food, valued at \$366, and \$75 cash. –*Missions & Service*

FMC picnic potluck at the SE corner of **Powderhorn Park**, 15th Ave. S and 35th St., **Fridays at 6 p.m.** –*Dan Leisen & Andi Kuening*

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will meet next Sunday, July 22. If you have any concerns please speak with committee members Shelly Hendricks, Noah Skogerboe, Hermann Weinlick, or Heather Wengerd.

A special **July Soup Group** with **guest speakers from Occupy Homes**, is planned for Wednesday, **July 25**, 6–8 p.m., FMC fellowship hall. Volunteers needed to help with preparation and clean-up. **Sign-up on the sheet in the narthex** or contact Richard Westby.

A Celebration of Immigration and Belonging. You are all invited to join with **St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship** to celebrate the congregation’s **new membership in Central District Conference.** Saturday, **July 28**, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Neighborhood House, 179 East Robie St., SP. –*Helen Wells O’Brien*

FMC Women’s camping weekend, August 17 and 18. This is for women and girls of all ages and will be at nearby Baker Park Reserve Campground. Contact Heather Wengerd, Shelly Hendricks or Donna Minter if interested!

On July 1 FMC took a **special offering for Walker Community United Methodist Church**, which lost its building in a fire. \$900 was contributed. We’re planning a **joint worship service and potluck** for Sunday, **Aug. 26.**