

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
July 22, 2012 ~ Seek Peace and Pursue It

Psalms 34:14-18

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

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Leader: To worship is to bear witness that there is One who deserves worship.

People: There is One who is holy and righteous and powerful.

All: And that One is not us.

Leader: So as we gather for worship, let us humble ourselves.

People: Let us release our pride and our sense of entitlement,

All: that we might listen deeply and watch expectantly.

***Hymn:** "God of our life" #486 HWB

Prayer for Peace/Lighting of the Peace Lamp

Hymn: "Peace, peace" #10 River of Gladness

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: "Will you let me be your servant" #307 HWB

(children come forward during final verse for scripture reading)

Scripture reading: 1 Samuel 25:1-35

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

Children's Activity: Candace Lauth & Phil Stoltzfus

Sermon: "Breaking the cycle of violence"

Responses: Pat Eliason & Glenn Geissinger

Children's Response

Offering & Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** "God whose giving" #383 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace**

Community Time

11:40 Fellowship time.

TODAY: 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 (Meagan gone)

NEXT SUNDAY: Seek peace through love (Mark 12:28-34)

Worship & song leader: Joetta Schlabach

Sermon: Hermann Weinlick

Nursery: Donna Stucky & Tyler Zabriskie

Usher: Cori Skogerboe

Fellowship buddy: Sandra Westby

Piano: Melissa Falb

*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
Deacons: Shelly Hendricks, Clea Roth Gingerich,
Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger, Neil Okerlund

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483
E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC office hours: July 23-27

Pastor: Wed 9-5; Thursday 9-noon. Joetta will be on vacation Monday and Tuesday. Thursday evening to Saturday she will be at St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN, for the annual Bridgefolk conference.

Ministry Staff: Mon 10-5, Wed 10-5, Thurs 9-noon.

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

July 15: **Attendance:** 74 **Offering:** not yet recorded

At the recent Central Plains Conference Annual Meeting, those in attendance pledged \$40,400 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 to contribute should **speak with them TODAY** since the pledge is due by August 1.

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

July 24 – NO Sunday text discussion

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

July 27 – Friday picnic potluck in Powderhorn Park, 6 p.m., SE corner

August 5 – Picnic potluck after worship service, Matthews Park

August 17-18 – FMC Women's Camping Weekend

August 26 —Worship & potluck with Walker UMC

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

1 Samuel 25:1-35

Now Samuel died; and all Israel assembled and mourned for him. They buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David got up and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

There was a man in Maon, whose property was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was clever and beautiful, but the man was surly and mean; he was a Calebite. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. Thus you shall salute him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. I hear that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing, all the time they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your sight; for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David; and then they waited. But Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and the meat that I have butchered for my shearers, and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" So David's young men turned away, and came back and told him all this. David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every one of them strapped on his sword; David also strapped on his sword; and about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he shouted insults at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we never missed anything when we were in the fields, as long as we were with them; they were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know this and consider what you should do; for evil has been decided against our master and against all his house; he is so ill-natured that no one can speak to him."

Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys and said to her young men, "Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. As she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. Now David had said, "Surely it was in vain that I protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; but he has returned me evil for good. God do so to David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

When Abigail saw David, she hurried and alighted from the donkey, fell before David on her face, bowing to the ground. She fell at his feet and said,

“Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt; please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. My lord, do not take seriously this ill-natured fellow, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, your servant, did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.”

“Now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, since the Lord has restrained you from bloodguilt and from taking vengeance with your own hand, now let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be like Nabal. And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your servant; for the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the Lord; and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. If anyone should rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living under the care of the Lord your God; but the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. When the Lord has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief, or pangs of conscience, for having shed blood without cause or for having saved himself. And when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant.”

David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! Blessed be your good sense, and blessed be you, who have kept me today from bloodguilt and from avenging myself by my own hand! For as surely as the Lord the God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there would not have been left to Nabal so much as one male.” Then David received from her hand what she had brought him; he said to her, “Go up to your house in peace; see, I have heeded your voice, and I have granted your petition.”

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

The **Pastor Parish Committee** will be meeting TODAY at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. Please contact Shelly Hendricks, Noah Skoberboe, Hermann Weinlick, or Heather Wengerd **if you have concerns or comments** regarding any pastor or parish issues.

A special **July Soup Group**, hosted by Sandra and Richard Westby, with **guest speaker from Occupy Homes**, will be taking place this **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.

Join other FMCers for a **picnic potluck** at the SE corner of **Powderhorn Park**, 15th Ave. S and 35th St., **Fridays at 6 p.m.** –*Dan Leisen & Andi Kuenning.*

Community Emergency Services Food Drive. Collection of cash, food, and hygiene items will take place at FMC **during the last two 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. Lynn Peterson writes: “We just got word from Second Harvest that we would receive 2 pallets of food from the letter carriers’ food drive. It was quite a shock. Last year we received 13 pallets, enough to hold us for the summer. So your contributions of food and funds are even more important to this neighborhood this summer!” For our March food drive, FMC donated 183 pounds of food, valued at \$366, and cash donations were \$75. Let’s meet or exceed this for July! –*Missions & Service*

MCC School Kit Supplies. When you pick up items for the food pantry in the next two weeks, also think about purchasing items to make MCC school kits. The children will be putting these kits together during the worship hour **on August 5.** One school kit includes the following: 4 spiral notebooks, 4 unsharpened pencils, box of 12 colored pencils, 12 inch flexible plastic ruler, and a large eraser. These are the most requested item from MCC, going to dozens of countries and thousands of schoolchildren around the world. For more information, contact MCC.org. –*Joan Kreider*

Consider visiting another Twin Cities Mennonite church! At the July meeting of the Church Council we discussed ways to increase our interaction with other Mennonite churches in the Twin Cities. The council encourages persons and families to occasionally visit other churches as a way to strengthen our relationships with them. To this end, **we have created a link on www.faithmennonite.org to a new page with worship times and locations for each of the churches.** Several of these churches meet on Sunday afternoon or evening. Please be aware that the Hmong Mennonite Church holds its service entirely in Hmong, but they warmly welcome visitors.

Children 4 through 14 are invited to participate in the **Shalom Readers Club.** We have a selection of books on themes of peace, love and justice that are on loan from Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Children who read 7 books from the club list during the year and report on 2 of them will **earn a gift book of their choice** from the Shalom Readers Club list. **Brochures** with information on signing up for the club are on the small table against the east wall **in the narthex.** Children are encouraged to join by filling out the form in the blue brochure and putting it in Cynthia Miller’s mailbox. For more information, please contact Cynthia.

Deacon's Fund welcomes contributions. Our FMC Deacon's Fund responds to special needs that arise within the congregation or among neighbors. This fund is separate from our annual budget and depends on separate contributions. We currently have a low balance in the fund and **would welcome your help in rebuilding the balance.** Contributions can be made through the Sunday morning offering. Please write checks to FMC with a memo note: Deacon Fund. Thank you! *–The Deacons*

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.** Food catered by El Burrito, music by Dan Newton (Accordian Dan). Saturday, **July 28**, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Neighborhood House, 179 East Robie St., SP. *–Helen Wells O'Brien*

Women Against Military Madness, 30th Birthday, TODAY, July 22. Celebrating “Three Decades of Daring Deeds,” friends, relatives, and supporters of WAMM are invited for hors d'oeuvres at the Carondelet Center dining room, 1890 Randolph Ave., SP from 4-6 p.m. with a program at 5 p.m. Suggested donation: gifts of any amount containing a 3 and 0.

Ramadan Open House invitation. The MN Council of Church's “Taking Heart” program is organizing a series of open houses at local Mosques and Islamic Centers during Ramadan (end of July, beginning of August this year). Each day the fast is broken with a meal called Iftar, and for the second year, **mosques around the Twin Cities would like to invite you to share in the Iftar dinner.** Several people from FMC participated last year and had a profound experience. The Council requests advance registration on their website: www.mnchurches.org.

“One Heart, One Soul: Building Communities that Work,” **Baptist Peace Fellowship gathering, July 30 – August 4, St. Olaf College**, Northfield, for everyone who longs for the spirituality, inspiration, skills, knowledge and community to support a life of peace rooted in justice. For full conference details, see: www.bpfna.org. **“We would love to have members of Faith Mennonite there!** I think you'd enjoy this great gathering of people.”
–LeDayne McLeese Polaski, BPFNA