

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
October 11, 2009 "Finding hope in unsettling times"

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** from Psalm 40

**Response: Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.**

***Hymns:** "I'll praise my maker" #166 HWB
"Veni Sancte Spiritus" #298 HWB
Congregation sings ostinato.

Old Testament reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Children's gathering hymn: "Come and See" #20 HWB

Children's time: "Bringing bones to life" ~ Gerald Schlabach

Hymn: "Heal us, Immanuel, here we are" #375 HWB

Scripture reading: Mark 9:14-29

Sermon: "Hope's character"

Litany of Coming Out in Hope (*insert*)

Hymn: "Hope is a candle" (*insert*) vv. 1-3

You are invited to come and light a candle as a prayer for hope during this hymn.

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

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

***Sending Hymn:** "Why should I feel discouraged" #103 STJ, v.1

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- **Fellowship time –10:45-11:10 a.m.**

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

- **Christian Education – 11:15-12:15**

Adult sessions:

- **Money and Faith:** Hermann Weinlick and Matthew Hendricks will lead a class focused on issues pertaining to money and faith. They will use the book *Money and Faith: The Search for Enough*, by Michael Schut to guide the discussion. (Chapel)
- **The Politics of Jesus:** Participants in this class will read and discuss John Howard Yoder's classic, *The Politics of Jesus*. Phil Stoltzfus will lead the discussion. (Library)

- **Noon** – those who are participating in the **CROP Walk**, join in the library for a sack lunch before departing for Augsburg College

TODAY: The nature of hope

Worship Leader: Orv & Cleta Gingerich **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg **Organ:** David Mayou

Musicians: Chris Jones, Jennifer Wandersee

Nursery volunteers: Paula Okerstrom & Mark Kaufman

Fellowship: Beerswings

Today is "Pink Menno Sunday," a time to celebrate this grassroots movement in the Mennonite Church to acknowledge and affirm the presence and gifts of glbt persons. For more about Pink Menno visit www.pinkmenno.org.

NEXT SUNDAY: Hope's siblings: Faith, truth and meaning (Rom 4:16-5:5)

Worship Leader: Orv & Cleta Gingerich **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Donna Stucky **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Nursery volunteers: Donna Minter & Thaine Dirks

Fellowship: Cedric Singletary & one volunteer 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.

October 4: Attendance: 88 Offering: \$2,431

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Cleta Roth Gingerich
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: Oct 12-16

Pastor: Mon 10-4; Thurs 9-3; Friday 9-1. Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday Joetta will be in Iowa for a meeting of the Central Plains Conference Congregational Ministries Committee.

Michael Bischoff: Thurs 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

The CROP Walk is Today! This is our chance to raise money for Church World Service and Mennonite Central Committee in their efforts for hunger relief, and to walk together to show our support and solidarity with those who are hungry. **There's still time for non-walkers to make a pledge of support for those who walk.** Walk begins and ends at Augsburg College, Oren Gateway Center 2211 Riverside Ave. S., in Minneapolis. Registration 1:30, walk begins at 2:00 p.m.

Great Minnesota Walk to Worship Weekend – October 25 We are invited to participate with other communities of faith in a collective action to raise awareness and make a personal commitment to prevent climate change. As you are able, please consider walking, biking, busing and carpooling. This will be our final Car Sabbath before the snow flies! More information at www.Walk2Worship.org

Church Meetings and Events

October 12 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC Library

October 13 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Rom 4:16-5:5), 8:30 a.m.,
Trotters Restaurant, SP

October 18 – Gifts Discernment Forms are due

October 21 – Deacon's Retreat, 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

October 22 – Safe & Welcoming ad hoc committee, 7 p.m., FMC chapel

October 25 – "Who Are the Mennonites" community open house event,
2-5 pm, FMC

October 27 – Missions & Service Commission, 6 p.m., Schlabach's

October 30 – Movie, Game, & Pizza night, 6:30 p.m. FMC

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Mark 9:14-27

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the

(over)

mouth. Jesus asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You spirit that keep this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!' After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'This kind can come out only through prayer.'

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

Gift Discernment Information & Forms Please remember to review the materials you received several weeks ago, fill out the survey and return it to the special gift box at the back of the sanctuary by next **Sunday, Oct 18**.

Nursery Update from Meagan O'Brien

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated books, toys, puzzles, clothing, and games this past year. The children love them!

- In an effort to keep the flu at bay, we are asking *all children and volunteers* to wash their hands OR use the provided hand sanitizer immediately before entering the nursery.

- We follow the CDC guidelines for keeping sick children home. Please do not bring your child if she/he has had a fever of more than 100F, vomiting, or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.

- If your child has any new/existing allergy concerns, please ask to update the child's information sheet.

- In accordance with the nursery guidelines, we're asking children not to bring personal toys into the nursery. This policy is for the health, safety and fairness of everyone.

- If you'd like a copy of the guidelines they are in the pocket by the main door. Please grab one.

Announcements (continued)

In preparation for our Open House and Expo: Who Are the Mennonites? 500 Years of Peace, Community, and Service, we want to notify many, many, many people about Faith Mennonite Church. **Please invite all your friends, neighbors, and family members. Please also volunteer to help drop leaflet-invitations** to residences around the FMC neighborhood (Cedar Riverside, Seward, Longfellow) next Sunday, Oct. 18 from 12:30-2:30 pm. Bring a bag lunch to eat right after church and we will move out to canvas. As we walk, we'll say a prayer for each household in hopes that they will take us up on our invitation to join us for a fun and informative afternoon. ~ Donna Minter

Menno' Faith Choral Rehearsal Schedule for Nov 14 performance at MCC Relief Sale:

Oct. 18 After the Sunday School hour (30mins.)

Oct. 25 After the Sunday School hour (30mins.)

Nov. 1 During the Sunday School hour (50mins.)

Nov. 8 After the Sunday School hour(30mins.)

Nov. 14 Saturday at 9:15am (Before our 10am concert)

80 pounds of nonperishable food items & toiletries were delivered to Community Emergency Service this week. Thanks to all who contributed to support individuals and families with insufficient resources. Donations can be left on the back corner table at any time.

You can help victims of Asia disasters through MCC. Working with the local Mennonite church and other trusted partners, Mennonite Central Committee is meeting human needs following the devastation of recent earthquakes in Indonesia and Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines and Vietnam. MCC has committed an initial \$100,000 to the effort and welcomes your gifts of money to meet immediate emergency needs and support recovery efforts. Contributions may be made at any MCC office; online at mcc.org/donate; or by calling toll free 1-888-563-4676 or 316-283-2720. Please designate gifts for "Asia Disasters." Keep watching our website, mcc.org, for updated information. We invite your prayers for people affected by the disasters throughout Asia.

October 30, 31 — Ultimate Compassion: God, Poverty, and Actions that Make a Difference This conference, sponsored by Woodland Hills Church, will help equip you to understand the impact of poverty and decide how to respond. Cost is \$75/person through October 12; after October 13, \$90. Student rates, need-based scholarships and group discounts are available. Register at: www.ultimatecompassion.com.

A Litany of Coming Out in Hope

Leader: As God created the heavens and the earth and called them good,

People: God created each and every one of us, and calls us good.

Leader: As God's creation includes and exhibits diversity and unity alike,

People: God created us as diverse persons, yet with the desire that we live together with all of creation in peace and unity.

Leader: As a multicolored rainbow reflects the spectrum of light,

People: we reflect the spectrum of human sexuality.

Leader: As heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons,

People: we strive to affirm and be who we have been created to be.

Leader: As we encounter attitudes and acts of prejudice and hostility,

People: we remain assured that God is always with us and for us, that God desires our wholeness and well-being.

Leader: As we discern our next steps, as individuals and a congregation, to welcome those who come out while remaining in communion with a denomination still struggling to agree and disagree in love,

All: we give thanks that we are never alone, that God accompanies us as we find others along life's path who provide love, support, and genuine acceptance so that together we can recommit ourselves to seeking first the Kingdom of God.