

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
November 29, 2009 First Sunday of Advent

*During Advent we will **begin our worship in silence** without prelude music.  
We invite you to enter quietly.*

**Lighting of the God Candle**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship & Opening Prayer**

L: We live in troubled times, waiting for God's burst of light into our dark world. Take Heart! God will make things right.

**P: As we wait, we pray that the Lord will sustain us and help us to walk in a right path. May God cast out the fear of darkness and light up our lives with hope.**

L: We greet Jesus' coming to make things right.

*All: Let us worship God, whose mercy promises us new life through our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen*

**\*Hymn:** "Oh, how shall I receive thee?" #182 HWB

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Song:** "I will trust in you" ~ Ensemble

**Keynote text:** Luke 21:25-36

**Children's gathering hymn:** "Come light of the world"

**Children's time:** "The Aliveness Project" ~ Brooke Derrickson

**Hymn:** "Come thou long expected Jesus" #178 HWB

**Text of hope:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

**Sermon:** "Heads up!"

**Litany of Response** based on Psalm 25:1-10 (insert)

**Hymn:** "Fling wide the door, unbar the gate" #186 HWB (vv. 1, 2, 4)

**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:** "Christ, whose glory fills the skies" #216 HWB

**\*Benediction** (1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

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

- *There will be no Christian education classes today. Classes will resume December 6.*

---

**TODAY:** Advent 1: Take Heart! God is coming to make things right!

**Worship Leader:** Glenn Geissinger      **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Readers:** Matthew Kinney, Leslie Minkler

**Song leader:** Hermann Weinlick      **Organ:** David Mayou

**Nursery volunteers:** Jason Derrickson      **& one volunteer needed**

**Fellowship:** Dick & Sandra Westby

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Get ready! God calls us to choose the path of peace

**Worship Leader:** Annette Semanchin-Jones      **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Reader:** Matthew Kinney

**Song leader:** Phil Stolfus      **Piano:** Adam Nafziger

**Nursery volunteers:** Pierre Gingerich-Boberg & Laurie Kaufman

**Fellowship:** Joan Kreider

---

*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.*

---

**November 22:** Attendance: 82      Offering: \$1,699

---

## Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Cleta Roth Gingerich

Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

2720 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483

E: [faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org) Web: [www.faimennonite.org](http://www.faimennonite.org)

### FMC OFFICE HOURS: Nov 30-Dec 4

**Pastor:** Monday 1-5; Wed, Thurs 9-4; Fri 9-1. Tuesday is a study day.

**Office Assistant:** Monday 1 p.m., Wed. & Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

*Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:*

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

---

Our **Advent** worship theme is “Bursting In and Breaking Out.” A **family devotional** has been created that follows this same theme. Beginning Nov. 29 and ending Jan. 9, it includes step-by-step outlines for family worship and activity suggestions suitable for all ages. Download it for free at the Central Plains web site: [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org).

**Thank you to** Arlene Geissinger for preparing the Advent visual elements.

**Prayer, meditation & discussion before worship services on Sundays, 9-9:30 a.m. in the chapel.** Beginning in Advent, Rich Deming has offered to host a time of prayer, silent meditation, and bible reading, followed with time for discussion. All are welcome. For more information contact Rich at 612-722-7625.

**Thank you from Geneva Martin** Dear Faith, thank you so much for the care package that you sent to me! The gifts inside will all be very useful to me during finals week, and it was very nice to read the card and know that you are all thinking me. I can't wait to see you all again, and thank you so much for letting me know that you are all supporting me. See you all very soon, Geneva

### Church Meetings and Events

December 1– Lectionary Discussion Group (Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18)

Trotter's, corner of Cleveland & Marshall, SP

December 1 – Missions & Service, 4 p.m., FMC

December 6 – Christmas Carol Sing, 7 p.m., Joan Kreider's

December 13 – Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4:45 p.m., FMC

December 14 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

December 16 – Deacons, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, 6:30 p.m.

## Litany of response (based on Psalm 25:1-10)

L: Lord, in this time of Advent, we worry about the future and long for your purposes to be fulfilled.

**P: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.**

L: In the midst of uncertainty and fear, we pray:

**P: do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

L: We confess that we have tried many paths and that wandering has made us weary.

*Reader 1: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.*

*Reader 2: Be mindful of your mercy O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD.*

**P: We come looking for your grace, not because we deserve it, but because of your merciful love for all people.**

*Reader 1: As we wait, we rejoice in your goodness and righteousness. Teach us your ways.*

*Reader 2: Good and upright is the LORD; all the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness.*

*Readers 1 & 2: God will make things right. Amen*

## Luke 21:25-36

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

## Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

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

**The Church Council is opening the search for someone to fill the Ministry Staff Position in early 2010.** The position has been increased from eight to twelve hours per week. FMC members and friends are welcome to apply and to help publicize the position to possible candidates. The pastor, moderator, and a representative of Missions & Service commission will review the applications, conduct interviews, and make a hiring recommendation to the Church Council. A copy of the position description is on the foyer bulletin board.

**FMC is hosting a kids gift drive for The Aliveness Project!** The Aliveness Project is a Minneapolis based organization that provides services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the metro and outstate MN. This is a great opportunity for kids to be involved in caring for others and learning about sharing what we have with others. Check out the organization at <http://www.aliveness.org>. If appropriate, let your kids choose gifts for other kids! We will be collecting unwrapped toys, clothes, hats, gloves, teen gifts like hooded sweatshirts and Best Buy or Target gift cards during children's time. **Please bring your gift donations to church on Dec. 6 and 13th.** Questions? Call or email Kristin Green at 612-721-8786 or [ratigangreen@yahoo.com](mailto:ratigangreen@yahoo.com).

**Families Moving Forward Home for the Holidays Concert, December 4, 7 p.m.** Treat your family to a delightful, free evening of holiday music with the Lake Wobegon® Brass Band. This free-will offering event benefits Families Moving Forward's emergency shelter program for homeless children and their families. Colonial Church of Edina, located at 6200 Colonial Way in Edina (off Hwy 100 at Tracy). Please visit [www.familiesmovingforward.org](http://www.familiesmovingforward.org) for details. Interested in singing with the choir? Contact Tracey at 612-529-2185.

**Strollers needed for Project Homeless Connect, December 7**  
Jo Senander of Union UCC Church of St. Louis Park (our partner congregation with Families Moving Forward), is coordinating collection of strollers for the next Project Homeless connect at the Convention Center. If you have a stroller that you would like to donate for this, contact Hermann Weinlick [sweinlick@aol.com](mailto:sweinlick@aol.com).

**2009 Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale Summary** — Even though the economy led some to expect fewer people and lower proceeds, we were pleased that nearly as many people (800) attended this year as in each of the last two years. The total proceeds for the day were about \$78,000, only \$1000 less than last year. Newcomers are always in awe at the size and quality of the sale. Our expectations were wonderfully exceeded! For more details see <http://www.tcmccreliefsale.org/updates/> A fact sheet is also posted on the Missions & Service bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.