

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**

December 7, 2008 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

*Restore us, O God. Let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Lighting of the God candle**

**\*Call to Worship** (based on Isaiah 40, Psalm 85, and Mark 1)

L: Fill your lungs with air, and lift up your voice with strength.

**P: Good news is coming! God's love is being revealed.**

L: Get up on a high mountain so you can see the big picture.

Step out into the open plain so you can see all around.

**P: The Lord comes, strong as one who levels hills and  
raises valleys, gentle as a shepherd who gathers the lambs.**

L: Here is good news for all creation!

**ALL: Love and faithfulness are embracing. Justice and peace  
are kissing each other. God's presence is among us today!**

**\*Hymns:** "Comfort, comfort, O my people" #176 HWB

"O God, your constant care" #481 HWB

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Many faces plead for our attention this week.

**Side 1: In some faces we see longings for comfort and direction in  
the midst of threats and insecurity.**

**Side 2: In our own faces we see desires for peace and words of  
assurance.**

L: We listen for the voice crying, "Prepare the way."

**ALL: Restore us, O God; let your face shine and bring us comfort.**

**Song:** "Save us, O Lord"

Used with permission.

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 40: 1-11

**Children's Gathering Hymn:** "O come, all ye faithful" #212 HWB (v.1)

**Children's Time:** The voice of God

**Hymn:** "Thy holy wings" #118 STJ (v. 1,2)

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:1-8

**Sermon:** "Comfort: More than a Sleep Number"

**Communion** *We will gather at front and back in groups of 10 to 12.  
Please hold the elements until all are served and then partake together.  
The bread is gluten free; the cup is grape juice. All who have made a  
public commitment to follow Christ in life are invited to the table.  
Children may come to receive a grape and blessing.*

**Congregational Sharing & Prayer**

Sung response: "Our darkness" #101 STJ

*Prayers of concern*

Sung response: "Our darkness" #101 STJ

*Prayers of praise and thanksgiving*

Sung response: "Our darkness" #101 STJ

**Offering and Offertory**

**Announcements** *(please give in writing to the pastor or worship leader)*

**Introduction of Guests**

**\*Sending hymn:** "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" HWB #178

**\*Benediction**

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

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Community Time

- Fellowship time - 10:45-11:15 a.m.

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

- Education for all ages – 11:15-noon

**Adult classes**

- Politics and Spirituality, front of sanctuary

- The Bible and Feminism, library

- Advent Choir rehearsal – noon, front of sanctuary

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**TODAY:** The comforting face of God

**Worship leader:** Ry Siggelkow **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Children's time:** Nikki Fitch & Adam Nafziger

**Song leader:** Gregg Richardson **Piano:** Cathy Smetana

**Vocal ensemble:** Melissa Hochstetler, Tessa Schneider, Donna Stucky

**Flute:** Jennifer Wandersee

**Readers:** Wendy Brunner and Joan Kreider

**Nursery volunteers:** Kami Blackwell Kinney & volunteer needed

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HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

STJ: Sing the Journey

*\*Please stand if you are able*

## Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

Deacons: Cleta Roth Gingerich, Candace Lautt, Mike Okerstrom  
Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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### FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 8-12

**Pastor:** Wed 8:30-11 a.m.; Thurs 9:30-4:30; Fri 8:30-11 a.m. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Mon and Wed from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday is a study day.

**Michael Bischoff:** Thursday, 9-noon

**Office Assistant:** Wednesday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:*  
[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org)

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*A parent resource room is directly below the sanctuary, between the men's and women's washrooms. 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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**NEXT SUNDAY:** The restoring face of God

**Worship leader:** Joetta Schlabach      **Sermon:** Ry Siggelkow

**Song leader:** Adam Nafziger      **Piano:** Karen Zeug

**Nursery volunteers:** Jenny Wandersee and Pierre Gingerich-Boberg

**Fellowship: Volunteers needed**

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**November 30:** Attendance: 74    Offering: \$1,333.00; \$60 designated

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows  
upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is  
written in the prophet Isaiah,

See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of  
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean  
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were  
baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was  
clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate  
locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than  
I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of  
his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the  
Holy Spirit.'

L: For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements

We celebrate with **Andy and Alisa Bardo-Martinson** in the birth of **Phoebe Maria** Martinson, who made her grand entry at 3 a.m. Thursday, December 4. She weighed 9 lb-1oz and measured 20 ½ inches. Persons interested in providing meals in the coming days should contact Cleta Roth Gingerich

**Advent Visuals** Kristen Borntreger and Cleta Roth Gingerich have created the visual elements to help reflect the Advent theme “Let your face shine.” Each Sunday we begin worship by lighting the God candle at the front of the sanctuary. As Advent progresses, more lights, sparkling beads, mirrors, candles and shining objects will reflect light, portraying God’s hiddenness and God’s revelation.

**Christmas caroling this afternoon** at Gaultier Health Center (445 Galtier St.) (5:15 p.m.) and Bethel Care Center (420 Marshall Ave) in St. Paul, followed by chili and the **Annual Carol Sing** at Joan Kreider’s house (7 p.m.). **If you’d like to carpool to the St. Paul nursing homes**, plan to leave from Joan Kreider’s **at 5 p.m.** (2162 Carroll Ave, St. Paul, 651-645-2660). Maps are on the fellowship area table.

We are pleased that the **Hmong Mennonite Church** has found a new worship location: Beginning today their Sunday afternoon worship service is held at Woodland Hills Church (south wing), 1740 Van Dyke Street, Maplewood, MN 55109. Next Sunday, Dec. 14, **Emmanuel Mennonite Church** begins worshipping in their new venue at 2504 Columbus Ave, Minneapolis (formerly Messiah Lutheran Church). They welcome anyone to this celebrative worship at 9:30 a.m.

**New address for Tom Lobello:** 3347 James Avenue N., Minneapolis, MN 55412 (phone and email remain the same, although email access is limited)

**Jennifer Wandersee plays with Seward Concert Band in their Holiday Concert, Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.** South High School Auditorium, 3131 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis. Suggested donations: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children/students (2 admissions for a single donation with MPR membership).

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## Announcements continued

**See how MCC is working in New Orleans.** John Stoesz, MCC Central States Executive Director, will present “Everyone has the Right to Return,” with discussion on **Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m.** at FMC. MCC and our partner organizations are seeking justice and dignity for all. Come to this presentation and find out how you can join MCC Central States in the movement for justice in New Orleans.

**Taking Heart: Holiday Traditions, Thursday, December 11, 2008, 6:30 – 8:30 PM** Hosted by Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S, Minneapolis. Build mutual understanding between members of churches and mosques over food and conversation. At this event we will discuss holiday traditions from both Christianity and Islam. Co-sponsored by the Muslim American Society and the Minnesota Council of Churches. Free, pre-registration required. For [more information](#) contact [Gail](#) at (612) 230-3210.

**Men’s Retreat/Ski Weekend:** Friday, Feb 13th returning Sunday Feb 15th. Snowshoe Lodge is located about an hour north of Two Harbors. \$30 per night . The closer we get to the date, the harder it will be to guarantee a spot as the cabins may get reserved. Call or email Andy Martinson (651-426-8001) with questions and reservations.

### Church Meetings and Events

December 8 – Missions & Service Commission, 2:30 p.m., FMC

December 8 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

December 9 – Lectionary Discussion (2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:26-38), 8:30 a.m., Trotter’s Café, Cleveland & Marshall, St. Paul

December 10 – Deacons, 2 p.m., Richardson’s

December 14 – Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4:45 p.m. FMC

**\*\*Bring cookies to share, and hats, mittens, & non-perishable food items for Community Emergency Service\*\***

December 16 – MCC program on work in New Orleans, 7 p.m., FMC

January 11 – FMC Neighborhood gatherings

February 8 – Annual Meeting

February 14-16 – Men’s Retreat