

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 2, 2012

Advent 2012: Flood of Mercy

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** based on Psalm 25

Lift up your souls, lift them up to God, who is worthy of your trust.

Our God is a god of salvation; on this One we wait.

God instructs us how to go, leading us in right ways.

Our God is a God of salvation; on this One we wait.

All God's paths are steadfast love and faithfulness;

God's promises are sure.

Yes! Our God is a God of salvation; on this One we wait!

***Hymns:** "O come O come Immanuel" #172 HWB, vv. 1, 2, 3
"O Savior rend the heavens" #175 HWB, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

Old Testament reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Children's gathering song: "Wade in the water" (insert; chorus only)

Children's time: "Packing for the Advent Journey"

Hymn & entrance of advent candle: "Wade in the water" (chorus, v. 1)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer and 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

New Testament reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Sermon: "Holy longing and watching"

Confession with silence and movement – Casey Englund-Helmeke

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

Communion Hymn: "O healing River" #372 HWB

Offering & Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #178 HWB

***Benediction**

*Now may God increase our love for one another and for all,
and strengthen our hearts in holiness*

so that we will be blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 Fellowship time

11:00 Christian education classes today for all ages.

TODAY: Advent 1: Wading in Faithfulness

Worship leader: Chris Jones

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Gregg Richardson

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Usher: Leah Otto

Fellowship: Okerstroms

Nursery: Cori Skogerboe & Andy Martinson

NEXT SUNDAY: Advent 2: Refined by Fire

Worship leader: Jan Weber

Sermon: Jim Bear Jacob

Song leader: Adam Nafziger

Piano: Melissa Falb

Usher: Cori Skogerboe

Fellowship: *volunteer needed*

Nursery: Kristi Zabriskie & Heather Wengerd

November 25: Attendance: 65 **Local Budget:** \$1,679; Designated: \$50
Weekly amount needed to meet budget: \$2,692

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

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FMC office hours: December 3-7

Pastor: Mon: 9-5 p.m.; Wed, 10-5; Thurs 3-5. Tuesday is a study day.
Thursday Joetta will meet with regional Mennonite pastors in Cannon Falls.

Ministry Staff: Mon, Wed, Thurs 10-5

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

Prayer Request from Central Plains: Pray for Shana Peachey Boshart, Conference Minister for Christian Formation, returning from sabbatical.

Thank you to the Advent Worship Planning group: Casey Englund-Helmeke, Chris Jones, Joan Kreider, Dan Leisen, and Joetta Schlabach, and to the **Advent Visuals team:** Kristen Borntreger, Clea Roth Gingerich, Heather Reinert.

Art Crawl TODAY in the FMC Sanctuary, noon–5 p.m. One of the many events of the “Seward Winter Frolic: Art in the ‘hood.’” There will be several local artists showing their works, including **Dan Leisen’s landscape and nature photography**, and **Ten Thousand Villages** will have a selection of Christmas ornaments, crafts, and cookbooks to sell.

FMC Christmas Program and Cookie Social, Sunday, Dec. 16, 4:30 p.m. Children will be rehearsing drama and singing parts during a portion of the Sunday School hour on December 2, 9, and 16. The hosting group for the social is: Cori & Noah Skogerboe, Joan Kreider, Brooke Derrickson.

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

December 2 – Art Crawl, 12-5, FMC Sanctuary

December 3 – Soup Group – *cancelled*

December 4 – Sunday Text Discussion, 8:30 a.m., Trotter’s Café, SP

December 6 – “Seasons of Joy” CD Release Concert, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

December 12 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

December 16 – FMC Christmas Program and Cookie Social, 4:30 p.m.

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.”

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

“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...

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day 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.”

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

Celebrate **Advent** at home with these **worship resources:**

- For families with children, download a free worship guide, *Flood of Mercy*, at www.centralplainsmc.org (click on right side). It includes worship ideas, pondering questions, prayers and activities all suitable for the home.

- For daily devotions for adults, check out Goshen College’s series at www.goshen.edu/devotions. Subscribe to receive daily emails at: www.goshen.edu/devotions/subscribe.

If you would like a **poinsettia to take home on Dec. 23**, please **sign up on the sheet** in the fellowship area, and make a \$5 (or more!) donation to FMC (this will help pay for the Advent visuals). Thanks, Advent visual committee

Evening Prayer at Sabbath House. Mondays during Advent: Dec. 3, 10, and 17. 3228 Portland Ave. S, Mpls. Readings, quiet, music with local musicians. All are welcome. For more info: 612-822-2623.

The **Soup Group** for Monday, Dec. 3 has been **cancelled**. A new format for weekly fellowship meals will be beginning in January—details to follow.

CD Release Concert at FMC. Local musicians Tony Wentersdorf and Mary Parker will be holding a CD release concert in the FMC sanctuary for their new disc *Seasons of Joy* on **Thursday, Dec. 6**, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$8. Benefit for Walker UMC Church.

Ecumenical Taize Prayer service, Friday, Dec. 7, at Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 Orlin Avenue SE, Minneapolis. Taize service begins at 7:30 p.m. An optional simple meal and biblical reflection begins at 6:30. Come for one or both! RSVP for meal.

Kristi & Joy Zabriskie are in the cast of the Stepping Stone Theater's production of **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** on **Dec. 8, 9, and 15**. Group ticket rates of \$10/ticket are available for groups of 6 or more, and \$7.50 for 20 or more. If you would be interested in attending with FMCers, please sign up with your preferred dates/times at the following Doodle survey: <http://doodle.com/26ixsyewc5g93eti>

Snow shoveling volunteers needed. A **new sign-up sheet** is in the fellowship area for shoveling at the church during the winter months.

Website update: The **minutes** from the **October Church Council meeting** have been posted under "Church Council" in the members area of the church website. Sermons from the past several Sundays have been posted under "Worship/Sermons." A new document can be found in the members area under "Fellowship": "Fellowship Time Volunteer Guidelines." **And under "Events" you will find new photo galleries** highlighting FMC activities over the past five years. —*Phil Stoltzfus*

I am looking for a dependable used car. If you have one or know someone, please let me know. Thanks, Andrew Jilani