

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

“Growing together as children of God”

December 10, 2017

***Gathering Song:** “Come, O Creator Spirit, come” #27 HWB

Musical Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: We are waiting, O God. We know you work wonders:

People: you announce mysteries; you choose the surprising;

L: you startle the unsuspecting; you keep hope, joy and peace alive;

People: you rattle old bones and breathe energy into our weariness.

L: May we not only know—

All: may we also practice believing while we are waiting.

*Adapted from Words for Worship 2, edited by Diane Zaerr Brenneman,
© 2009 by Herald Press, Harrisonburg, Va.*

***Hymn:** “Comfort, comfort, O my people” #176 HWB

Children’s Gathering/Advent Candles: “Come! Walk in the light”
(insert – scripture sheet)

Children’s Time: “Woodworker’s Visit: Plans for Project”
~ Glenn Geissinger

Hymn: “O little town of Bethlehem” #191 HWB, vv. 1-2

Scripture reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sermon: “Hope in the valley of dry bones”

Song: “O Breath of Life” #35 STJ

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns *(It is a joy to welcome guests; this can
be a time for guest introductions.)*

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*

Offering and Offertory

Announcements

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book **STJ:** Sing the Journey **Hesla:** River of Gladness
**Please stand if you are able*

***Sending hymn:** “Hark! The glad sound!” #184 HWB

***Benediction / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40: Fellowship time

11:00: Education classes for all ages. Adults will meet at the front of sanctuary. See announcements for a description of today’s topic.

TODAY: 2nd Sunday of Advent: Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones

Worship leader: Orv Gingerich

Sermon: Ry Siggelkow

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Piano: Karen Zeug

Ushers: Shelly Hendricks, Stew Thornley

Nursery: Joetta Schlabach, Andy Martinson

Fellowship: Shirley Leckie Reed, Sandy Westby

NEXT SUNDAY: 3rd Sunday of Advent / Music Sunday

Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Gregg Richardson

Piano: Sandra Westby

Ushers: Stew Thornley, Dan Gerber

Nursery: Candace Lutt & Phil Stoltzfus

Fellowship: Candace Lutt & Phil Stoltzfus

Dec 3: Attendance: 120 Offering – Local Budget: \$3,469

Thanksgivings:

Concerns:

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education w.i.ng. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

Co-Pastors: Joetta Schlabach & Ry Siggelkow
Deacons: Dan Leisen, Heather Wengerd, Shawn Englund-Helmeke,
Katie Cuffey, Hermann Weinlick, Kristin Green
2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483
E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org
Wi-fi username: FMC Guest; password: peacefmc

FMC office hours: Dec. 11-15

Ry: Tues, Thurs 10-3 **Joetta:** Tues, Wed 10-2

Office Staff: Aimee Weigle: Mon.-Fri. 9:30-12:30

Email bulletin items by Wed afternoon. Bulletin printed Thurs morning.

Prayer Request from Central Plains Mennonite Conference: Pray for your sister churches in the Twin Cities: Emmanuel, Faith, St. Paul Hmong, Third Way, and The Mennonite Worker.

Come pray for our church and community! Parent Resource Room, 9:10-9:25 a.m. each Sunday. Also, if you would like to have someone pray with you or discuss a matter of concern please look for persons with the purple “deacon” ribbon or the green “prayer” ribbon on their name tag. They are glad to meet with you.

It's time to fill the Nursery and Fellowship schedules! Please check your mail folder for information.

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

Dec 12 – NO Sunday text discussion this week

Dec 13 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC chapel

Dec 17 – Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

Dec 26 – Dec. Newsletter items due to church office by noon

Dec 28 – Men’s Breakfast, 7 a.m., Curran’s Restaurant, Mpls.

Jan 7 – Eco-Justice Meeting, after Sunday School, Library

Keep in mind –

There will be no Sunday School classes on

Dec. 24th and 31st

Come! Walk in the Light

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

Adult Education During Advent - Stories from Biblical Towns

TODAY: Weldon Nisly, a retired Mennonite pastor from Seattle, WA, and a member of the Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) Peacemaker Corps, will present **“Voices and Views from Hebron”**. Nisly recently returned from two intensive months in Hebron this fall. *Note:* A soup and bread lunch will be served at noon, for any who would like to engage in further conversation with Weldon regarding the work of CPT in Israel/Palestine and in Iraq, where he volunteered last spring. The Community of St. Martin is joining us in sponsoring Weldon’s visit.

December 17: Luke 2:1-24 “Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem as the fulfillment of God’s promise” – Lead by Greg Renstrom

Advent/Christmas Activities

Thaine Dirks and Bob Mack will be performing with the Prospect Park Community Chorus TODAY, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church. This free concert includes Broadway music from 1898 to present and will be followed by a reception in the church fellowship hall.

Cookie Decorating Party: Everyone is invited to the Peters-Fransens for the second annual FMC Christmas Cookie Decorating Party, **TODAY, Dec. 10, from 3 to 7 p.m.** This is a drop-in affair so please feel free to come at any time. Pizza (and, of course, cookies) will be served.

The FMC Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec. 17th at 4 p.m. Children are planning and preparing in Sunday School classes in the upcoming weeks. The candle-light service will be followed by a cookie social—everyone please bring a plate to share. (Fruit, veggies, cheese & crackers also welcome).

We will have our regular worship service on Sunday Dec. 24, Christmas Eve day. We will not hold an evening service on Christmas Eve. Opportunities abound for Christmas Eve services across the city.

Thanks to Heather Reinert for the Advent visual arrangements in the sanctuary. And **thank you to the Trustee Commission** as they brought to completion the **basement carpeting project**. Great work!

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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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.” ⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then 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.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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.

(continued on back)