

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

“Growing together as children of God”

December 3, 2017

***Gathering Song:** “O Come, O Come, Immanuel” #172 HWB, vv. 1-3

Musical Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: In Advent, God calls us to become new,

People: to make room for our own nativity, even when there is no room at the inn.

L: Where we are busy... **P: grant peace.**

L: Where we are lost... **P: grant salvation.**

L: Where we are sad... **P: grant joy.**

L: Where we are bitter... **P: grant love.**

L: May this be a season to receive these gifts of God.

All: Amen.

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

***Hymn:** “Let the heavens be glad” #187 HWB

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

Children’s Time: “Woodworker’s Visit: Choosing a Project”
~ Glenn Geissinger

Hymn: “O little town of Bethlehem” #191 HWB, v. 1

Scripture reading: Daniel 3:1-30

Sermon: “The hope of resistance”

Communion: *All who have made a commitment to follow Christ and share in the life of Christ’s body are invited to the table. We will gather in circles at the front and back tables, as the ushers direct. After receiving the bread you will dip it in the cup and partake. The bread is gluten free; the cup is grape juice. Children/unbaptized youth may come to receive a grape and blessing. Please return to your seats by the side aisles.*

Communion Hymn: “Let all mortal flesh keep silence” #463 HWB

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

***Sending hymn:** “My soul proclaims with wonder” #181 HWB

***Benediction / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40: Fellowship time – narthex. Because Seward Artists have displays in the Fellowship Hall, we will remain upstairs for our 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: First Sunday of Advent: Daniel & the Fiery Furnace

Worship Leader: Leslie Minkler

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Adam Nafziger

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Thaine Dirks, Travis Lusk

Nursery: Beth Richardson

Fellowship: Hermann & Susan Weinlick, Thaine Dirks

NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday of Advent: Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones
(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Sermon: Ry Siggelkow

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Piano: Karen Zeug

Ushers: Shelly Hendricks, Minke Sundseth

Nursery: Joetta Schlabach, Andy Martinson

Fellowship: Shirley Leckie Reed, Sandy Westby

Nov 26: Attendance: 71 Offering – Local Budget: \$3,236

Thanksgivings:

Concerns:

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. 4-8

Ry: Tues, Thurs 10-3 **Joetta:** 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: We invite you to pray and fast on Tuesday for the Villatoro and Huesca families. Max & Gloria's brother-in-law, Alex Huesca, who is the pastor at Iglesia El Balsamo in Muscatine, Iowa, has also been deported. Pray for strength and wisdom for these families and all families in which husbands and fathers are separated from wives and children.

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.

The Seward Art Crawl continues with several artists in our Fellowship Hall beginning at noon today. We hope you will come back for a **Community Sing at 2 p.m.** The sing is jointly sponsored by FMC, the Community of St. Martins and the Seward Co-op.

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 5 – Sunday text discussion, 8:30 a.m., Seward Co-op

Dec. 5 – Missions & Service Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Chapel

Dec. 5 - Ecumenical Taizé Prayer, 6 p.m., Cabrini Catholic Church

Dec. 6 – Youth Faith Formation, 6 p.m., Reinert home

Dec. 6 – Deacon Commission, 6:30 p.m., Englund-Helmeke home

Come! Walk in the Light

Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the herald proclaimed aloud, ‘You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.’

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, ‘O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.’

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, ‘Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the

(over)

sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?’

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.’

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind [the three] and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men...fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, ‘Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?’ They answered the king, ‘True, O king.’ He replied, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.’ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!’ So [the men] came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counsellors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men... Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ... Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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 - Three Stories from Biblical Towns

December 3: Luke 1:26- 56 “Visit of Angel Gabriel to Mary in Nazareth”
- Lead by Hermann Weinlick

December 10: 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

Families with children: As we begin the season of Advent, we invite you to consider a free, downloadable guide for family worship “Yes! Let It Be!” for use from Dec. 3rd to Jan. 6th. There are copies available in the narthex, or you can also find it at www.anabaptistfaithformation.org.

Advent Taizé Prayer Service: Cabrini Catholic Church, 1500 Franklin Ave SE, will host an Advent Taizé prayer service on Tuesday, Dec. 5th. All are invited to a simple, shared meal at 6 p.m., followed by sung, contemplative prayer around the cross at 7 p.m.

Cookie Decorating Party: Everyone is invited to the Peters-Fransens for the second annual FMC Christmas Cookie Decorating Party, next Sunday, Dec. 10 from 3-7 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).

(Announcements continued on back)

Announcements (cont.)

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

Keep in mind - There will be no Sunday School classes on Dec. 24th and 31st. – *Education Commission*

Thanks to Heather Reinert for the Advent visual arrangements in the sanctuary.

Witness for Peace - Annual Fundraiser, Dec. 7th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Gandhi Mahal Restaurant (3009 27th Ave S, Mpls.) Join co-hosts Representative Ilhan Omar, Representative Erin Maye Quade, Representative Frank Hornstein and more as we continue to grow our impact through coalition building, events and organizing. As you know, U.S. policy debates continue over trade, military aid, immigration and changing Cuba policy. Our partners in Latin America call for more just and peaceful U.S. policies and practices and we must meet their inspiring courage with our solidarity. Join us for delicious food, conversation and opportunities to build.

Doyle Roth is **organizing a work team to go to Quito, Ecuador**, in late February or early March. Now that the church has moved to their own building, there are projects to be done: construction, painting, etc. If you would like to go on the work team, contact Doyle Roth at doyleroth@hotmail.com or 402-761-2847. To donate to the project, go to www.centralplainsmc.org/donate and use the Quito Property Fund button.

Pray for the Executive Director Search Committee as they continue to discern the leadership needs and evaluate candidates for the next executive director of Mennonite Church USA. The committee has received denomination-wide survey feedback and is giving careful consideration to those who have been nominated.