

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
February 28, 2016 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

Gathering Songs: “In your sickness” #585 HWB
“Precious Lord, take my hand” #575 HWB

Musical Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 63)

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: We gather to praise you.

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: We will bless you as long as we live.

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: We will lift up our hands and call on your name.

***Hymn:** “I sought the Lord” #506 HWB

Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation

Almighty and gracious God, we confess that we don't give all of ourselves to you. We lack the vulnerability to fully invite you into our midst and we look for strength in places other than you. Like Adam and Eve, we try to hide our nakedness from you. Accept our confession, and break us free from the idols of strength we use to hide our vulnerabilities. Help us to live as vulnerable people who know ourselves to be embraced by your loving arms. Amen.

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

Children's Gathering Song: “Come and see” #20 HWB

Children's Time: “God's story and our story” ~ Middle School Class

***Hymn** “The word of God is solid ground” #314 HWB

New Testament reading: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: “On Bearing Fruit and the Refusal of False Consolations”

Silent Reflection

Hymn: “God, fill me now” (insert)

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. *(continued)*

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

**Please stand if you are able*

STJ: Sing the Journey

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. AMEN

Offering and Offertory

Announcements / Introduction of Guests

***Sung benediction:** “Praise, I will praise you, Lord” #76 HWB

***Sharing the sign of peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 Fellowship time. Please keep all food/drink in the fellowship area and use the compost pail to dispose of all organic waste. Thank you.

11:00 Education hour. Adult class options: 1) Listening to the Gospels – library; 2) *Rewilding the Way* book discussion – fellowship hall.

TODAY: Third Sunday of Lent: Leaping off the page

Worship leader: Shawn Englund-Helmeke

Sermon: Ry Siggelkow

Song leaders: Miriam Augsburg, Lea Graber

Piano: Sandra Westby

Ushers: Darrell Martin, Rhonda Martin

Fellowship: Kreider, Seitz

Nursery: Melissa Hochstetler, Andy Martinson

NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Lent: Beginning a new chapter

(Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; 2 Cor 5:16-21)

Worship leader: Ry Siggelkow

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Joetta Schlabach

Piano: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Rhonda Martin, Glenn Geissinger

Fellowship: Kuenning/Leisen, Vidas

Nursery: Pat Eliason, Arlene Geissinger

February 21:

Attendance: 96

Local Budget: \$ 2,993

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
Co-Pastors: Joetta Schlabach & Ry Siggelkow
Deacons: Katie Cuffey, Glenn Geissinger
Kristin Green, Herman Weinlick, Heather Wengerd

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483
E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC office hours: February 29 – March 5

Joetta: Tues, Wed 9-4 **Ry:** Tues, Thurs 9-4

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

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

During our worship during this **40-day season of Lent** we are thinking about how the Biblical story invites us to be part of God's ongoing story. What is God writing in our lives? During Children's Time, one or more of the Middle School youth will interview a congregational member about their walk with Christ. Each Sunday we will offer a question(s) for reflection during the following week (see below). And **each week a deacon will host a meal and gathering to reflect together on these questions.** (See the sign-up sheet in the narthex.)

Questions for reflection this week: When have you really noticed God's presence in your life? What was going on in your life then and why do you think you were able to notice God's presence? Where do you notice God's presence in your life right now?

Prayer request from Mennonite Mission Network: Please pray for SOOP volunteers to work alongside staff doing office, maintenance and construction work, acting as teachers' aides, and assisting in the kitchen at Academia Menonita Betania, a bilingual Christian school located near the city of Aibonito, Puerto Rico.

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.

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

March 1 – Sunday text discussion 8:30 a.m., Seward Coop

March 3 – Lent gathering and meal

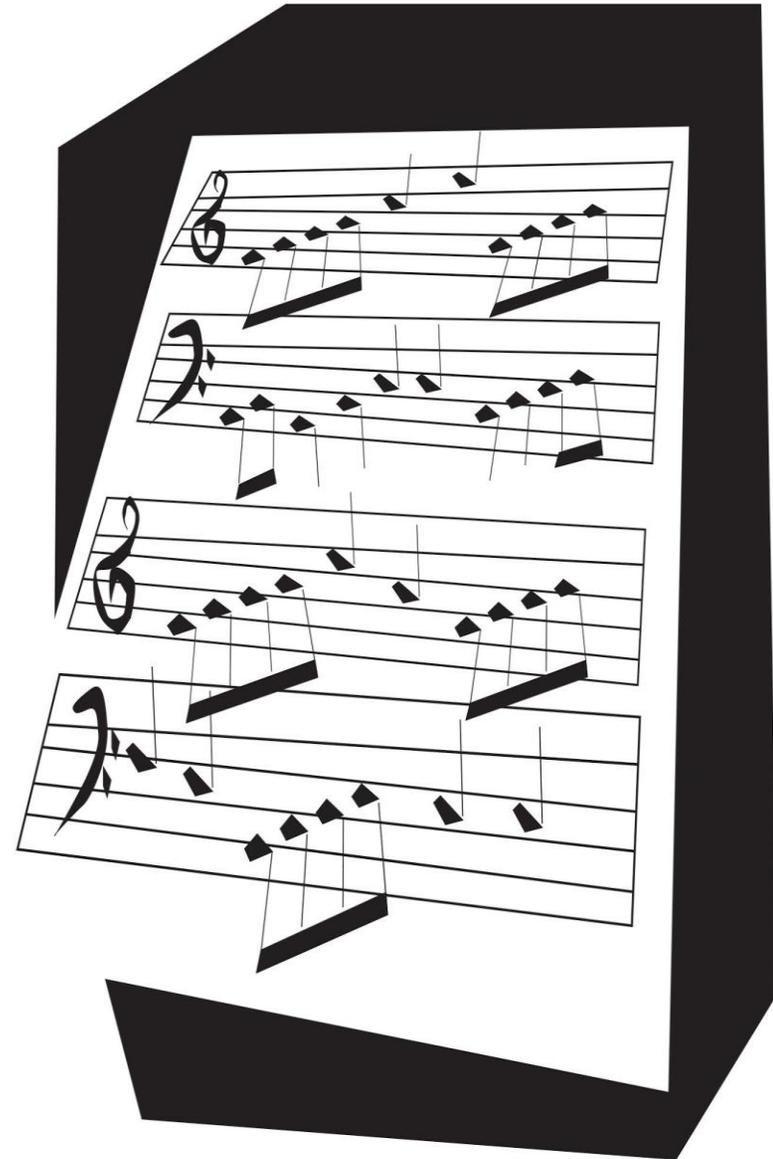
March 4 – Ecumenical Taizé prayer, Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.

March 6 - Faith Witness at Ramsey Co Detention Center, 2:30 p.m.

March 7 – Worship Commission

March 12 – Council & Commissions Retreat

March 13 - Lent gathering and meal



Third Sunday in Lent

Leaping off the page

How can I keep from singing

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?” ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

Why not begin your summer by joining a **Central Plains Conference fellowship and learning tour to Ecuador**? Eight people from CPMC will join two people from the Colombia Mennonite Church to visit two areas of Ecuador from **June 3 to 15**: the rain forest where we will learn from the indigenous people about their faith and sustainable living practices and Quito where we will meet Mennonite churches members and learn of their peace education and refugee assistance work. For more information, talk with Joetta Schlabach who will co-lead the tour. **Check the Missions & Service bulletin board in the narthex** for a recent **prayer letter from the Ross Richer family** who lives and works in the Ecuador rain forest.

Upcoming Lent gatherings: Thursday, Mar. 3, 6:30 p.m., Kristin Green will host up to 5 people for a meal and time of fellowship. **Sunday, Mar. 13**, Glenn Geissinger will host up to 8 people for a **midday** soup meal.

From Joan Kreider: You are invited to come help celebrate my retirement... As I "March forth on **MARCH FOURTH!**" **Happy hour** in St. Paul, 5 p.m. until ? 11 or later. Bring a beverage or snack to share. I look forward to seeing you!

March 4, 7 p.m. Ecumenical Taizé prayer, Prospect Park United Methodist Church.

Save the date! FMC will be hosting the **Sunday, Mar. 6 Faith Witness at the Ramsey County Detention Center** in St. Paul at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate in this monthly vigil. If you have questions or would like to take part, please speak with Dick Westby.

March 12, Council & Commissions Retreat, 9-noon. If you are a church council or a commission member, please join in this morning retreat as we consider our congregational vision and work in the coming year!

Tona Ratigan Green is available to babysit, shovel, rake, clean, cook, organize, pet sit, walk your dog, etc. for you. She is saving money for a trip with school to Costa Rica. Thanks!