

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
March 6, 2016 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Gathering Songs:** “Blest are they” #94 STJ  
“For mornings bright” #113 STJ

**Musical Interlude**

**\*Welcome and Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 32)

Leader: Mary are the torments of the wicked,

*All: but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.*

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,

*All: and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.*

**\*Hymn:** “Love divine, all love” #592 HWB

**Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation**

Leader: While we keep silent, our bodies waste away through our groaning all day long.

*All: Day and night your hand is heavy upon us and our strength dries up as in the heat of summer. Then, when we acknowledge our sin to you, and do not hide our iniquity, you forgive the guilt of our sin. Therefore, we offer our prayer and worship to you. (Silence)*

**Gospel reading:** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**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

**Epistle reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Sermon:** “Letting go... to embrace”

**Silent Reflection**

**Hymn:** “Christ’s is the world” #62 STJ

**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

**Offering and Offertory**

**HWB: Hymnal Worship Book**

*\*Please stand if you are able*

**STJ: Sing the Journey**

**Announcements / Introduction of Guests**

**\*Sung benediction:** “Move in our midst” #418 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.

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**TODAY:** Fourth Sunday of Lent: Beginning a new chapter

**Worship leader:** Ry Siggelkow

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Joetta Schlabach

**Keyboard:** Jim Kuebelbeck

**Readers:** Doug Addelman, Travis Lusk, Bob Mack, Tyler Zabriskie

**Ushers:** Rhonda Martin, Glenn Geissinger

**Fellowship:** Kuenning/Leisen, Vidas **Nursery:** P Eliason, A Geissinger

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Fifth Sunday of Lent (Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4-14)

**Worship leader:** Shawn Englund-Helmeke **Sermon:** Ry Siggelkow

**Song leader:** Phil Stoltzfus

**Organ:** David Mayou

**Ushers:** Travis Lusk, Darrell Martin

**Fellowship:** Okerstrom Family **Nursery:** Mark Kaufman, Sandra Westby

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**February 28:**

**Attendance: 85**

**Local Budget: \$ 2,516**

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*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, Hermann Weinlick, Heather Wengerd**

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**FMC office hours: March 7-11**

**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.

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**Questions for reflection during this fourth week of Lent:** When have you felt renewed and inspired in life? How was God present in that moment? What current areas in your life could you be renewed or inspired by God?

**Prayer request from Central Plains Mennonite Conference:** Pray for the Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council meeting in Goshen, Indiana, Monday through Wednesday. Pray for God's guidance as these representatives of the area conferences meet. Pray for wisdom for David Boshart as he facilitates the meetings.

**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.

**This afternoon:** FMC will lead the **Faith Witness at the Ramsey County Detention Center**, 425 Grove St., St. Paul at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate in this monthly vigil. If you would like to carpool, be ready to leave FMC at 2 p.m. - *Dick Westby*.

**Church Meetings and Events** (online calendar: [www.faithmennonite.org](http://www.faithmennonite.org))

**March 7** – Worship Commission, 8:15 a.m., Dunn Bros, 201 3rd Ave. S.

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

**March 12** – Council & Commissions Retreat, 9 a.m. – noon, FMC Chapel

**March 13** – Lent gathering and meal, midday, Geissinger home

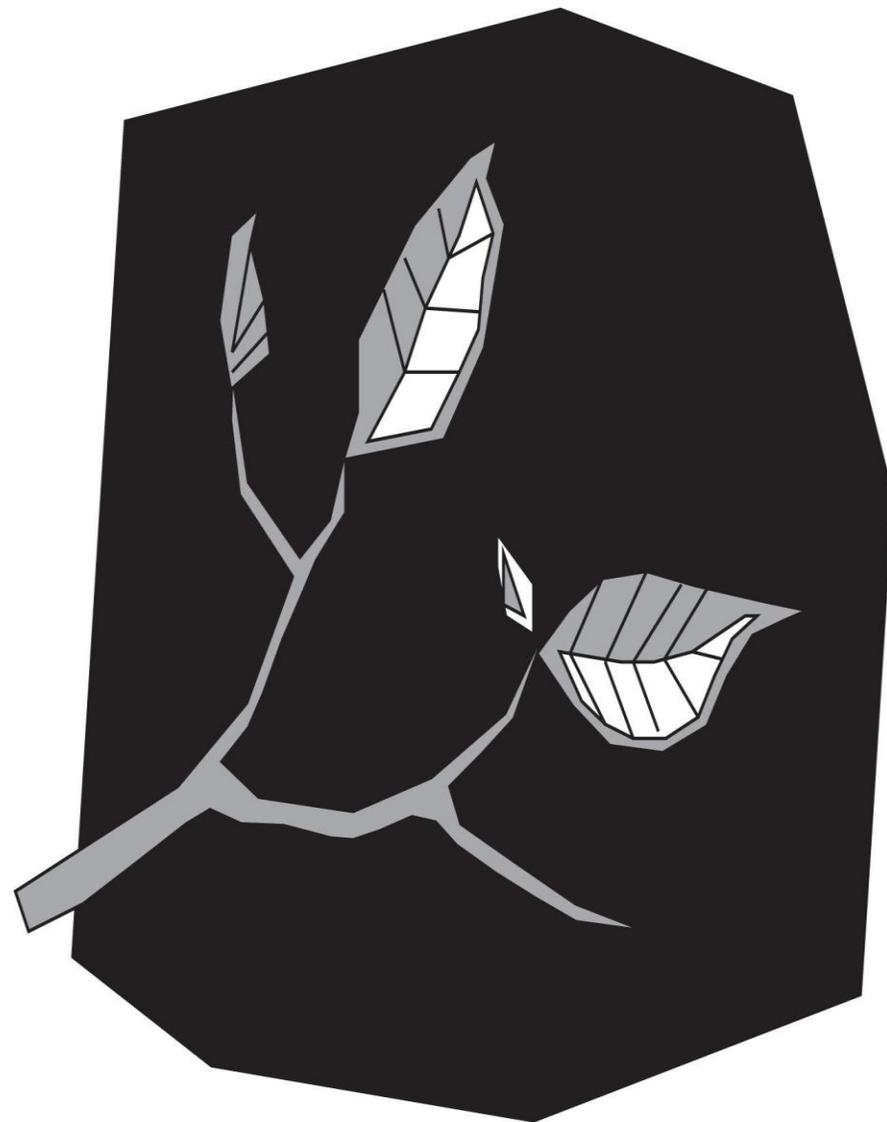
**March 16** – Lent gathering and meal, 5:30 p.m., Kaufman Wengerd home

**March 17** – Deacon Commission, 7 p.m., Kristin Green home

**March 19** – Restorative Justice Peacebuilding Training, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., FMC Fellowship Hall

**March 24** – Maundy Thursday meal and service, 6 p.m. FMC

**March 27** – Easter breakfast, 8:30 a.m. and worship, 9:45 a.m.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Turning over a new leaf*

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**Upcoming Lent gatherings: Sunday, Mar. 13,** Glenn Geissinger will host up to 8 people for a **midday** soup meal at his home. **Wednesday, Mar. 16,** Heather Wengerd will host 5-6 people for a meal and reflection time at her home beginning at 5:30 p.m. There is a **sign-up sheet in the narthex.**

**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!

**March/April Birthday Brunch:** If you or a family member has a birthday in March or April, pastor Joetta invites you to her home, for brunch on **Apr. 2, from 9:30-11 a.m.** This invitation is for whole families and significant others, not just the birthday person. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area.

Remember that you can see **photos and read updates from Orv & Cleta Gingerich** at: [www.heartsonpilgrimage.blogspot.com](http://www.heartsonpilgrimage.blogspot.com).

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## Announcements Continued

**Darrell Martin will be going to Haiti on Apr. 8** and would once again love your **vitamin contributions**. Children learn better when they have good nutrition. Even if a child in Haiti receives adequate calories (which is rare), their diet is lacking in many vitamins and minerals, particularly iron. At the twice yearly medical clinics, we try to ensure that every child receives vitamins with iron for at least three months. **Children's Chewable Vitamins with Iron NO Gummies please** (they melt in the heat). Bottles of 60 – 300 count, Target UP brand or Flintstones are good. And many thanks to the church youth who have already contributed many large bottles of vitamins from the proceeds of their bake sale!

**Saturday, Mar. 19, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. FMC will host Restorative Justice 101: Training for Practice in Everyday Life (RJ 101).** RJ 101 teaches the principles, philosophies, and practices of Restorative Justice via lecture and experiential education methodologies for the empowering of our communities. Everyone is welcome. Optional 6.5 hours of Continuing Education (CEs) have been approved for Nurses, Teachers, and Mental Healthcare Providers and 5.5 hours CLEs for Attorneys. Early Tuition is \$140. Standard Tuition is \$155. Group discounts and scholarship assistance are available. Space is limited to 16; Register now at: [www.rj101march2016.eventbrite.com](http://www.rj101march2016.eventbrite.com).

**Congratulations to Donna Minter, who was invited to write a guest column for The Gathering Place,** a website for Anabaptist youth leaders to find connections, resources, networking, mentoring, and spiritual formation. Here is a link to her article: <http://thegatheringplace.us/2016/02/23/daring-to-enter-the-small-gate-and-walk-the-narrow-road-of-peacemaking-toward-reconciliation/>.

**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.

**Mark your calendar!** – The **deadline for April newsletter submissions** has been moved up one day. The new date is **Tuesday, Mar. 29.**