

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
March 13, 2016 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gathering Songs: “This is a day of new beginnings” #640 HWB
“Open, Lord, my inward ear” #140 HWB

Musical Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship** (based on Isaiah 43)

Leader: The Lord is doing a new thing:

All: *The Lord makes a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert!*

Leader: The Lord forms us as a people

All: *and we declare God’s praise!*

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us! All: And we rejoice!

***Hymn:** “New earth, heavens new” #299 HWB

Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation

Leader: God of all who thirst, our hearts are parched from wandering in deserts far from your life-giving springs. Call us to your well.

All: *Fill our cups with your grace. Let your love overflow in our hearts, and make us fully alive. Amen.*

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

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: Philippians 3:4b-14

Sermon: “Pressing on toward the goal”

Silent Reflection

Hymn: “Now go forward” #399 HWB

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

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

**Please stand if you are able*

STJ: Sing the Journey

Offering and Offertory

Announcements / Introduction of Guests

***Sung benediction:** “As tranquil streams” #51 STJ

***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: Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm/Passion Sunday (Phil 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56)

Worship leader: Tyler Zabriskie **Song leader:** Adam Nafziger

Ushers: Rhonda Martin, Cori Skogerboe **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Fellowship: Travis Dirks, Donna Stucky

Nursery: Beth Richardson, Kristi Zabriskie

March 6:

Attendance: 90

Local Budget: \$ 2,364.50

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 14-18

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.

Questions for reflection during this fifth week of Lent: How has God recently surprised you? How could you bring about a joyful surprise, big or small, to someone else who may need to be lifted up?

Prayer request from Central Plains Mennonite Conference: Pray for Pastor Max Villatoro, who was deported to Honduras a year ago this week, and for his wife, Gloria, and his children Anthony, Edna, Angela, and Aileen, who long for his return. Ideas for advocacy are available at www.friendsofpastormax.org.

Today Rhonda Martin, Joetta Schlabach, and Hermann Weinlick are attending Shalom Mennonite Church in Eau Claire, WI. This is the quarterly “partnership Sunday” when persons from their partner congregations will be present (Bethel-Mt. Lake, Emmannuel, and Salem-Zion-Freeman, SD). Hermann is our congregational representative for the partnership. Joetta will be preaching during worship.

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

March 16 – Lent gathering and meal, 5:30 p.m.

March 17 – Deacon Commission, 7 p.m.

March 19 – Restorative Justice Training, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., FMC FH

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.

March 29 – Newsletter deadline, noon to Gregg Richardson

April 16 – FMC Sewing Group, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., FMC Library

April 25 – Worship Commission, 8:15 a.m., Dunn Bros., 3rd Ave., Mpls.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

An Unexpected Twist

Isaiah 43: 16-21

¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Lent Meal and Reflection: Wednesday, Mar. 16, Heather Wengerd will host 4 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. (continued on back)**

Announcements Continued

The worship commission is ordering potted plants for Easter Sunday (lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, and tulips). **Anyone who would like to purchase one to take home afterwards is invited to sign up** for your desired plant on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Plants are \$13.00, which can be paid through the offering.

The Education Commission is considering the possibility of **hosting a one-day VBS/Peace Village event this summer** for children of all ages. If you want to participate in brainstorming/planning what this might look like, please come to a brief meeting during fellowship time next Sunday, **Mar. 20.** - *Andi Kuenning and Rhonda Martin (Education Commission).*

Holy Week at FMC – As we approach the end of Lent we invite you to participate in the following services at Faith. Many churches in our neighborhoods offer Good Friday and Easter Vigil (Saturday) services.

- **Palm/Passion Sunday, Mar. 20**

- **Maundy Thursday** meal, communion and foot-washing (optional), **Mar. 24, 6 p.m.** We are seeking folks that can contribute portions of our simple meal. There will be a signup sheet at the back church with four spots for soup, bread, and fruit (each, enough for 10 people). Dan Leisen and Andi Kuenning will be coordinating the meal.

- **Easter Sunday:** breakfast at 8:30; worship at 9:45 a.m.

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.

From Glenn Geissinger, deacon: As a way to **offer support to Dan Gerber**, following Terry's death in late December, the Deacon Commission would like to invite individuals/families to **invite Dan to your home for dinner.** (And if there are left-overs, you can send some home with him!). Dan prefers this opportunity for interaction rather than simply receiving meals at his home. Following is a link where you can sign up for a time to host Dan. Thanks for your involvement!