

Happy Thanksgiving

FMC Weekly - November 22, 2016

*The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver
Condensed Holiday Week Version*

Worship Service 9:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

Advent is the abrupt cessation of the ordinary time in the church's liturgical year; we begin a new season and actually a new church year. In our cycle, this is year A, our gospel scriptures will be drawn primarily from the book of Matthew.

Advent, like Lent, calls to a time of awakening, a time of self-reflection anticipating the in-breaking of the divine. It is a time of hope, a time of expectation, a time for shaping ourselves in the likeness of our God.

I invite you to read and reflect on our scriptures for this week, Psalm 122, Mathew 24:36-44, and Romans 13:11-14. I'll be preaching on Isaiah 2:1-5 which radiates with hope. In world of contention, violence and warfare, can you anticipate a day where nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn of war any more. We are a people of hope.

Have a great Thanksgiving! Rob

Dan Wessner will be worship leader, song leader will be Charlie Ferguson and Vicky Mierau and Faye Yoder will provide music.

No Adult Education, but there will be:

- ◆ Coffee/donuts/fruit/fellowship, and help support our youth
- ◆ Grocery cards to purchase to help support the FMC Ministry Plan
- ◆ OpEn TabLe: 75th Anniversary t-shirt orders & other information

Child and Youth Faith Formation 11:00-12:00

PreK will be learning about the Exile and Return.

K-2nd will also be learning about the Exile and Return.

Venture Club (3rd-5th Graders) will be studying the Diaspora.

JYF (6th-8th Graders) will be wrestling with the story of Jeremiah with Joshua teaching. With the decision to have Kings, came the voice of the Prophets, such as Jeremiah.

Politicians must listen for God, and the prophets were a steady reminder.

MYF (9th-12th Graders) will continue conversations about current events and pop culture with Pastor Tory. Remember our Christmas Party is Dec. 3 at Becca and Ryan's over dinner.

Adults will continue with Chapter 14, "Promised Time and Promised Land."

Links can be found at fmcdenverfaithformation.weebly.com

Our FMC Community

Joseph's Storehouse....what is it? Who does it help?

In biblical times, Joseph (a government official in Egypt) had the foresight to put a large amount of grain into a storehouse for anticipated times of famine. Therefore, when the Westside neighbors seemed to be struggling with low economic times First Mennonite (with Mennonite Urban Ministries) started a Direct Assistance program. FMC also began a Christmas fund-raising project named "Joseph's Storehouse". The funds go directly to the Direct Assistance program at FMC. Every Monday and Wednesday mornings neighborhood individuals or families line up to see if they qualify to receive rent or energy assistance. The *Weekly* throughout December will be providing stories of the clients we help. Joseph's Storehouse is a part of our 75 year history and continues to be one way First Mennonite gives to our neighbors in need. If you give to Joseph's Storehouse, write your check to FMC designated with Joseph's Storehouse in the memo.

December 4, 2016 will be the time to vote on the Provisional Ministry Plan by paper ballot. Absentee ballots will be available by request to [Linda](#) and need to be submitted by morning of Dec. 4. Copies of the 2017 Provisional Ministry Plan are on the Open Table.

Thank You to all who have submitted pledges for the 2017 Ministry Plan. Pledge form copies are still available on the oak table in the foyer and on the Active Participants page of the [FMC website](#). Pledges may be placed in the red wire basket on Linda's desk, emailed or mailed.

Ordination Service for Theda Good is planned for **Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3:00 PM**. There is no morning service that day. A special service is being planned. Mark your calendar.

Apply for 2017 Everence college scholarships. If your family uses Everence faith-based services, you are eligible to apply for college scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. Submit your application by Feb. 28, 2017. Learn more at everence.com/scholarships or see Dawn Kreider, Everence Advocate, for a copy of the application.

Staff Time Away: Tory is out of the office through Nov. 26. Linda is out of the office Nov.

23 & 28.

Attendance:

November 20: Adults - 147; Children - 21; Total - 168

Caring for Each Other

Keep **Arlen Hershberger** in your heart as he recovers and is doing well after an unexpected hospitalization Monday to repair a cardiac artery blockage.

Happy Birthday November 23 - December 1

24 - Ash Hill

25 - Miriam Roth

25 - Vionetta Schmidt

26 - Kendrick McMurry

29 - Lynette Stoltzfus

29 - Jack Wahl

30 - Ella Barnes

30 - Elsa Burkholder

30 - Jennifer Conder

30 - Cindy Eby

Happy Anniversary November 23 - December 1

26 - Nikki & Steve KandeLind

27 - Bekkey Wiebe & Kevin Yoder

FMC's 75th Anniversary "Season of Celebration"

Showcase of Creativity

FMC 75th Anniversary Celebration Art Exhibit

We are excited to announce that there will be a showcase of creative works by artists associated with FMC in conjunction with the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration. Artwork on display will include drawings, paintings, ceramics, fibers and tapestry, woodworking, photography, stained glass, handmade books, and other works.

This artwork will be on display in the community center during the following times:

- Opening night: Friday, Dec. 16, 5 – 9 PM (light refreshments will be served)
- Saturday, Dec. 17, 11 AM – 4 PM
- Sunday, Dec. 18, during the Special Worship Celebration and Meal

Please plan on making time to view the wide variety of artworks by a very talented group of artists of all ages from First Mennonite Church. We hope to see you there!

Remember to order your commemorative t-shirt at the Open Table.

Watch for details on the Anniversary Choir.

Remember to send your memories and photos to [Anne Gerber](#) by Nov. 25!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Dec. 4, Morning: Holiday Bazaar

Sunday, Dec. 11, 3:00 PM: Ordination Service of Theda Good (no morning service)

Sunday, Dec. 18, 9:30 AM: 75th Anniversary Worship Celebration & Meal

Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 6:30-7:30, more details to come

Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Day Potluck Brunch and Worship

Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:00 AM: Winter Count Taize Service

Mennonite Church USA

Join the #MennoLove fun! Participate in the Love is a Verb storytelling project by submitting a Love Your Selfie! Send us a photo of yourself practicing self-care and a brief explanation, and we will share it across the church online. Send emails to alysabs@mennoniteusa.org

College Internship Opportunity with Mennonite Church USA: The Mennonite Church USA Communications team is looking for interns! Beginning in January and culminating in July 2017 at Mennonite Church USA Convention in Orlando, these internships will include positions for writers, editors, photographers, social media and graphic design. Internships will be paid and prioritize students of color. Interested students should contact janiebk@mennoniteusa.org for more information.

Deadline for Announcements is Wednesday midnight. Please send announcements to fmcdenvperlinda@aol.com.

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