



FMC Weekly - January 12, 2017

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

Sunday, January 15

9:30 AM Worship

Sermon: Must we wait? Scripture passage: Matthew 3:13-17, the baptism of Jesus.

This week we look at the baptism of Jesus and many have asked, *Why would Jesus need to be baptized?* He was without sin and present from the beginning of time. What did he need to be cleansed of? Distinctively, Matthew writing to a Jewish audience takes this opportunity to editorialize. We see Jesus as an outsider, from the liminal territory of Galilee travelling all this way to be baptized by John the baptizer. John resists, Jesus insists, but why? Jesus is Lord and John knows it! Jesus responds cryptically, *It is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.*

Take a few minutes to reflect on the meaning of your own baptism. Was it the culminating moment in your life, or was it the beginning of your ministry in Christ? *Our Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* reminds us, *Believers are baptized into Christ and his body by the Spirit, water and blood.* Let us not forget our spiritual ancestors and prophets such as the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Arlen Hershberger will be leading music, and mentoring pair Randy Friesen and Ellie L. will be our Worship Leaders.

After the Worship Service

- Join others for coffee, donuts, fruit and fellowship and help support our youth
- Purchase grocery cards to help support the FMC Ministry Plan
- Open Table - Welcome Signs for purchase and altar arrangement signup

10:45 AM Adult Ed - ONE PERSON ACTED and Everything Changed: A book about 10 inspiring Accounts of World Changers. Deborah Rohan is an author, speaker, trainer, and coach raising awareness about the world's greatest challenges and helping people discover ways they can successfully contribute to solving them. Deborah will be leading a fascinating conversation about her book and training during the Adult Education hour. This is not Deborah's first presentation at FMC. She helped lead the Women Bridging Borders series re: the Middle East Conflict, wrote *The Olive Grove: A Palestinian Story*,

and organized an FMC adult group trip to the Middle East. One of the featured people in her new book is Paul Polak, founder of IDE and husband to Aggie Polak (FMC member). Please attend this extraordinary presentation!

For information about future worship services, please click on the link to go to the [FMC web site](#).

Our FMC Community

Nominations are now being accepted for the five-member church board, which was formed by congregational vote. You may nominate yourself, or you may nominate someone else, provided that person has consented to serve if chosen. Nominations are open until noon on January 29 and may be emailed to Arlen Hershberger (arlenhersh@yahoo.com) or by paper note left with the church office. More details will follow.

Our current Ministry Plan calls for income of \$436,664. Income of \$27,250 comes from Scrip, rental and interest. This leaves \$409,414 to come from Offerings. As you may recall, the Council, a number of years ago, suggested that we need 90% pledged in order to pass the Plan. This would be \$368,473. We currently have \$324,083 pledged, giving us a short fall of \$44,390. If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so as soon as possible. You may e-mail me at rlwyse@comcast.net with your pledge.

Thanks for your support.

Richard Wyse, Coordinator of Finance

Homeless Hospitality Vote Summary

155 people voted by Sunday, including absentee ballots, 2 abstentions and 2 people indicating they needed more time to vote (before EOB Wednesday).

Two-thirds (n=99, 67%) of votes cast were to approve the proposal and one-third (n=52, 33%) did not approve the proposal. So the proposal did not pass the 85% threshold set for the initiative.

Forty-eight people (including those who opposed and approved the initiative), offered assistance in the following ways:

31 people offered to get to know guests

10 people offered to create activities for guests and congregants to build relationships

13 people offered to stay overnight with guests

2 people offered employment opportunities

21 offered other support

27 offered material support, e.g., blankets, beds, etc.

18 were interested in advocacy efforts

10 were interested in offering some other type of assistance

Reflections from Outreach Commissioner.

What a journey! What an honor to be in community with all of you exploring how to be compassionate, to express a mission around homelessness. Apologies for not having people who oppose the homeless initiative speak on Sunday- my oversight- time was limited and I offered the group working most closely on this a chance to say something. As hoped, people felt free to vote as they felt led. Where 155 gather in God's name – God Is.

This wasn't the right initiative at this time for the congregation. Still the process has created closer relationships with: people who don't have homes, West school leadership, the LaAlma Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, the LaAlma Neighborhood, and the immediate neighbors. Through all this, three people have received respite from the cold, and there is work with a fourth woman to help her find housing. A large majority of the congregation wanted to see this happen, so how do we channel our passion evidenced by this vote and 48 people offering immediate tangible support for the project, specifically 13 people offering to stay overnight with guests, 18 people interested in advocacy, 10 people ready to create activities for guests and congregants? I'll be reaching out to people interested in getting active to discern next steps. Perhaps more of us can join Glennon Heights' Family Promise work, and/or engage in advocacy with Marcus's group as some initial steps? As I believe Rob intends, our community is growing deeper as we seek how to express our mission, our compassion.

In peace, Stephanie

Well, the votes are counted and a decision has been made.

We can all see from the vote count that the Homeless Initiative stirred the hearts and souls of all of us. The decision will gratify some and leave others feeling defeated and perhaps dismissed, even angry. The feelings of those on both sides of this issue are strong and they have the potential to be divisive.

As with all families, there are differences of opinions particularly on how to spend resources; time, energy, money and good will. The stress that comes with wrestling such an important issue makes for this potential divisiveness. We see the same reality but through different lenses. We are each certain that what we see is true and correct.

It is my hope that we can learn from one another and join hands to move forward. It may be time to grant ourselves a bit of selfishness and focus solely on the transition that we are all working so very hard to achieve. I believe that we can all make constructive choices about how we want to handle our feelings. We can make the choice to listen to each other and perhaps become more bonded as a result.

Norm Dewhurst

Junior High Fellowship is looking for two additional teachers for January through May. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tory or Anita for details. This class is very conversational, and the lessons come with resources. Most of this second part of the year

focuses on Jesus stories and the early church.

The 2017 Young Voices for Peace rehearsals began last Sunday. We would love to have a few more singers join in (3rd grade - HS age). You can find out about the 2017 YVP season at this link: <http://ryk-yvp.weebly.com>. If you would like more information and/or wish to sign up contact: Roberta Kandel, rokandel@comcast.net, 303-807-0841. Youth, consider bringing a friend along! Grandparents, invite your grandchildren!

Altar arrangements: Lola Hershberger our floral coordinator, is looking for persons to provide a floral arrangement plant or art piece for a Sunday morning worship service in Jan., Feb., or March. Is there a significant date you would like to observe or a special person you would like to honor? Stop by the open table this Sunday to sign up or contact Lola as soon as possible at 303-523-5364 (call or text) or Lola.hershberger@gmail.com to choose a date.



"Welcome your neighbor" yard signs (as designed by Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA) will be available here this Sunday at the Open Table. The signs are 18"x24" with the message "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" printed on both sides in Spanish, English, and Arabic. Cost is \$9.00 each, which can be paid by cash or check to Meg Smeltzer Miller.

During Epiphany we are collecting donations, with the K-2nd grade class, for Casa de Paz. Donations can be brought to the church office or given to Rachel Barnes anytime through February. They need gift cards for King Soopers, Target, and Bed, Bath and Beyond. They can also use most any form of laundry detergent.

For the full text of Tory's sermon on Sunday, Jan. 8, "Allure of a singular answer" is available on the fmcwebsite, at the bottom right of the home page.

Attendance

January 8: Adults - 148; Children - 32; Total - 180

Child and Youth Faith Formation www.fmcdenverfaithformation.weebly.com

Building Community, Learning about the Bible, Strengthening our Relationship with God

Peace School January 15

For more details on MYF Snow Camps and Venture Club Family Winter Retreat, check Story Site periodically. Emails will be sent as well to all FMC families.



Pre K, K-2nd, and Venture Club classes will each be learning the story of Jesus' baptism this week.

Doug Reed will be teaching the [Pre K \(3 and 4 year olds\)](#)

Rachel will be teaching the [K-2nd grades](#)

Candace will be teaching the [Venture Club \(grades 3-5\)](#)

[JYF \(grades 6-8\)](#) and [MYF \(grades 9-12\)](#) will learn about Mennonite Mission Network opportunities with our guests from the Service Adventure Unit from Beth-El.

[Adults](#) can follow along through the Bible with McLaren's Chapter 20, "Join the Adventure!" in *We Make the Road by Walking*.

Caring for Each Other

Thursday afternoon, January 12, **Bob Carlsten** will have a pacemaker implanted to increase his heart rate. He hopes to be home from the hospital on Friday. Thoughts and prayers will be appreciated.

Arliss Swartzendruber passed away on Saturday, January 7, early in the morning. He spent his last days at Collier Hospice surrounded by his family. Please join Arliss' family for his Memorial Service to be held at First Mennonite Church of Denver on Saturday, January 14, at 11:00 AM, followed by a light lunch.

Please hold **Carlene and Gary Hill** in your thoughts and prayers, At the end of last year, Gary was diagnosed with myeloma and Carlene was laid off from her job. Please pray for employment, healing, and all that concerns them in their time of need.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday January 13-19

13 - Imanii Adams

13 - Betty Schmidt

14 - Reuben Gingerich

19 - Jan Brenneman

No Anniversaries this week

Save the Date!

Join us for these events

March 1: Ash Wednesday Service

March 5: MYF Soup Fundraiser

April 15: Good Friday Service

April 16: Easter Sunday Worship

April 29: MSMC Faith & Life Forum at Beth-El, Colorado Springs

April 30: Guest Preacher Drew Hart, author of *Trouble I've Seen*

Market Square

If you want to sell, buy, trade, get a ride, find a roommate, find an employee, find a job, find sponsors, or advertise an event requiring purchase of tickets, this section is for you. (Note: Official functions of Mountain States Mennonite Conference or its congregations excepted.) E-mail your announcement to the church with "Market Square" in the subject line. It will run one time but may be resubmitted. Deadline is midnight Wednesday.

Our Urban Community

Around Mountain States Mennonite Conference

For more information about our conference, go to mountainstatesmc.org

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Coming this summer: MennoTalks! A new feature for the Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017, the talks will feature 20 slides for 20 seconds each in a fast-paced presentation on topics such as "Celebrating Women," "Race, Religion and Justice" and "Global and Local Peacemaking." Come to Orlando July 4-7 to experience this and much more. For additional information visit <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/mennotalks/>.

For more information about our denomination, go to mennoniteusa.org

Other Information

Sermon Notes. Sermons are posted on the [FMC web site](#) when available. You may also listen to sermons on the FMC website.

FMC Emergency Closure: When weather or any other emergency event necessitates last minute cancellation of worship or other events here at FMC, the following procedure will be followed: 1) The cancellation will be posted on the FMC website. 2) A recorded message will be left on the FMC main line at 303-892-1038. 3) The cancellation is posted on Channel 9. 4) The cancellation will be posted on Facebook. You can view closing

information online anytime at <http://www.9news.com/closings> or by visiting mobile apps for smartphones.

Web site: fmcdenver.org

Phone: 303-892-1038

Deadline for announcements is Wednesday midnight. Please send announcements to Linda Welty at linda.fmcdenver@gmail.com. Announcements run one time. Please rewrite and submit a fresh announcement if you want your announcement to run a second time.

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