

Lent

Restore us, O God! We breathe.

FMC Weekly - March 30, 2017

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

Sunday, April 2

8:40 - 9:00 AM Sunday Morning Prayer

Come to the prayer room in the lower level for a moment of quiet meditation, lighting of candles and spoken prayers. During this time of Lent and tumult in our world, consider a time of intentional prayer with one another. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

9:30 AM Worship

Please join us this Sunday as we journey through Lent with our theme, *Restore us, O God! We breathe*. Pastor Theda will bring us a message using the story of the death Lazarus in John 11. This has been a week of reminders that breath is essential in our work for peace and justice. How is God's glory revealed in our lives? We breathe constantly and without thought, most of the time. What do we need to let go of, breathe out, so that restoration can happen? Jill Gerig will lead us in worship, Nichole KandeLind will provide music and lead us in song, Dana Williams will bring the children's story.

After the Worship Service

- ◆ Join others for refreshments and help support our youth.
- ◆ Purchase grocery cards to help support the FMC Ministry Plan.

10:45 AM Education Hour

- ◆ ***Peace School*** for ages 2-18 years. More details below.

- ◆ ***Adult Education***

Releasing of the Grocery Cart, will be our theme this Sunday. Come hear an update from Marcus Hyde on the Tiny Home Village and participate in a blessing and sending for Gabriel and Sierra as they release their grocery cart back to the grocery store. They are moving out of the church and into shared space. For those who are able, you are invited to join the walk back to the store.

Our FMC Community

Ministry Team Meetings:

Please note that all meetings are open for anyone to attend.

- Worship Team meets Tuesday, April 4, 6:00 PM, at FMC
- Building & Grounds organizational meeting meets Wednesday, April 5, 5:00 PM, at FMC
- Music Team meets Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 PM, at FMC
- Adult Education Team meets Tuesday, April 11, at 6:00 PM, at FMC

Music Planning Conversation is happening Wednesday, April 5, 6:00-7:30 PM downstairs in the Commons. Pastor Tory and Ardell will facilitate a brainstorming session to consider the best way to schedule music that works with all song leaders, musicians, and supports the Worship Team in their planning each season. Come with your ideas, and if needed, a second meeting will be scheduled depending on how far we get with this initial one. How will we continue to worship God with our music?

Direct Assistance Ministry Team

The FMC Direct Assistance Program, recently renamed the Direct Assistance Ministry Team is always looking for new volunteers. For nearly 40 years, the last 20 of which have been staffed primarily by volunteers, this program has helped hundreds of families and individuals each year with rent or utility assistance during personal emergencies. Volunteers, supported by Linda Welty in the FMC office, meet with people from our neighboring communities from 9-11:30 AM on Mondays and Wednesdays to evaluate the need for assistance and provide funds where appropriate. Funding comes from the FMC budget, "Joseph Storehouse" Christmas contributions, and grants from Energy Outreach Colorado.

If possibly interested or just curious, we encourage you to ask one of our current team members for more information – Wanda or Martin Brotherton, Bob Carlsten, Norm Dewhurst, Don Finks, Stephanie Miller, Debb Reed, Carol Rempel, Craig Sommers, or Carla Stoltzfus.

From the FMC Board - Save the Dates:

April 12, 7:00 PM: Board Meeting, open to the congregation

April 27, 10:45 AM: Ministry Plan Conversation, during the Adult Ed hour

May 7: Vote on the Ministry Plan and interim referendum for the Board to operate under until new by-laws are written

"Whiteness" questions...

So why could touching Black hair be seen as problematic, and why do people think black men are bigger and stronger than white men – even if they are not? Ann Leonard has put together a comprehensive website with answers to these and many other questions. It

contains *more than 20 links* to various articles ([click here](#) to connect with this site). Take a look, and bring your questions to Naomi's next Adult Ed class on April 9.

Women Bridging Borders

Bag It!! If you would like to sew pre-cut fabric to make MCC school bags, please talk to me after church services for the next 3-4 weeks. I will give you the fabric and instructions. Please return completed bags to me at church in about 2-3 months. The bags will be filled with supplies in August or September. You don't need advanced skills. Just willingness to help. There are about 125 bags to be completed. Thank you, Angie Nofziger

Join us when SOAR adult/youth choir will be singing for our FMC service on Sunday, April 23, the week after Easter. SOAR is a group of adults supplying relationship support and mentoring for foster and kinship kids through the magic of choral music. They are currently rehearsing at FMC on Wednesdays and would like to offer music in partial appreciation for the space- the home- the group experiences here. The theme this spring is *The Many Faces of Love*. We are singing about friendship love, parent-child love, love of our global brothers and sisters. Emily Martin is the music director.

It is time to renew our group subscription to *The Mennonite* magazine. *The Mennonite* is a monthly magazine featuring voices from across the Anabaptist-Mennonite world. Through Bible studies, feature articles, columns and more, *The Mennonite* is hosting a robust conversation about what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Christ today. If you are interested in joining our group plan, please contact [Linda Welty](#) by April 12. New subscribers can receive a one-year subscription for the discounted rate of \$30. Make checks payable to FMC and submit to Linda in the church office. Renewal emails will be sent to current subscribers.

Staff Time Away: Tory is taking personal time off this week and will be back in the office on Monday, April 3.

Attendance, March 26: Adults - 100; Children - 20; Total - 120

Child and Youth Faith Formation

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

www.fmcdenverfaithformation.weebly.com

Peace School April 2

Peace School continues with our 2nd of 3 weeks focusing on Holy Week and Easter. These three lessons tell the stories of Palm Sunday, Foot Washing, the Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection.



MYF will meet with Jill to reflect on the meaning of Baptism together.

Story Site with updated links to schedules and recent lesson summaries:

[Pre K \(3 and 4 year olds\).](#)

[K-2nd grades](#)

[Venture Club \(grades 3-5\)](#)

[JYF \(grades 6-8\)](#)

[MYF \(grades 9-12\)](#)

Caring for Each Other

Ruth (and John) Hooley's sister Rosemary (Zook) 'passed over' the morning of March 29. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers.

We mourn the death of Michael (MJ) Sharp, taken hostage on Sunday, March 12, by a militia group along with 5 others in the Democratic Republic of Congo. May his work for peace and safety for the people of Congo, while putting himself in harm's way, be a testimony and inspiration for us to consider how we can participate in his efforts to make the world a better place. Blessed are the Peacemakers!

Happy Birthday March 31- April 6

31 - Aidan Barnes

31 - Tim Kauffman

31 - Marti King

1 - Marylou Shelly

2 - Walker Wood

4 - Lelyn Peters

5 - Mary Helen Friesen

5 - Carolyn Stjernholm

6 - Cara Ferguson

6 - Michael Harrington

Happy Anniversary March 31 - April 6

2 - Kristine Friesen & Trevor Meeks

3 - Larry & Nina Rupp

In the Building this Week

Saturday, 4:30 PM - Babysitting Group

Monday & Wednesday, 9 -11:30 - Assistance Program

Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Safonia Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, 9-12 - Quilting

Wednesday, 5:30 PM - SOAR Choir meal and rehearsal

VORP Program

Save the Date!

Join us for these events

April 2, 8:30: Early Morning Prayer in the Prayer Room (each Sunday of Lent)

April 12, 7:00 PM: Board Meeting, open to the congregation

April 14, 6:30 PM: Good Friday Service

April 16, Easter Sunday Morning:

8:30-9:30 MYF Pancake Fundraiser

9:30-10 Gathering Music

10:00 AM Worship, including Communion

April 27, 10:45 AM, Ministry Plan Conversation, during the Adult Ed hour

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

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

May 7: Vote on the Ministry Plan and interim referendum for the Board to operate under until new by-laws are written

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.

Nanny Needed - Park Hill family friends of Lola and Arlen Hershberger need a nanny to care for an 11 month old boy in his home, three days a week. Call Patti at 720-979-8545 or Alison at 720-402-4625.

Our Urban Community

Denver Presbyterian Church is putting on a panelist event on April 11 to discuss *racial equality and a minority experience in a majority culture*. This free event is open to the community, but limited to 150 seats - registration required. Our hope for this event is to create a space where majority culture people can grow in understanding and empathy toward the minority experience. We want for majority culture people to better understand how minorities, particularly African Americans, feel and experience racial inequality. We want people to walk away with some constructive outcomes of how they can continue to grow in empathy and be part of moving toward positive change in racial equality in our city. Please, RSVP and get a free "ticket" through Eventbrite.

<https://www.denverpres.org/rethink>

Around Mountain States Mennonite Conference

Check out the March edition of *ZING!* on the website.

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

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Please be in prayer for the “Sent” gathering taking place April 6-8 in Fort Myers, Florida. Church planters and others will come together to take about creating new “Jesus-centered communities” in Mennonite Church USA.

Pray for Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, as new president Susan Schultz Huxman is officially inaugurated on Friday, April 7.

Mennonite Health Fellowship (MHF) wants to spread the word about an exciting opportunity for students in disciplines related to healthcare, such as medicine, nursing, social work, physical therapy, mental health, dentistry, dietetics, etc. MHF encourages students in healthcare professions to learn and serve in cross-cultural/mission settings in developing countries. To further this aim we provide educational grant funding for a Student Elective Term (SET). The term or service must be at least 4 weeks.

If you know a student who might be interested in this program, please refer them to our website: Mennonite Health Fellowship website [https://www.mennohealth.org/SET Program webpage](https://www.mennohealth.org/SET-Program-webpage)

The deadline for applications for the 2017-2018 academic year is May 15, 2017.

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.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

First Mennonite Church
430 W. 9th Ave
Denver, Colorado 80204
US

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