



FMC Weekly - May 10, 2018

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

Sunday Morning, May 13, 2018

9:30 am Worship

This week Michael Regier will be preaching. Mamma Mia! God our Father and Mother? If we are made in God's image...??? Families are changing or at least our perception of families are changing. Not everyone has a "mother" in the traditional sense. For some "mother" is a painful memory or reality. So what and who is "mother?" Looking to God and the Family of God gives us some clues. Bob Carlsten will lead worship, Aimee Voth Siebert will lead singing and will provide pre-service music and offertory, and Katrina Schrock will lead children's time. Mother's Helpers will provide child care in B2 Nursery this Sunday.

After the worship service in the Community Center

- ◆ Join others for coffee/donuts/fruit/fellowship and help sup our youth.
- ◆ Purchase grocery cards to help support the FMC Ministry Plan.
Pick up a reloadable King Soopers card and still earn points on your personal card.

FMC Families - There will be no Peace School this coming Sunday, May 10.

Enjoy some extra time together.

10:45 am Education Hour

◆ **Adult Ed** - Much is in the news regarding North Korea. Jonathan Moyer speaks about the conflict and paths to peace.

Our FMC Community

Spring Work Day is planned for Saturday, May 19,

9:00 am to Noon.

This Sunday stop by and see Dave Harguth who will be at the Open Table with a sign-up sheet and a list of tasks that need to be done. Your help on Work Day will be much appreciated and it's a great way to spend some time with others from FMC.

Refreshments will be served on Work Day morning.



Quilting

Thank you to all of you who are willing to help make a block for our next FMC quilt. There will be 22 participating. GREAT!!!! The blocks are due by June 10, 2018. Please remember to clip a piece of paper to the block with your name on it as we want to give credit to all those who submitted a block. There will be fabric and patterns available this Sunday, May 13, for you if you would like to make a block and were unable to get supplies last Sunday. Please feel free to use your own pattern and fabric. The guidelines are: 1) black and white fabric, 2) star pattern or pattern that is "star-ish", 3) finished size 12"x 12", (therefore when you turn it in it will be 12 1/2 inches x 12 1/2 inches). We should have 1 and maybe 2 quilts with all of your participation.

WESTWIDE Neighborhood Opportunities

- ◆ May 11, 6-8 pm, at Museo De Las Americas - the Compas car club will bring in a fully equipped low rider. They offer an in-depth view behind the culture of cruising in style.
- ◆ May 12-13, 10 am to 3 pm, at Museo De Las Americas - there will be a Mother's Day Garden Bazaar.
- ◆ May 17, 6-10 pm, at Museo De Las Americas - there will be a night to celebrate the influence and impact of Latinos in Denver.

Staff Time Away: Glenn and Rita are in British Columbia for a wedding and visiting family May 9-15.

Photo above - Two year old class party after church last Sunday, by Roberta Kandel.

Attendance May 6: Adults - 121; Children - 20; Total - 141

Caring for Each Other



Heidi Swartzendruber Hine and Charley Hine are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Elliott Gordon Hine on May 8, 2018. Congratulations to Heidi and Charley and to Grandparents Ardell and Donna Swartzendruber!

Happy Birthday May 11-17

11 - Andrew Gibson

11 - Anika O'Brian

12 - Steven Bontrager

12 - Bernadette Wyse

13 - Marco Monzon Paz

14 - Brett Birky

15 - Adam Popp

16 - Marin Delp

16 - Tessa Holliday

Happy Anniversary May 11-17

11 - Elizabeth & Evan Miller

12 - Jordan Penner & Jennifer Regier

14 - Len & Sherri Toews

A Note From Pastor Glenn

Dear First Mennonite Family,

On May 1, I began my 7th month as your Pastor. Over the course of the past half year you have become much more than the people who attend and are members of the church I work at. In every conceivable way you have become friends and family.

Rita and I will be in British Columbia this weekend attending the wedding of her cousin. As a result we will miss celebrating Mother's Day at FMC. I have shared with some of you that Mother's Day is a complicated day for me. It was in May 2003 that my Mother passed away after many years of poor health. This Sunday Rita and I will make our way to the Mennonite Cemetery in Clearbrook and spend some time in quiet reflection at Mom's gravesite.

I would like to share a blog post about my mother I wrote last summer:

Mom and Dad were getting ready to fly home. They had just spent two weeks with us, mostly with our boys – their grandchildren. It had been a difficult visit. My mother's health was declining. As she hugged me she quietly whispered, "I am just tired of being touched."

My mind drifted to a day thirty years earlier, I was 5 and my sister was 3, we went to the

hospital for Christmas Eve dinner. I still remember the meal – turkey, mashed potatoes and brown gravy with green beans on the side. Each plate was covered with a stainless steel meal warmer. I cannot recall where my father sat, but my sister and I sat near the head of the bed at an adjustable table. We ate and watched my mother. She was sick, very sick. The doctors did not expect her to live. We were granted special permission to be there after visiting hours.

My mother was a strong woman, death was not an option for her. She had children to raise. Eventually she was well enough to come home. It would be misleading to say she returned to health. For the next 30 years the possibility of sickness and death was something we learned to live with.

When my mother hugged me on that day, I was sad, but not panicked. In my mind this was just another moment of sickness. Mom and Dad got on the airplane and flew home. The first hint that I was about to enter into a new normal was when my sister called me from the airport later that day. Mom wasn't doing well; she was bleeding and nothing seemed to stop the flow.

Within days she was admitted to the hospital. Then I received the call that I better come home. I flew to Vancouver and made my way to the Chilliwack hospital. I quietly stepped into her room. For the next hour I sat and held her hand, no words. The nurse came in to take vitals and administer medication. Doing this required touching, prodding, and pricking. As I gave witness to this, I saw tears form in my mother's eyes.

There I was in that room watching the medical profession do everything they could to save my mother. They went about their tasks with tenderness and love. The nurse slipped quietly out of the room. For the first time since I arrived, my mom spoke to me. Her words were simple, "Don't let them touch me, I'm ready to go home."

Within five minutes the medication took over and my mother drifted into a restless sleep. I made my way to the nurse's station. I called my sister, then my dad. We talked about mom's final wishes. She had been clear with all of us – no extraordinary measures and no experiments. I hung up and spoke with the nurses, who dialed the doctor's phone number. His voice was kind and soft, we talked about what they were doing to my mom. By the end of the call I requested that they stop all treatment and make my mom comfortable. I would not wish this conversation on my worst enemy. Within the hour the medical staff came in and unplugged my mother.

The next day I shared what was to be my final conversation with my mother. I don't remember all the details of what we talked about, but we held hands and eventually she said, "Thank you."

24 hours later I flew home.

Ten days after that she passed away.



Upcoming Events

May 19 - SPRING WORK DAY! Many volunteers are needed.

May 20

Worship – The Day Language and Love Cross Borders" - Acts 2:1-21

A Spirit-filled church has less to do with individual charismatic gifts and everything to do with the Church being a prophetic alternative to the dominant culture of Empire. Ched Myers says Pentecost was the day "the church was forged by... coming out of the closet, of breaking silence, and of speaking inconvenient truth to power." What does the spirit-filled church look like today? What is our alternative social model for today's imperial culture? Anton Flores-Maisonet is a return guest speaker. He's co-founder of Casa Alterna, a hospitality house in Georgia devoted to faithful acts of solidarity with their Latinx immigrant neighbors.

Adult Education - Anton Flores and Sarah Jackson

Anton Flores-Maisonet and Sarah Jackson will lead us in hearing current stories and challenges confronting immigrants in the United States. Anton will follow up his sermon by sharing on Casa Alterna, a house of hospitality he co-founded in a Guatemalan neighborhood located in Georgia.

Sarah Jackson will share of the hospitality work of Casa de Paz and her advocacy work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detention center in Aurora. There will be opportunity to respond to Sarah's sharing by touring the house, becoming a volunteer or donating to Casa de Paz:

- 1) Donate. Here is the [Link](#) to the list of items Casa de Paz needs on a regular basis. Bring on Sunday May 20, 27, or June 3.
- 2) Saturday, May 26, 10 am - noon, Casa de Paz Tour, Service, and Prayer Opportunity
- 3) Saturday, June 3, 1 - 3 pm, Volunteer Training

May 27

Worship – This Sunday Pastor Glenn will be speaking from Romans 8:12-17.

We will reflect on what it means to be part of the family of God.

No Education Hour.

June 3

Worship – This week Pastor Glenn will speak from Mark 2:23-3:6. We will talk about rules, flexibility and grace.

Adult Education – Immigration and Sanctuary -- Jennifer Piper, American Friends Service Committee.

June 10

Worship – This week Charlie Ferguson will speak from 1 Samuel 8:4-11.

No Education Hour

June 17 - Father's Day - Child Dedication

June 22-24 - MSMH Weekend Choral Festival; worship service at FMC on Sunday

In the Building this Week

Monday & Wednesday, 9-11:30 am - Assistance Program in Community Center

Monday, 5:30 pm - Denver Children's Choir Rehearsals upstairs and downstairs

Monday, 7 pm - MSMH meeting in FMC office

Tuesday, 4 pm - CCFC groups in B21 and Commons

Tuesday, 7 pm - FMC Leadership Board meeting

Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm - Denver Area Mennonite Pastors meeting in B2

Thursday, 4:30 pm - CCFC Calpuli (Mentoring) meeting in B21

--Contact [Linda](#) to list your team meeting in this section.

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.

Treva's has been in business for 47 years and is looking for a new owner. The store caters to about 50% post breast cancer women and 50% women who are seeking bra sizes 32AA-48N. It is known throughout Denver and Colorado as a specialty store with fitting skills and a client list of approximately 12,750. It is seeking a buyer who is middle aged, with an interest in business, who is compassionate, has managerial skills, and some financial capabilities. It has a fully-trained staff and is located on 6460 E Yale Ave, Denver,

CO. The web site is Trevas.com. If interested call Treva Finks at 303-694-6994 or email trevafinks@msn.com.

Our Urban Community

SOAR Youth & Adult Choir will be presenting their spring concerts on Saturday, May 12, at 2 and 7 pm. Our theme is "Rise Up Singing"--a Melting Pot of American Music. The concerts will take place at Unity Spiritual Center, 3021 South University Blvd. Please come and see us! And there will be pie:). Tickets are available online: soaryouthandadultchoir.org. Hope to see you there! (We'd also invite you to like us on Facebook--this is important for our funding opportunities.)

The TWO children's choirs that rehearse at First Mennonite Church, SOAR! and Denver Children's Choir, will be joining the Denver Women's Chorus on May 18 and 19 at Central Presbyterian Church for a number of concerts. The Denver Children's Choir will be singing on May 18 at 7:30 and May 19 at 2:00; SOAR! will be singing May 19 at 7:30. DCC will have a table set up for info and 'other' fundraising; SOAR is auctioning a quilt which will be on display also. For more information and tickets go to: DenverWomensChorus.org or Denverchildrenschoir.org

The Denver Children's Choir is holding auditions for their 2018-2019 choir season that starts next August. If there are any FMC children (age 7-18) who would like to join, please check out our website (www.denverchildrenschoir.org), or email Cindy Kraybill at Cindy@denverchildrenschoir.org.

The audition is "child friendly", children need no prior musical training, rehearsals are located in various locations around Denver, and we offer financial aid to those in need.

Around Mountain States Mennonite Conference

How Then Shall We Live? A week-long immersion in the wild to bring out the deep wisdom, fierce joy and sacred strength of men. Come wade into the wilds of New Mexico! Highlights include homemade meals in an adobe hacienda, visiting Taos Pueblo, plunging into the waters and canyons of the Rio Grande Gorge, wilderness solos, songs and campfires, morning meditations and biblical analysis in wild places—all designed to open radically new possibilities for men seeking a wilder way of fierce love for God, humanity and our precious earth. Guided by Todd Wynward for adventurous men 18+ in Taos, New Mexico, September 8-15, 2018. For registration information on this Mennonite Men experience, visit www.mennonitemen.org.

For more information about our conference and latest issue of ZING!, go to mountainstatesmc.org

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Glen Guyton began as the new executive director of Mennonite Church USA on May

1. Read his reflections on the Holy Spirit moving within MC USA:

<http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/waiting-to-exhale/>

All are invited to the installation service for Glen Guyton, which will take place August 1 at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. More information at:

<http://mennoniteusa.org/news/glen-guytons-installation-as-mc-usa-executive-director-to-take-place-in-august/>

We invite you, your congregation and conference to engage in the initiative to "Learn, Pray, Join" for the Korean Peninsula. This includes a churchwide day of prayer for North and South Korea on Sunday, May 20, 2018, using MCC's "A prayer for peace in North Korea." Learn more about this "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative at

<http://mennoniteusa.org/korea/>

MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out mcc.org/canning for details, or contact heidihuber@mcc.org.

The International Guest House in Washington DC is seeking short term volunteers to do service of hospitality with strangers near and far. Check it out at: <https://tinyurl.com/igh-flyer2018>

Mennonites in Venezuela teach peacemaking in the Caracas school system.

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the more than 500 children, 68 teachers, and 30 administrators who received this training. May they practice these skills to make a difference in their communities.

See the latest newsletters:

Mennonite Creation Care Newsletter:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/16347f09ca922e31>

Mennonite Disaster Opportunities:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/16346601c9938b6e>

MCC In Touch: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/1633b8ce8e72ed20>

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

Other Information

Sermons. Sermons are posted on the [FMC web site](#) when available.

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](#)

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