



FMC Weekly - November 1, 2018

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

**Daylight Saving Time ends:
Remember to set your clocks back one hour Sunday morning!**

Sunday, November 4, 2018

9:30AM Worship

Come early to enjoy pre-service music with Sonia Graber & Ben Gerig. Pastor Glenn will preach from Mark 12:28-34. What is the secret of life? A good cup of coffee? Mom's apple pie? Or might our text have something to say about this? Join us as we consider what Jesus had to say about the meaning of life. Jill Schmidt will lead worship, Roberta Kandel has Children's Time, Sonia Graber will lead singing, and Angie Birky will share her faith journey.

After the worship service in the Community Center

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

10:45AM Education Hour

- ◆ **Peace School for ages 2-18 years**
- ◆ **Adult Ed** - Celebrating Linda Welty. After almost 9 years, Linda has concluded her time as the FMC Administrator. She and Merritt will soon move to Boise, ID to spend more time with their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Join as we celebrate her time with us and wish her well as she begins this new chapter in her life.

From Pastor Glenn:

Dear FMC family,

Today I begin my 2nd year as your pastor. What a year it has been! It began with

conversations about homelessness, our Westside neighbors, and our desire to be a congregation that makes a difference in this world, particularly to the least and forgotten. I learned much in those first few months. We are a diverse group of people. We have different ideas about making a difference in the world. I also observed that we are a congregation that can work through our varying opinions. In the end we are stronger because we are different.

Being your pastor has also been an adventure in visiting! Both Rita and I have been welcomed into your homes, invited out for meals, and introduced to activities and people which give you energy. Some of you have even gone for a motorcycle ride with the pastor! Others have included us in sporting and cultural events.

You have also welcomed and allowed me to be your pastor. Sometimes this happens over a cup of coffee or a visit in my office. There have been funerals where we have worked through all the details of saying good-bye. Hearing the stories of loved ones who have passed is holy. There have been moments of tears and of laughter.

This year I have been reminded how much I like preaching. The process of “sermonizing” helps me to better understand my faith. Your willingness to listen and engage these sermons is gift to me.

This has been a year where you have “pastored” both Rita and me. Your words of comfort as Rita faced some health concerns were healing. This job has also provided a space where I get to spend more time with my boys – this is a powerful gift.

Next week, Mon. through Wed., I will be out of the office on my first official study retreat. My goal is to spend time reflecting on some of the learning of the past year and to begin planning for worship Jan. through Easter 2019. Following this I will head for Los Angeles where I have the privilege of officiating the wedding of Manny Alvarez and Kaitlyn Kean. Manny grew up in Denver, was a regular member of His Love Fellowship, and worked as a DOOR intern for several summers in Denver and Los Angeles. On Sat., Nov. 10 I will board a plane in LA and head for the annual board meeting of the [Catholic Volunteer Network](#) in Baltimore.

Thank you again for this past year. I look forward with anticipation for what the future will bring.

Peace, Pastor Glenn Balzer

The FMC babysitting coop is seeking one adult to help watch kids during the babysitting coop time on **Sat, Nov 3 from 4:30-7:30pm**. Please contact Katie Hegedus (catherinee.dunn@gmail.com) or Rachel Barnes if you are free to help!

Children's Christmas Program: Practice has started for the children's Christmas program! If your children would like to participate they are welcome, even if they missed the first practice! Contact Rachel Barnes if you have questions.

Important dates:

Nov 4: Practice after children's story in the Community Center

Nov 11: Practice after children's story

Nov 18: Practice after children's story & costume choosing day!

Dec 2: Practice after children's story AND after Peace School! We will do a quick run through of the program in the sanctuary

Dec 8: Saturday dress rehearsal- 9:30 to 11 am

Dec 9: The big show!

Come one, come all! We are looking for singers from all walks of life and ability to sing for advent and Christmas Eve. There is no need to commit to every Sunday. If you can only sing one Sunday, GREAT! We will have our first 'practice' on Sun, Nov 4 at 8:30am at church prior to the service. If you can't make it Sunday, we'll be having rehearsals on other Sundays and some Wednesday evenings. More info to come. (Charlie Ferguson and Sonia Graber)

Denver Children's Choir Songs of the Season concerts: Dec 1 and 2 the Denver Children's Choir will be having their Songs of the Season concerts. On Sat, Dec 1 you can hear the sounds of the performing choirs at Bethany Lutheran Church from 4-5:30pm. On Sun, Dec 2 you can experience the sounds of the training choir at Central Presbyterian from 4:30-5:30pm. For tickets and information, visit www.denverchildrenschoir.org.

2019 Ministry Plan and Narrative (budget), as requested by the Ministry Teams and proposed by the board has been posted in the Active Participants page of the website for your review in advance of the congregational meeting on Sun, Nov 18 at 11am in the Sanctuary. In order to fund the 3.5 full time equivalent staff, along with the Ministry Team operating requests, we will need offerings to increase about 5% over the current year's projected levels. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion at the congregational meeting. The pledge drive will begin on the 18th. Contact Tom Bishop with

questions.

Mark Your Calendars:

Nov 18 - Congregational meeting (11 am) to review proposed 2019 Ministry Plan

Dec 2- Congregational meeting to vote on 2019 Ministry Plan

Dec 9 - Children's Christmas Program & Christmas Bazaar

Follow the Burkholder Family blog at: wonderwanderrtw.wordpress.com

Attendance Oct 28: Adults - 140; Children - 19; Total - 159

Staff time away:

Nov 5-12: Pastor Glenn out (see Glenn's letter above)

Nov 6-8: Alyssa & Josh out

Nov 6-11: Anita out

PEACE SCHOOL UPDATES

What's happening this week:

PreK - The Ark & the Tent

K2 - Joshua

Venture Club - The Prophets

JYF - The Promised Land

MYF - Will Stutzman hosting

For families to do this week:

- Help your kids understand what happens during church. Before Sunday morning talk about the different parts of the service and why each part is important. Then, during the service, be a "worship whisperer" reminding your child of what's going on.

Looking ahead:

- Nov 25: no Peace School
 - Children's Christmas Program rehearsals after Children's Time in the worship service- Nov 4, 11, and 18 and Dec 2. Dress rehearsal after Peace School on Dec 2.
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Caring for Each Other

New Horizons Group (singles 50+) - Dec 9, 2018 at 5 PM!

Our evening will begin with a traditional Russian Mennonite Sunday evening meal – Faspa! We will revive this tradition as we gather at FMC at 5PM to eat. After Faspa we will make our way to Denver's Boettcher Concert Hall to join the [Ten Tenors](#) as they perform a selection of traditional and contemporary seasonal favorites performed with the Colorado Symphony.

The cost for this evening is \$32 per person. Please confirm your participation with the FMC office no later than **Nov 23, 2018**. Checks are payable to FMC.

Rick Rogers will be coordinating transportation. This includes to and from your home; to and from FMC to Boettcher Concert Hall and back to your home. If you need transportation or are able to help with transportation, please reach out to Rick at 303-757-4234.

If you have any comments questions or concerns please reach out to anyone on the New Horizons team – Jan Griffin, Rick Rogers, Carol Swartzendruber, or Pastor Glenn

From Lynn Amstutz: My family and I request your thoughts and prayers this week as I receive a shoulder replacement and enters into a long recovery period. I see this time as a sabbatical and hope to resume my life work as a Healer/Message therapist, but am open to guidance and the unfolding of my path in service to God. Thank you!

Happy Birthday Nov 2-8

- 2- Jill Gerig
- 3- Hilina Meeks
- 3- Emma Schmucker
- 4- Lani Rupp
- 5- Mahlon Amstutz
- 7- Lynn Amstutz
- 7- Elena Long

Happy Anniversary Nov 2-8

none

Upcoming Sundays

Nov 11

Worship – "Our Mysterious Faith," this week Bob Carlsten will be preaching from 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Eph. 2: 8-10; Isaiah 2:3-4. Is "mystery" or "certainty" most compatible with our faith?

Is our journey more like the groping of the blind, or the traveler with 20/20 vision?

Adult Education - Women Bridging Borders will be presenting a “teaser” for an upcoming series on education, Colorado, choice, and diversity.

Nov 18

Worship – Glenn Balzer will be preaching from Ephesians 6:10-12. What does it mean to engage the powers? What does the work of transformation look like in 2018?

Adult Education – Ask the pastor a question!

Pastor Glenn has been here for an entire year. This is your fourth opportunity to ask him some questions! Do you want to know about his hobbies or books he is currently reading? Maybe you are wondering about something he said in a sermon. Come with your questions and be prepared for a wide ranging conversation!

The FMC Leadership Team will also present the 2019 Ministry Plan and kick off the annual pledge drive. Time will be set aside for questions.

Nov 25

Worship- Charlie Ferguson will be preaching from Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 5:38-48. The world is in turmoil and a pretty scary place today. There are currently 61 active areas of conflict in the world. There have been 352,000 deaths combined so far in 2018. What would happen if our young men were suddenly called to war? Are we ready? Can we still call ourselves a recognized peace church?

Adult Education- No Adult Education

Dec 2- First Sunday of Advent

Worship- Glenn Balzer preaching from Jeremiah 33:14-16

Adult Education- Congregational meeting to vote on the 2019 Ministry Plan

In the Building this Week

Thursday, 6:30-8pm - Mindful Yoga (Community Center)

Saturday, 4:30-7:30pm - FMC Babysitting Group

Sunday, 11am - Facilities Team meeting (office)

Sunday, 12:15pm - Denver Children's Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary & Community Center)

Monday & Wednesday, 9-11:30 am - Assistance Office (Community Center)

Monday, 5:30-9 pm - Denver Children's Choir rehearsals in most of the building

Tuesday, 4pm- CCFC groups (B8 & B21)

Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 pm - Safonia Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, 4:30pm - CCFC mentoring group (B2)

Wednesday, 5:30pm - SOAR Choir meal & rehearsal (Community Center)

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

Around Denver and Mountain States Mennonite Conference

Let's publically comment! AFSC says, "Under federal law, the government is required to read and respond to every unique comment before issuing a final rule. That's why we need you to submit yours now, a flood of comments can slow down the process, shape the administration's decisions, and show how many people care." Both of these proposed changes will hurt children and families. Here are the details to what I mentioned last Sunday.

Flores and family separation rules: The Trump administration has proposed terminating the Flores Settlement Agreement, a decades-old ruling that protects children held in government custody by regulating the length and conditions of detention. Trump wants to detain children and families indefinitely – what you need to know and how you can stop it! We have until November 6 to say that this is wrong, cruel and dangerous.

Find out more and make a public comment here: <https://bit.ly/2NOH3SA>

Making immigrants afraid to ask for help while limiting legal immigration through changes to public charge rules. While historically the government could reject immigrants who it deemed likely to become a public charge – dependent on the government – the Trump administration is radically expanding the term to include people who access basic public benefits. If implemented, the change could lead to families being forced to choose between health care, food, and housing and legal immigration status. (Imagine someone who is needing to leave an abusive partner, going on food stamps and then later being told that you cannot apply for a green card or citizenship.)

More from AFSC on the public charge rule: <https://bit.ly/2Jun9a6>

Here is where to post: <https://bit.ly/2C9fs7x>

Want help or to chat about it? Deb Schaffer, deborahdanielle@gmail.com

Last Call for Free Healthy Boundary Training for Church Leaders: At the encouragement of the denomination, Mountain States is requiring that all credentialed persons attend a Healthy Boundary Training seminar. **Other congregational leaders are also encouraged to attend.** The fourth HBT of the year in Mountain States will be held Fri, Nov 9, from 9am to 4pm at Beth-El Mennonite Church, 4625 Ranch Drive, Colorado Springs. This is the last time Mountain States will offer this training free of charge. Please contact Charlene Epp at charlenee@mountainstatesmc.org to register.

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

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Mennonite Church USA

"May God grant you peace that you may know no further sorrow." Read the **Open letter to Rabbi Myers, Tree of Life Congregation**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA at mennoniteusa.org/letter-rabbi.

Pray for those gathered for the **Women Doing Theology conference** at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, Nov. 8-10, 2018.

55,000 Comforters Needed! You can help! Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Central States is producing an average of 232 comforters per month! But more are still needed. You can make a comforter or donate money to help purchase supplies. Visit mcc.org/comforters for instructions or to donate.

Mennonite World Conference: Find the latest issue of MWC's COURIER at www.mwc-cmm.org/courier.

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

Other Information

Sermons are posted on the fmcdenver.org 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 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 Marie Voth at marie.fmcdenver@gmail.com. Announcements run one time. Please rewrite and submit a fresh announcement if you want your announcement to run a second time.