



## **FMC Weekly - November 29, 2018**

*The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver*

### ***Sunday, December 2, 2018***

#### ***First Sunday of Advent***

#### ***9:30AM Worship***

Come early to enjoy pre-service music from the Christmas Choir. Pastor Glenn Balzer will preach from Jeremiah 33:14-16. Over the next four weeks we have permission to dream and to hope- after all, Advent is a season of expectation! Moses Simbeye, who is participating in MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program, will share his faith journey. The Denver Children's Choir will provide special music. Michael Regier will lead worship, Roberta Kandel has Children's Time, and Emily Martin will lead singing.

#### ***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**
- ◆ **Adult Education in the Community Center.** The Leadership Board will lead a congregational meeting. The agenda includes: 1) Updates and announcements from the Board, 2) Second Pastor search update, 3) Emergency Preparedness Plan, 4) Update on organizational/governance structure, and 5) 2019 Ministry Plan approval.

### ***Our FMC Community***

#### **Children's Christmas Program dates:**

Dec 2: Practice after children's story AND after Peace School! After Peace School we will do a quick 20 minute run through of the program in the sanctuary.

Dec 8: Saturday dress rehearsal- 9:30 to 11am (K-5th grade)

Dec 9: The big show!

Contact Rachel Barnes if you have questions.

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**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! Practices are Sundays at 8:30am at church prior to the service. (Charlie Ferguson and Sonia Graber)

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**FMC Christmas Bazaar- Dec 9:** The Dec 9 FMC Christmas Bazaar is just the place to find special feel-good gifts! Confirmed vendors this year include some of our favorites- The MCC Christmas Booth, Women's Bean Project, Earthlinks, A Little Something (fair trade crafts), and Threads Worldwide. Some new participants include:

- **Musana** will bring handmade items from Uganda including: wallets, crossbody bags, oven mitts, cosmetic and jewelry bags, headbands
- **Hearts and Hands** will bring dog treats, bracelets, etc. made by participants in their vocational training program
- **The Boulder-Nablus Sister City Project** will sell olive oils and Za'atar spice mix

Questions? Contact Stephanie Phibbs. Look forward to seeing you there!

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**2019 Ministry Plan Pledge Forms:** Please return your pledge to support the 2019 Ministry Plan by Dec 2. Pick up a pledge form on the welcome table. You can return your pledge by email (to Tom Bishop or the FMC office), by mail (430 W 9th Ave, Denver CO 80204), or drop it in the lock box by the front office door.

If you missed the Leadership Board presentation of the proposed 2019 Ministry Plan, visit the active members page on the FMC website to review the documents and listen to the presentation and discussion.

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**Second Annual Carol of the Beers** will be at 4pm on Sun, Dec 16 at Cheluna Brewery in the Stanley Marketplace at 25th & Clinton in Aurora. Come, enjoy holiday cheer and spirited seasonal singing! Contact Arlen Hershberger with questions.

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**Joseph's Storehouse Giving:** 'Tis the season to support the Direct Assistance Program at FMC. This program helps people in the Westside Community with emergency rent and utility needs. We depend on donated funds to help people that are experiencing desperate times throughout the year. Please support this essential program that helps people stay in their homes by giving from now through January. Write your checks to FMC with Joseph Storehouse in the memo line. Contact Debb Reed with questions.

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### **Mark Your Calendars:**

**Dec 2 - Congregational meeting** to vote on 2019 Ministry Plan and receive other updates from the Board

**Dec 9 - Children's Christmas Program & Christmas Bazaar**

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Follow the Burkholder Family blog at: [wonderwanderrtw.wordpress.com](http://wonderwanderrtw.wordpress.com)

Attendance Nov 25: Adults - 118; Children - 25; Total - 143

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## **Peace School Updates**

### ***What's happening this week:***

PreK - Exile & Return

K2 - Exile & Return

Venture Club - The Diaspora

JYF - selection from *We Make the Road by Walking*

MYF - Jordan Penner

### ***For families to do this week:***

As we start thinking about Christmas gift lists, challenge each member of your family to consider the following:

1) What are things you want that do not cost money? For example, "I want my dad to play a board game with me each night after dinner." Or, "I want no homework for a week." 2) Answer the question for the world, rather than for you personally. For example, "I want all of the hungry people in the world to have enough to eat."

### ***Looking ahead:***

◆Sun, Dec 2: Christmas Program rehearsal after Children's Time in the worship service AND after Peace School

◆Sat, Dec 8, 9:30 to 11am: Christmas Program dress rehearsal for kids K-5th grade

## ***Caring for Each Other***

**Russell Costen Memorial Service** will be at FMC on Sat, Dec 1 at 1:00pm. All are invited.

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### **Happy Birthday Nov 30-Dec 6**

30- Ella Barnes

30- Elsa Burkholder

30- Jennifer Conder

30- Cindy Eby

2- Anne Penner

3- Maxine Martin

4- Matias Fiz

6- Doug Reed

6- Jenae Stutzman

### **Happy Anniversary Nov 30-Dec 6**

5- Jessi Stoltzfus & Marco Monzon Paz

## ***Upcoming Sundays***

### **Dec 9- Second Sunday of Advent**

**Worship**- Children's Christmas program! Jesus is feeling a little bit down about how Christmas has become so commercialized. Angels help remind him of good work that is being done to spread God's love throughout the world. The audience will be reminded that we can spread hope and peace through one small act of love at a time.

**Adult Education**- Christmas Bazaar

### **Dec 16- Third Sunday of Advent**

**Worship**- Aimee Voth Siebert will preach and the Burkholders will give an update through a video call!

**Adult Education**- Yvonne, Marian, and Jessi will share about their Camino travels

## Dec 23- Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Worship-** In the Christmas story we discover that Jesus is not hidden behind a tall fence, a posse, or a security detail. Jesus came near, became one of us, and hung out- this is good news, joyful news. Pastor Glenn Balzer will preach from Mark 1:40-45.

**Adult Education-** none

## Dec 24- Christmas Eve

**Pre-Service Music-** 5:00pm

**Worship-** 5:30pm

## Dec 30

**Worship-** We are made in the image and likeness of God. That is nice, almost cute. What does this mean for me on the eve of 2019? Pastor Glenn Balzer will preach from Colossians 3:12-17.

**Adult Education-** none

### ***In the Building this Week***

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

Sat, 1:00pm- Russell Costen Memorial Service (Community Center)

Sat, 4:30pm- FMC Babysitting Cooperative (Nursery)

Sat, 5:00pm- MEDA event (Community Center)

Mon & Wed, 9-11:30am- Assistance Office (Community Center)

Mon, 5:30pm- Denver Children's Choir practice

Tues, 4:00pm - CCFC groups (B8 & B21)

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

Wed, 5:30pm - SOAR Choir meal & rehearsal (Community Center, Commons, & Sanctuary)

--Contact [Marie](#) 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.*

**Lois Hjelmstad's fourth book, *Abidance: A Memoir of Love and Inevitability***, launched last week. The NEW BOOK DEAL of \$15 per book, including sales tax and shipping, ends this Fri, Nov 30. *Abidance* will, of course, still be available after that and is also on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), but email [lois.hjelmstad@gmail.com](mailto:lois.hjelmstad@gmail.com) TODAY to get your signed book and save \$5. Grace Hershberger called Les to say, "This book is beyond outstanding."

**SOAR Youth and Adult Choir** will be presenting their fall/winter concerts on Dec 15 & 16. Both concerts will be a 6pm at Unity Spiritual Center (3021 S University Blvd). Our theme is "Hopes and Dreams." Music will vary from seasonal offerings to "Sweet Honey in the Rock," to ethnic pieces to spirituals and Langston Hughes. Our website address is [soaryouthandadultchoir.org](https://soaryouthandadultchoir.org), where you can find ticket information. We hope you can join us for a musical evening and some homemade pies! Any questions, please contact Emily Martin at [singforsoar@gmail.com](mailto:singforsoar@gmail.com).

**Marimba Concert on Dec 7 at 7:30pm at Regis University's Claver Hall.** Sonia Graber will

be part of a concert featuring traditional music from Zimbabwe including a marimba choir and imbiras (thumb pianos). It is some of the happiest music you will ever hear! This concert is the final performance for a class that has been taught by instructors from Boulder's Kutandra group and a number of guest artists from Zimbabwe. Contact Sonia if you have any questions.

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**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](http://www.denverchildrenschoir.org).

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**Christmas manger update needed.** The manger that we use for Christmas pageants is quite large and difficult to store. I'm looking for a person who could size it a bit smaller and perhaps make it so it could be taken apart for storage and reassembled for use. We do not need this work done this year. If you are willing to help with this project sometime in January or February, please get in touch with me. Thanks in advance for your consideration to help. Roberta Kandel, 303.807.0841, [rokandel@comcast.net](mailto:rokandel@comcast.net).

## ***Around Denver and Mountain States Mennonite Conference***

**Speak out for vulnerable immigrants:** Public Comments needed by Dec. 10. The Trump administration is radically expanding the definition of the term "public charge" to include people who access perhaps ANY basic public benefits. If implemented, the change could lead to families choosing between health care, food, and housing and legal immigration status.

Take action today by making a public comment on Trump's proposed change.

Tell the government to reject any regulation that would punish immigrants for accessing needed services. Use your own words and write from your own values. Keep in mind:

- This rule will disproportionately harm the most vulnerable in our society, including children, pregnant women, older adults, and families living paycheck to paycheck.
- Families shouldn't have to choose between basic human rights and staying together.
- The rule unfairly targets immigrants of color in our community.
- We all benefit when all members of our communities have enough to eat, access to health care, and safe housing.

[Click here to post:](#) It's titled "Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds."

Want help or to chat about it? Deb Schaffer, [deborahdanielle@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdanielle@gmail.com)

More from AFSC on the public charge rule: <https://www.afsc.org/action/tell-government-dont-make-immigrants-choose-between-their-health-and-green-card>

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**Men's Retreat at RMMC:** Come to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp for the annual Men's Retreat to spend time with God and other men in the beauty of creation, March 1-3, 2019. Men's Retreat is planned each year by a committee from Mountain States Mennonite Conference church members. The festivities for the weekend include worship times, foosball, ping pong, chess, human curling, snowshoeing, great fellowship and more! Register online at [rmmc.org](http://rmmc.org) or call camp with questions (719-687-9506).

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**Glennon Heights Mennonite Church** invites you to attend their annual **Hanging of the Greens** service on Sun, Dec 2 at 6:30pm. Pre-service music begins at 6:20pm. The program will feature a mass choir from the various Mennonite churches plus other vocal and instrumental ensembles. A reception will follow the service. Glennon Heights MC is at 11480 W Virginia Ave, Lakewood.

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**Snowmass 2018 retreat (Dec 15-18):** You are invited to a retreat at St. Benedict's monastery near Snowmass on Dec 15-18. Vern Rempel and Sheila Davis will facilitate the retreat, offering a reflective exploration of our winter soulfulness, particularly through the inspiration provided by freedom songs and the blues. This music will directly inform the sessions. They will also have a chance to "jam" in the evenings, if people wish. The retreat will also incorporate the Circle of Trust practice inspired by Parker Palmer's work. Cost is a suggested donation of \$200 retreat fee per person and a suggested donation of \$40 per night per person to the monastery (all rooming is double-occupancy only). This is a pay-what-you-can retreat. The FMC office can share additional details. Contact Vern Rempel for full retreat schedule and details ([courageblues@gmail.com](mailto:courageblues@gmail.com) or 720-384-5676).

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**The November Zinglet** celebrates Advent traditions in congregations across MSMC. It is available online and in the foyer.

For more information about our conference and latest issue of ZING!, go to [mountainstatesmc.org](http://mountainstatesmc.org)

## ***Mennonite Church USA and Beyond***

### **Mennonite Church USA**

**Nurture children's faith at home this Advent and Christmas** through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at [AnabaptistFaithFormation.org](http://AnabaptistFaithFormation.org) with daily scriptures, songs, activities and questions to ponder together.

Read about the **Women Doing Theology conference** imagining a new world at [mennoniteusa.org/news/wdt18](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/wdt18) and find more reflections on the Menno Snapshots blog at [mennoniteusa.org/tag/women-doing-theology](http://mennoniteusa.org/tag/women-doing-theology).

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### **Mennonite Mission Network**

**Youth Venture** is announcing four locations to serve and learn in 2019! Teams of youth ages 15-22 and their adult leaders will join in the ministries of our global partners to see what God is doing in the world. These 2 to 3 week-long trips are in June or July. For more information or to apply, visit the Youth Venture website at [www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Youth%20Venture](http://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Youth%20Venture) or contact Jolene VonGunten with any questions at [jolenev@mennonitemission.net](mailto:jolenev@mennonitemission.net).

**Praise God for Linda Oyer**, who retired this year after three decades of service in France through Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for a smooth transition as she moves to the United States and speaks in churches. In "retirement," she plans to return to France twice a year to teach and lead workshops.

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### **Mennonite Central Committee**

**Volunteer with SWAP:** Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap> or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also check out the latest newsletter at <https://mcc.org/media/resources/8302>.

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For more information about our denomination, go to [mennoniteusa.org](http://mennoniteusa.org)

## Other Information

**Sermons** are posted on [fmcdenver.org](http://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](http://www.9news.com/closings) or by visiting mobile apps for smartphones.

Website: [fmcdenver.org](http://fmcdenver.org)

Phone: 303-892-1038

**Deadline for announcements is Wednesday midnight.** Please send announcements to Marie Voht at [marie.fmcdenver@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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