



FMC Weekly - December 20, 2018

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

Sunday, December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30AM Worship

Come early to enjoy pre-service music from Vicky Mierau and Faye Yoder. 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 will preach from Mark 1:40-45. We will celebrate Communion. Barb Stutzman will lead worship, Isabelle King will lead Children's Time, and Charlie Ferguson will lead singing.

After the worship service in the Community Center

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

No Peace School or Adult Education this week.

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00PM Pre-Service Music from the Christmas Choir

5:30PM Worship Service of stories and song. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with music, stories, reflection, and light!

Reception to follow (see below for details)

Our FMC Community

Christmas Eve Reception:

There will be a light reception immediately following the service on Christmas Eve. Please bring a small snack or dessert to share. We need volunteers to help with clean up after the reception and would love your help. Please contact Anne Gerber at agerber78@gmail.com or at 303-913-1944 if you can help.

2019 Ministry Plan Pledge Forms: Please return your pledge to support the 2019 Ministry Plan. 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.

This holiday season give to Joseph's Storehouse, the FMC program that provides direct assistance to people on the Westside needing emergency rent and utility support. Did you know that in 2017 the direct assistance program at First Mennonite:

- Processed applications from 240 households involving 667 people
- Provided Emergency Outreach Colorado (EOC) utility assistance impacting 209 people
- FMC funds provided utility assistance to 69 people
- FMC funds provided rent assistance to 420 people

The direct assistance program often runs out of funds mid-month for rental assistance. Your gifts help our Westside neighbors remain in their homes. So far we have raised \$8,600 towards our goal of \$25,000! You can help us reach our goal by giving generously.

Write your checks to FMC with Joseph's Storehouse in the memo line. Contact Debb Reed with questions.

Dec 30 Worship & Potluck- Join us as we celebrate all that 2018 has been. This service will be both casual and fun. Nikki Kandel will be our song leader. If you play an instrument, bring it with you to church or be prepared to play one of our instruments! The songs we sing this week will depend on you. Come with your requests. You can contact Nikki before Sunday with any song requests (nicolekandel@yahoo.com or 303-377-9339).

After the service we will share a potluck meal! Bring your sinful holiday leftovers OR healthy food to ease the guilt we now carry after eating so many "bad-good" things in the name of celebrating the winter holidays. Contact Lola Hershberger with any potluck questions.

Burkholder Family: The text from their Faith Journey sharing on Dec 16 is posted in the active members section of the website.

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

Attendance Dec 16: Adults - 141; Children - 16; Total - 158

Church Office Christmas Closure: The FMC office will be closed Dec 24 to Dec 31. Pastor Glenn Balzer will be available.

Peace School Updates

What's happening this week:

No Peace School this Sunday

For families to do this week:

Adults can share memories of Christmas when they were young: Countdown or pre-Christmas traditions? When did you open presents? When did you go to church? Any special food?

Look for videos or websites that talk about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Here are two to start with:

www.momondo.com/discover/article/christmas-traditions-around-the-world

www.youtube.com/watch?v=McsmJZCS1ZA

Looking ahead:

- ◆Jan 25-27: RMMC Jr High Snow Camp
- ◆Jan 25-27: MYF retreat at RMMC's Eagle's Nest
- ◆Feb 15-17: RMMC Sr High Snow Camp

Caring for Each Other

Happy Birthday Dec 21-27

- 21- Jorge Fiz
- 23- Aggie Polak
- 24- Rachel VanWagner
- 27- Greg Polizzotto
- 27- Carol Reitmeyer

Happy Anniversary Dec 21-27

- 24- Nancy & Russ Gregory
- 25- Carla & Vernon Stoltzfus
- 26- Emily & Sam Martin

Upcoming Sundays

Dec 24: Christmas Eve

Pre-Service Music- 5:00pm

Worship- 5:30pm

Reception in the Community Center following the service.

Dec 30

Worship: Join us as we celebrate all that 2018 has been. This week's service will be both causal and fun. Nikki Kandelind will be our song leader. Pastor Glenn Balzer will preach from Colossians 3:12-17. 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?

Adult Education: none

Jan 6: Epiphany

Worship: Glenn Balzer will preach from Matthew 2:1-12

Adult Education: Darren Knowles and Glenn will lead Adult Ed

Jan 13

Worship: Annie Lengacher Browning will preach

Adult Education: Darren Knowles and Glenn will lead Adult Ed

In the Building this Week

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

Thurs, 6:30pm- SOAR Board Meeting (B21)

--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.

Around Denver and Mountain States Mennonite Conference

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 or call camp with questions (719-687-9506).

The December issue of Zing! is available on the MSMC website. You can also pick up a hard copy on the FMC welcome table.

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

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Mennonite Church USA

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10. **This Christmas season**, the staff of MCUSA prays that you would seek the light of Christ and find ways to share joy with one another.

Find ideas for celebrating Christmas Eve and Epiphany at home by downloading the At Home worship guide at AnabaptistFaithFormation.org.

Mennonite Mission Network

In this season of "Peace on earth, good will to all people," Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder of Mennonite Mission Network request prayer for peace in Burkina Faso, where terrorist groups have become more active. May the Mennonite Church show the way to the Prince of Peace.

Alumni trip, "Service, Learning, and Civil Rights," will visit Mississippi, Mar 9-16, 2019. Open to alumni from Mennonite Voluntary Service, Service Adventure, and SOOP. Together, we'll learn more about the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi and serve alongside current Service Adventure and SOOP participants. For more information, contact alumnitrip@mennonitemission.net.

Mennonite Central Committee

Looking for that next great adventure? MCC SALT positions now available! Take chances. Make mistakes. Get messy. Be challenged. Learn some things. Teach some things. Spend a year living somewhere that you never dreamed you'd go... Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a [wide variety of positions](#) in fields like education, agriculture, health care, information technology, peace and more! Start now at salt.mcc.org, to find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options and to apply, don't delay the deadline to sign up is Feb. 15!

This Christmas, consider giving alternative gifts through MCC! With 25 ways to give, you can find something for everyone in your family! Give chickens, provide hope, education, tools and new skills to help build up communities. These are gifts that easily fit under the tree and can fit within any budget, but have the power to bring joy for years to come! Visit mcc.org/christmas or call our office for details, 316.283.2720.

Mennonite Disaster Service

As we celebrate the gift of Jesus this Christmas season, we learned of another way God is working in the life of a homeowner in Victoria County, TX. Marj Weber submitted the following report in early December:

"We had a home dedication for John and Carol White. It was a great celebration with many of their friends, family and coworkers joining our group of 23. They were so happy and excited to have already slept in their new home one night. It was a particularly joyful celebration as John had just learned that a tumor on his kidney could not be found at a recent CAT scan. He credited this to a time of prayer the MDSers had for his healing one night after he and Carol had brought in a pot of chili to share with us. We are all giving God the glory. What an amazing show of God's goodness to John!"

Read more from the report here (mds.mennonite.net/victoria-county-tx-dec-3-7-2018/). Praise God for the relationships built between homeowners and volunteers!

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

Other Information

Sermons are posted on 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.

Website: 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.

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](#)

US

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